

Volume 2 Issue 12

December 1, 2013

### This Month's Feature Stories

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- A Freemason's Christmas Wish
- Thoughts of the Season:
- Are you familiar with the Masonic blue slipper?

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## Freemasonry Is Many Things A Freemason's Christmas Wish

Ephesians 5:25 — *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

Brothers, tis the season to remember our wives.

### Freemasonry Is Many Things

Freemasonry is a Story of Life; with all its joys, its heartaches, its failures and its final triumph over all earthly things.

Anyone can read it, in countless books. Its teachings, its symbols, and its ambitions, are open for general observa-

tion. They are practiced in the light, and held up for all the world to see.

Freemasonry is not practiced in the dark, neither are its teachings the dogma of some forbidden cult. We, as Freemasons, are required to reflect the light; to practice its teachings and love by their direction. No greater thing can be said of Freemasonry than that it is an ideal way of life.

No other fraternity offers such profound lessons in its Ritual or Work as does Freemasonry. Each word and each act in the ceremonies of the Lodge

carries a true lesson to each of us, if we will but open our eyes to see, our ears to hear and hearts to accept.

We can study Freemasonry for years, as we attend its meetings, and each time we stop to think on the things said and done, we get a new meaning and inspiration from them. There is a never-ending source of pleasure in the various shades of meaning that can be read into each line of our work. Each new meaning and interpretation that we put into

*Continued on page 4*

## Programs & Announcements



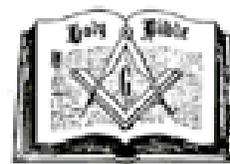
We will not be having a dining out or family night this month because of the holidays.

Keep an eye on your emails for the details on the Grand Masters' Workshop which had to be rescheduled

due to weather. Once we get the new date, time and location, we will pass it on.

**SHARE THE NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND HAVE THEM REGISTER FOR THEIR OWN NEWSLETTER AND SPECIAL NOTICES IN THE BOTTOM RIGHT HAND CORNER OF THE WEBSITE.**

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



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



### From the East *Worshipful Master James Urban*

Good men may differ on any number of things: creed, religion, politics, and even life itself. But we must utilize the differences within us to make our order one of more structure and more intricate than the simple ornate designs. Just because we may have such differences, remember that these differences bring us all closer together. Remember it more especially at this time of the

year, when some of our ideological differences might be more pronounced.

At the end of the day, we are all the same. Judged on the same level and by the same rules. We must respect these differences and unite as one, even in spite of our differences. By doing so, we will improve ourselves and enrich our lives and the lives of oth-

ers. For no man is an island, and therefore we should sew the fabrics of our lives with the various textures, styles, and designs, that we come across in the differences we have with friends.



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

*Washington*



### From the West— The Four G's *Senior Warden Glen Fant*

Unless we conduct our Lodge affairs in a more practical, businesslike manner, we will continue to lose members! We must accept the fact that there is great social competition out there, and It is tough to compete with the Four G's that all men seek: GOD, GALS, GUNS, GRUB. Be honest with yourself; these things occupy your minds twenty four-seven, and not always in the most logical and appropriate manner. Our

membership is declining, average age is increasing, attendance is down and filling the roster of officers is difficult. Mergers are becoming more frequent, lodge buildings are being sold, there is concern about the finances of Grand Lodge and some church leaders are condemning our Order. Woe is me! Perhaps we should just heed the words of a popular song of years gone by, "Let's Call The Whole Thing

Off". Have I got your attention? I can hear you gnashing teeth from here. Good for you, I am not ready to give up yet either. Let's fix this. Are we on the right track? "Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over by it if you just stand there." We can compete, if we keep GOD as our priority and not let the other three g's take all our time & energy. Think about it - there is only ONE G in Freemasonry.



### From the South—Jurisprudence and Scattershots *Junior Warden Kevin Rush*

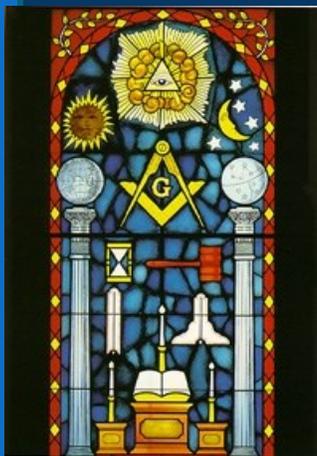
Have you looked at the proposed resolutions for this year's Grand Communication? Among the more notable proposals are: Proposed fees for criminal background report; who may vote on a petition for the degrees of Freemasonry; purchase of endowed memberships on an installment plan; changes to Title V of Jurisdiction of Disciplinary Procedures; purchase price of endowed memberships to be

fixed annually by the endowed lodge; funding for the Masonic Home and School; a proposal to request Grand Lodge to send any and all material by the US Mail for lodges that cannot afford a computer; manner of voting in Grand Lodge; degree team recognition; possession of a code book *or any other media or technology capable of displaying data anywhere on the Lodge premises*; use of the Master's carpet during the

Master's degree lecture and changes to quorums in subordinate lodge meetings.

The vagueness of Resolution 15 bans computers, tablets, and phones in the lodge. Looks like it will be interesting in Waco this month!

Scattershooting and wondering, can a Jewish Brother Wear a Yarmulke in a Lodge Room? If so, what about those of the Sikhs and turbans? Answer next month



*"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*

Just a reminder that the annual Dues of \$55.00 is now due. You should be receiving your notice in the mail shortly.



If you need to work out a payment plan with all of the holiday spending going on, let me know and we can work something out. If you have extra money burning a hole in your pocket, let us have it. I'm sure we can put out the fire . . .



### From the Senior Deacon John Rosser *Visiting Brothers & Prospects*

Last month we had the following guests attend our stated meeting: Bob Clemmons, PM, Rolan Pirtle of Yellowhouse Lodge and Rod Armstrong of Mackenzie Lodge.

Some additional quotations from "A Cowboy's Guide to Life".

"If you find you're drinking most of your entertainment from a can, it's time to look

for your fun elsewhere."

"Avoid flasharity, foofaraw, and fumadiddle in dress, speech and conduct. Leave the Peacocking to the Peacocks."

"We might not be so bad off if we had a little less of everything."

"Before you let anybody measure you for the big

wooden overcoat, make sure you've wrung all the life out of your livin'." AND

"When you're in the wrong and you need to set it right, how far you have traveled in the doin' of it has nothing to do with the rightin' of it."



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

*Mark Twain*



### From the Senior Steward Brandon Gould *Food, Flowers & Frolic*

Brethren, here we are in December facing the end of another year already, I hope everyone had a joyful and blessed Thanksgiving.

As we close out the year I would like to take a look back and thank everyone for the hard work that was put in around the lodge, all of your hard work is greatly

appreciated and I hope we can keep up the good work and keep our lodge looking beautiful. I look forward to serving all of you meals in the coming months as we welcome in a new year.

This month I will be preparing a special holiday meal for our enjoyment and look

forward to seeing everyone there.

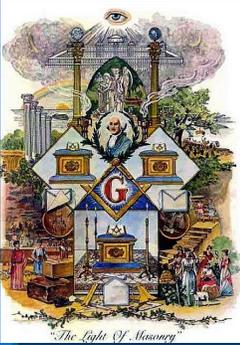


**Upcoming Menu for December:**

**Its gonna be a surprise!!**



## Freemasonry Is Many Things A Freemason's Christmas Wish con't from Page 1



some word or act will make that passage live for us, and we will begin to see Freemasonry for what it is intended. Great men have devoted many years of study and meditation to the cause of Freemasonry and when their work is finished they realize that they have only begun to see the light and that they have only started to uncover the true meanings of the work.

Freemasonry has been talked of and written about by countless men in every country of the world. Its members have been persecuted in all lands at one time or the other, but it still grows and flourishes as no other fraternity on earth today.

There must be something good and great in Freemasonry, for it to stand through the years as a beacon of light to its members and as a symbol of the true way of life for all to see and follow. Its greatness is not due to its secret teachings, its mysteries or fanfare of its deeds, but rather to the profound lessons taught to its members and to the comfort, inspiration and enlightenment brought to all who will but study

Freemasonry frowns on

advertising its good deeds, preferring to let those who benefit from them reflect its goodness, that others might have hope and desire the better things of life. Freemasonry offers comfort to those who sorrow, hope for those who despair, wise counsel for those who err, and the joys and contentment of life to all.

*Source: Bro. William A. Carpenter. Reprinted with permission from MyFreemasonry.com*

### A Freemason's Christmas Wish

By Brother  
Andrew Bradley

It is the time of year when the Brethren rejoice, and sing carols of praise in resounding voice. Days of merriment and long nights of cheer, as we all await the "Happy New Year!"

It is a time of family and life long friends, a time of happiness and to make amends.

Roast turkey and baubles and the Nutcracker Suite, we each have our own way to make Christmas complete.

As we stroll through this happy month of December find time to pause and take time to remember that distinguishing sign of a Freemason's heart -

those acts of Charity. How great they are.

As your family gathers 'round your Christmas tree, and the children play with giggles of glee, spare a thought for the poor, the man with no shoes, whose daily meal is less than your dues.

Remember also the Grand Lodge above, and the Supreme Great Architect's act of love.

And practice those virtues we hold so true.

Have some fun! But let Temperance chasten you. And during this season of peace and joy look well to our future - the girl and boy.

Then wonder what lessons you may them teach, and with your guidance what heights they may reach.

So, to all of my Brethren from far and wide, whether your Christmas be snow, or hot and dry, may the Architect grant his celestial boon and keep your good health 'til we meet again soon.

Take care of yourself and those you find dear. Keep this festive spirit throughout the next year. Look toward your next date with our happy band. 'Til our next merry meeting. Apron, heart, and hand.

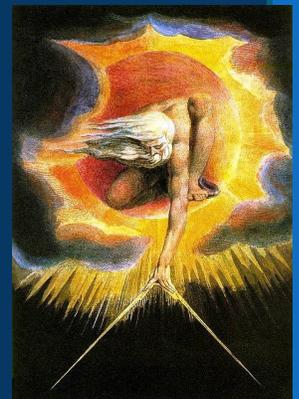
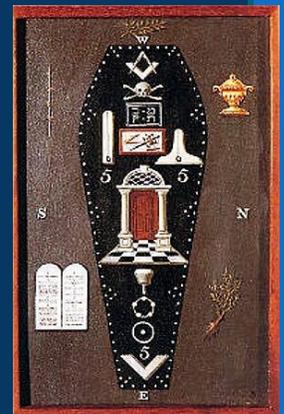
Season's Greetings



HAPPY Hanukkah!



MERRY CHRISTMAS



## Are you familiar with the Masonic blue slipper?

Since it is the Christmas season, we are re-running this article from last year as reminder to take care of our ladies and provide a gift idea.

By Clyde H. Magee, 32°

Are you familiar with the Masonic blue slipper? It is a small lapel pin in the shape of a blue slipper. Over the years it has been my habit to ask my wife and my daughters to wear one of these slippers on a coat or dress when traveling alone away from home. What is the meaning of this blue slipper and why should female relatives of Masons wear one?

Some 50 or 60 years ago, while I was still living at home, a widowed lady who was a cousin of my Dad's came to visit our home. She vacationed with us for several weeks every summer. She always wore this type of pin -The Blue Slipper. Her doctor husband was a Mason. The pin that she wore made a lasting impression on me. Through my curiosity and questioning, she told me it was a Masonic pin and served to identify her as a Masonic widow. She declared that Masonic men gave her extra attention while traveling, especially on the railroad

(conductors, etc.).

To find out the meaning of this pin, let us go back in history to Boaz' time-the Book of Ruth. It will be remembered that Elimelech, his wife, Naomi, and their two sons, Mahlon and Chilon, fled to the land of Moab to escape the famine in their homeland of Bethlehem-judah. Things went well for a while. Then life fell apart for them. Elimelech died. The two sons married Moabite girls-Orpha and Ruth. Again tragedy struck. Mahlon and



The Masonic Blue Slipper

Chilon died. This left Naomi a widow in a foreign land with two widowed daughters-in-law from the land of Moab.

In time of trouble, people think of home and more importantly of God. Naomi found out that the famine back home had subsided, and there was grain and food again. So she confided with Orpha and Ruth that

she would journey back home and be among her kinsmen.

Certain laws, rules, or customs governed her thinking at this time. Of first consideration was the fact that Naomi was too old to bear a son for her daughters-in-law to marry. Even if she could, the daughters-in-law would not wait for the son to grow up. So the girls should remain among their own people. The girls resisted and started to go with Naomi. Orpha was finally convinced she should



stay in Moab. But Ruth remained steadfast and went with Naomi to her homeland.

Naomi and Ruth arrived back in Bethlehem-judah at harvest time. The Scripture passage on which this is based is well-known. "And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy

people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me." This passage of Scripture is unsurpassed as a declaration of love and devotion of one person for another. It has been said that it would make a good marriage vow. But, to me it is a different type of devotion.

Naomi also had to take into consideration another law. When Elimelech died, his next of kin was duty bound to redeem his possessions and take care of his widow and her family. Since Naomi was getting old, Ruth tried to earn a livelihood. While gleaning in the fields, she was seen by Boaz. And when he found out about her (that she was Naomi's daughter-in-law, etc.), he arranged special treatment for her. She could work with his girls in the field, and the young men were warned not to bother her. Since Boaz was not married and was kin to Naomi, Naomi decided that she should somehow make Boaz understand his duty to Elimelech's family. So Naomi advised Ruth to bathe and anoint herself and go to the threshing floor after dark

**Are you familiar with the Masonic blue slipper?**

and lay at the feet of Boaz. Boaz awoke at midnight and discovered her there. So as not to create a scandal, he gave her some barley and asked her to leave before dawn so that watching eyes would not recognize her.



A variation on the slipper

Business among the tribe of Bethlehem-Judah took place at the gate of the city. So Boaz sat down at the gate the next day because he knew there was a kinsman more closely related to Elimelech than he. So when the kinsman came by, Boaz called him aside and asked 10 men of the elders of the city to sit with them. Boaz bargained with his kinsman. The kinsman said he would redeem Elimelech's property. But, when he found out that he would have to take care of Naomi and Ruth, he reneged and told Boaz he would not redeem or pro-

tect Elimelech's interest. He would leave it to Boaz. The passage from Scripture for these events is the following: "And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it., Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbor: and this was a testimony in Israel."

So the kinsman drew off his shoe and gave it to Boaz. Boaz held it up for all in the gate to see. He asked them to be witnesses that he became Naomi's protector, Ruth's husband, and a redeemer of Elimelech's property. Thus, today we have the little blue slipper as an emblem of the protective influence of Masons for their wives, widows, and daughters. (This article first appeared in the July 1986 issue of the Scottish Rite Journal.)

The Masonic Blue Slipper pin, item 542DCSPIN; sticker available for your wife's car item 542DCSD and a pendant, item 542DCSC are all available from the Grand Lodge of Texas Merchandise Store.

Call 254-753-7395

Vintage versions of the Blue Slipper Pin can be found on eBay as well.

There are also pins of recognition available for Masonic Widows,



The broken column memorializes the end of our earthly life. Surrounding the broken column are acacia leaves, symbolic of our eternal life. In Freemasonry, the broken column is, as Master Freemasons well know, the emblem of the fall of one of the chief supporters of the Craft.

The use of the column or pillars as a monument erected over a tomb was a very ancient custom, and was a very significant symbol of the character and spirit of the person interred.

The Masonic Widow's Pin was created with the hope that it would be worn by the widow of a Master Mason on all appropriate occasions, especially when traveling, so that she may be

recognized, greeted, and assisted when necessary, by Masonic friends throughout the world. It is an emblem of honor and should be worn separately, and not in conjunction with other jewelry.

It is hoped that whoever wears this emblem finds that she is not alone. We are there and we care.



The version above is available through the Grand Lodge of Texas Merchandise Store. Call 254-753-7395



# LUBBOCK MASONIC LODGE #1392

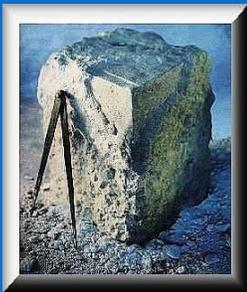
MASONIC DIST 93-A

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.

## This Month's Brothers & Birthdays

Alvie Ivey 12/6  
Alton Utsey 12/18  
Clyde Hildebrand 12/20  
Christopher Yeoman 12/20  
Randy Henson 12/26  
Norris Rumsey 12/31



## The Quarry: Our Esoteric Work By Bro. Bob Clemmons

**REMINDER: FLOOR PRACTICE EVERY TUESDAY STARTING PROMPTLY AT 7:00PM**

It seems that now days we are bombarded by numbers: credit card numbers, SS number, drivers license number and on and on. But I think these numbers will be interesting to you.

In the year 2012, the committee on work issued the following certificates: 1(60 year A certifi-



cate), 20 (25 year A certificates), 618 (3 year A certificates), and 72 (1 year A renewal certificates). There were 96 (3 year B certificates), 63 (1 year B renewal certificates) and 92 (1 year B certificates). There were 33 (3 year C certificates), 55 (1 year C renewals), and 152 (1 year C certificates). The total certificates issued in 2012 were

1,258. That means that about 1.4% of the total Texas membership has an esoteric certificate. Lubbock Lodge is above the norm.

Now that you are tired of numbers, here are some more. The total number of words to open and close an EA, FC, and MM degree is 2,974. The total number of words for the questions and answers for all three degrees is 13,716. The total word count for the three esoteric lectures is 6,468 and if you add the monitorial part the total is another 6,508 words. The total for all three obligations is 1,373 words. The total for all inclusive parts is a whopping 37,108.

To verify these numbers, I guess you will have to count them yourself. As for me, I've quit counting.

*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*

E-Mail: [lubbock-lodge1392@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lubbock-lodge1392@sbcglobal.net)