

This Month's Feature Stories

- Fantastic Teeth 2015!
- Harmony Isn't What is Used to Be
- A Bag of Tools



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Volume 3 Issue 2

February 1, 2015

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Fantastic Teeth 2015

By Coke Etgen

What a difference a few years makes! The first year 4 lodges in Lubbock served about 1100 first graders in the Fantastic Teeth Fan Club program. The second year Abernathy Lodge,

Crosbyton Lodge, Emma Lodge, Floydada Lodge, Lemond Lodge, Levelland Lodge, Littlefield Lodge, Lubbock Lodge, Mackenzie Lodge, Matador Lodge, Olton Lodge, Post Lodge, Slaton Lodge, South Plains Daylight Lodge, Wolfforth

Friendship Lodge and Yellowhouse Lodge came together to provide Dental Kits to 3609 First graders in 52 Schools. The Kits will be delivered to 52 Schools by the 16 lodges. This year we added 5 lodges Denver City Lodge, Spur Lodge,

Programs & Announcements



DDGM Bob Lindley will be making his first official visit at this

month's stated meeting, Friday February 13. Dinner at 6:30 and the meeting begins at 7:30. ALL area Masters Masons are invited to attend.

Ok boys. It's that time of year

again. Valentine's day is Friday, February 14. If you are reading this, don't say we didn't warn you!

We are going to start making plans for the Past Masters Dinner. If you have ideas and would like to volunteer for that, **let us know**.

This month is our secod anniversary of our restaurant fund

raiser! This month, back to where it all began—On The Border! Wednesday February 18. Vouchers will come in a separate e-mail.

If you are Facebook, WE ARE TOO! Check us out!

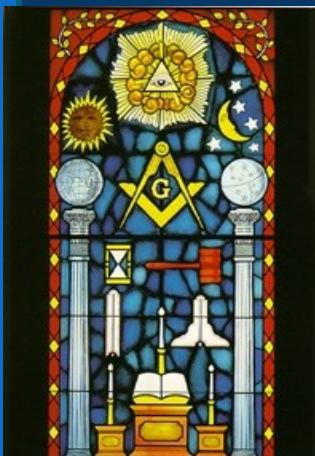


And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. Genesis 1:3



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

Giffashington



"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."



From the East—The 47th Problem of Euclid

Worshipful Master Glenn Fant

These are the sacred numbers. 3, 5, 7 because they are the steps of the EA, FC, and Master's Degree...how we get these numbers is explained in the math of the geometry.

OK, stay with me now...the major math is complicated and hard to digest, but the numbers above are familiar to all master masons. I will explain the math next month. The essence of the Pythagorean Theorem (also called the 47th Problem of Euclid) is

about the importance of establishing an architecturally true (correct) foundation based on use of the square.

The 47th Problem of Euclid is the mathematical ratio (the knowledge) that allows a Master Mason to: "Square his square when it gets out of square."

Every Master of the Lodge, has a responsibility to see that things are always run by the square, and on the

square.... and when it gets out of square, to fix it....that job seems to happen a lot more frequently than it should in a Lodge of Masonic Brothers. Please help me and the officers of your Lodge, keep things running on the square any way you can. Every masonic brother has a responsibility and an obligation to do this!



From the West - Peas and Hominy

Senior Warden Kevin Rush

I would like to take this opportunity to expand on one of the feature articles this month regarding Peas and Hominy ... Peace and Harmony.

Think of the following so that you may be at Peace and Harmony with yourself.

Observe Your Internal Chatter. If your thoughts are negative or limiting, replace those them with positive ones. Your internal chatter is a good

forecast for where you are headed.

Say What You Mean, and Mean What You Say. Healthy communication is key element to keeping peace and harmony. It eliminates being misunderstood, and prevents stress. Saying what you mean gives you a sense of peace and you earn the respect from others when they know you are true to your word.

Focus on the Positive Not the Negative. Instead of complaining, think about how you can change a negative into a positive. Remember, you attract what you dwell on; if your thoughts are negative, you will attract exactly that into your life.

We have a lot to be thankful for and a lot of positive things going on here at Lubbock Lodge. Let's not dwell on past issues.



From the South

Junior Warden John Rosser

"A Lodge is said to be opened in the name of God and the Holy Saints John as a declaration of the sacred purpose of our meeting; of our profound reverence for that Divine Being whose name and attributes should be the constant theme of our contemplation, and of our respect for those ancient patrons whom the traditions of

Masonry have so intimately connected with the history of the Institution."

This being said, we all know we are to meet in Peace, Harmony and Brotherly Love. Without this we will die as a Lodge. At times a Lodge may have differences which can cause words to be said in a hurtful tone or behind others back. When this occurs

we, as Masons, should be able to openly discuss our differences with each other and get them worked out peacefully. Although it might not be specifically stated, it is definitely implied in our Obligation as Masons.



Benj. Franklin



From the Secretary Jerry Hendrick

Taking Care of Business

JUST A REMINDER THAT IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES, THE TIME IS NOW!!!!!! IF YOU NEED TO MAKE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO PAY YOUR DUES PLEASE CONTACT ME SO THAT WE CAN WORK SOMETHING OUT. COST OF THIS YEARS DUES IS \$55.00.

What is the DUE GUARD? and WHAT'S IT'S PURPOSE?

It is the symbol of obligation, a reminder by him who uses it to all who see him do so remembers his promises. Masonic authorities are not in complete agreement as the derivation of the words, although they unite as to what the words signify. Albert G. Mackey (1807-

1881) thinks the words mean to guard against. Other authorities are convinced the phrase a French derivation coming from Diet Garde, or God guard (me or you).

It is used as a salute to the Master before the altar and to the Wardens during the




From the Senior Deacon Charles Straub

Visiting Brothers & Prospects

Brethren,

On Friday January 9th, our stated meeting was held with 15 members present. There were 10 guests including Bob Clemons, David Mead, Rolan Pirtle, and Glen Ashcraft from Yellowhouse #841; Rod Armstrong, Roy Copeland, and Jerry Winder of Mackenzie Lodge; Bob Chesser from Daylight Lodge; Andrew Crum-

rine of Rock House Lodge #417; and Stephen Polley from Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Habit for Humanity made presentation during an open meeting prior to the opening of the lodge

We have been doing E.A. proficiencies and F.C. degrees and proficiencies. Lubbock Lodge has been getting pretty

busy.

-- Ya'll come and help out.



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

Mark Twain



From the Senior Steward Luis Ramos

Food, Flowers & Frolic

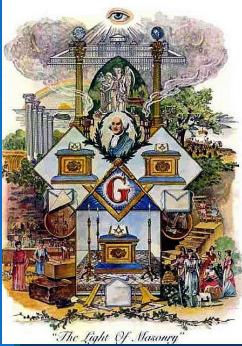
Each year on February 14th, many people exchange cards, candy, gifts or flowers with their special "valentine." The day of romance we call Valentine's Day is named for a Christian martyr and dates back to the 5th century, but has origins in the Roman holiday Lupercalia. In masonry I think we can take this and expand our brotherly love.



Upcoming Menu for February:

**Grilled flank steak
Brown rice
Veggies
Brownies
Tea**

Fantastic Teeth 2015! con't from Page 1 Harmony Isn't What is Used to Be



Tahoka Lodge, Odonnell Lodge and Brownfield Lodge bring us to 21 lodges serving 81 schools 5779 students.

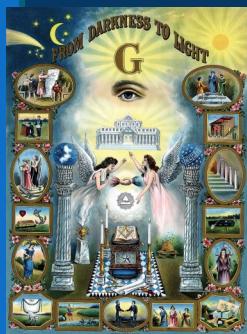
The kits were put together at the Scottish Rite in Lubbock on January 15, after having Pizza provided by the Masonic Home and School. Approximately 150 Lodge members and their wives and friends + 20 of the Lubbock Youth Leadership Association helped put the kits together in about 48 minutes. What a crew!

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my whole hearted thanks to all who came together to make this happen. Without your help none of this could have been achieved.

I am looking forward to next year, and hopefully add some new lodges and schools. This program makes it possible to provide kids with a good start towards dental health. The great thing about this program is it crosses all economic lines and provides the kids with everything they need. They are really excited when they receive their kits and know it just for them.

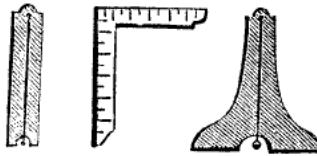
Harmony Isn't What is Used to Be By Bro. David Weinberg

"Harmony" or, more often used, "Peace and Harmony," has become one of the im-



portant mantras or memes of North American Freemasonry. Our meetings - stated and called communications - open with some variant of the above statement, and close with some variant of "peace and harmony prevailing." But, what is this harmony we hold dear? What does it mean, this harmony we speak of? More importantly, how is it used?

To the non-mason, harmony appears as a worthy goal. As the dictionary definition reads, why would an emphasis on harmony be a bad thing? After all, it is defined thusly: **har-mo-ny: Agreement in feeling or opinion; accord: live in harmony.**



In such glittering generalities, yes, harmony can be a good thing. When referred to in such nebulous, roundabout ways, the ideal of having all agreement and having an accord of opinion is most difficult to argue against. After all, no one wants a problem, few if any want serious disagreements occurring amongst the membership - so anyone who would take up the cause that harmony may not be such a panacea is looked at with suspicion. However, this is the view of harmony which has become "Masonic Harmony." The view that any dissension

or difference of opinion would (or could) cause such a rift within the membership that any such dissent should be silenced is the prevailing one of "Masonic Harmony." This, observably, is not 'harmony' in the sense that such agreement or accord was reached from within, after discussion or deliberation, but imposed from outside or above, that agreement with and acquiescence to the will of those holding power within the organization is "harmony;" opposing viewpoints, no matter how valid, are "disharmony," "unmasonic," or otherwise is a condition which should not, under any circumstances be condoned.

There are certain subjects within American Masonry which attracts this draconian form of "harmony," but these subjects are not the sole places where it is imposed. One need simply log on to a number of the various Masonic forums to see this in action. Granted, some level of control of a forum must be maintained by those who created such or are tasked with its maintenance, but even amongst the users of such systems a pecking order of "harmonious conduct" emerges.

In its history, Masonry, both internationally and in America, has been the home to notable "great thinkers." Go to any boastful Masonic website, and a list of them, great

Lubbock 1392 in Action FANTASTIC TEETH 2015!



Masonic Lodges in Lubbock and the surrounding area set a new record for the Fantastic Teeth Fan Club by providing nearly 6,000 first graders with free prevent tooth decay kits. "Through the efforts of 21 lodges, we gave away kits at 84 schools in 44 communities," said Elmer "Coke" Etgen, project coordinator. Masonic Lodges participating in this awesome effort: Lubbock, Abernathy, Brownfield, Crosbyton, Denver City, Emma, Floydada, Lemond, Levelland, Littlefield, Mackenzie, Matador, O'Donnell, Olton, Post, Slaton, South Plains Daylight, Spur, Tahoka, Wolfforth-Frenship, and Yellowhouse.



The brains of the outfit—PM
Elmer "Coke" Etgen

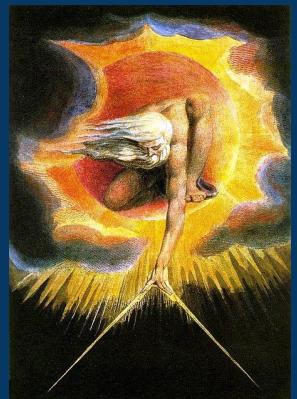


WM Glenn Fant—Lubbock
Lodge #1392

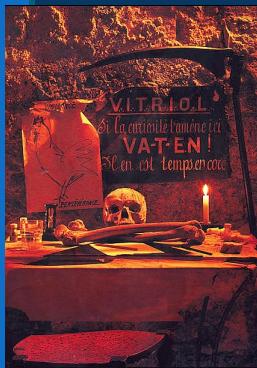


This thing was HUGE!

See MORE of the pictures from the Fantastic Teeth 2015 Launch Party at our website
<http://lubbockmasoniclodge.org/news/fantastic-teeth-2015>



Harmony isn't What is Used to Be con't from Page 4



and small, can be had. In perusing such lists, a theme arises: most of these "greats" are from a bygone era, and most are renown for their accomplishments outside of Masonry. Another commonality can be seen - that the accomplishments these great thinkers are known for did not come simply by staying within what would now be dictated by today's "Masonic Harmony." These men challenged establishments, whether in the political arena, theological, or philosophical. Masonic Communications these lights attended were not the quiet business meetings (save when dues increases are discussed) so prevalent today. In the dry meetings of today, intellectual pursuits are distained, not only because to engage in them would appear "elitist" - but also that the heart of discussion and debate is not an echo chamber, but disagreement. Disagreement within a Masonic Lodge (again, other than on the subject of dues increases) is such an anathema as could scarcely be contemplated by the majority of Worshipful Masters as a force for positive development. Rather, Harmony - in reality, the status quo of bills and minutes-reading - must prevail! After all, the Secretary states such at the close of the minutes: "Peace and Harmony Prevailing, the lodge was closed..." What is missed in that statement is that after the differences in viewpoints,

after the debates have been held, then the lodge returned to "harmony" to close.



The other form of "Masonic Harmony" is an aggressive sort. Since, as outlined above, "peace and harmony" are to prevail among Masons, what easier way is there to 'win' a disagreement not by dissecting the other side's arguments, but instead by undercutting the Mason himself, calling him "unmasonic" for causing such "disharmony" in disagreeing. And, while some may wish to believe that such offensive (in many senses) use of the claim to harmony would not occur, it has been observed innumerable times. The typical use of this form of claim to harmony is almost exclusively by the one creating the disharmony in the first place. However, rather than creating disharmony from a fringe perspective, the firebrand instead chooses a subject where at least the plurality of opinion, if not an outright majority, favors him. Armed with the knowledge that the orthodoxy would support his position, such person would then assert the position, not in a calm manner, but in a bellig-

erent one. In some areas where there is sizeable support for a minority (to American Freemasonry norms) position, forceful assertion of the majority position isn't a harmonious act, but spoiling for an argument; the provocation of disharmony. When such a challenge is answered, or when the provocateur is reminded of the need to act harmoniously, the claim the responder - or the one making the admonition - is breaking the disharmony of the lodge or gathering is made. Instantly, those who were not paying attention to the initial exchange now are focused intently on the disturbance, and, as the provocateur intended, viewing the agitator as the injured, aggrieved party. The original subject matter is forgotten; rather than a discussion based upon the merits of the arguments, the responder must fend off charges of breaking the "peace and harmony" while the original rabble-rouser skulks off, his positions, as he intended, unchallenged.



Harmony isn't What is Used to Be con't from Page 6

A Bag of Tools

A variation of the aggressive use of "Masonic Harmony" to stifle debate arises in the few areas where American Masonry's performance is less than stellar - equality, both sexual and racial. So heated these discussions become that they are "best left unmentioned" lest battle lines are drawn. In these instances, "harmony" is a two-edged sword; those who favor the status-quo are not necessarily favoring discrimination or segregation, nor are those favoring other outcomes necessarily advocating complete integration along all lines in all organizations. What is worth noting in this situation is who makes the first accusation of "disharmony" - and for what reasons. Unfortunately, the call that someone has been disharmonious is nearing to the conditions found in the Internet's "Godwin's Law": the longer a Masonic subject requires rational thought, the faster the proponents of the status-quo will label those supporting the other side as disharmonious.

The difficulty arises in that Freemasonry, regardless of the institutions involved, should be promoting harmony, that is, promoting the atmosphere where such discussions can occur without resorting to personal attacks or non-sequitur derailments simply because the other side does not have an intellectual response.

"Peace and Harmony" should prevail, in the sense that whether or not an agreement on the issues discussed is reached, the option to agree to disagree amicably should remain.

Source: Knights of the North Masonic Dictionary

A Bag of Tools

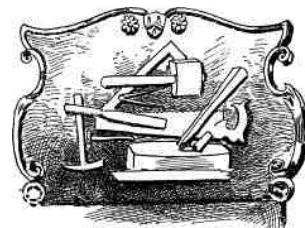
Each of us are given a bag of tools to do with what we wish. Some can't seem to do anything with a whole workshop full of tools, yet others can perform miracles with a single wrench.

This poem is a reminder that everyone has their own talents. Whatever these talents may be, the sum of them are unique to you. And how you put these talents to use are up to you.

You build a path to a better tomorrow. Or you can build a wall around yourself. We've been given all the tools we need. It may not be the same as your neighbours'. It might not be the tools you wanted. But it is yours. You can complain and do nothing. Or you start to build something amazing. Show us what can be done with that set of tools (or despite of it).

No matter your station at birth or the life you've had, we are all builders of a sort. What you choose to build today will not only impact those around you now, but also the generations of to-

morrow. So put some conscious effort into building something positive that will last for ages.



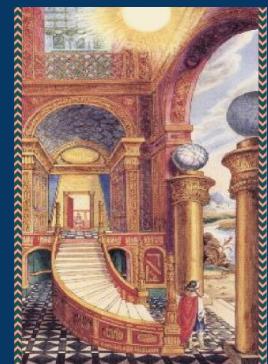
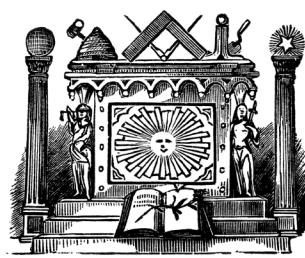
*Isn't it strange how princes and kings,
and clowns that caper in saw-dust rings,
and common people, like you and me,
are builders for eternity?*

*Each is given a list of rules;
a shapeless mass; a bag of tools.
And each must fashion, ere life is flown,
A stumbling block, or a Stepping-Stone.*

-RL Sharpe

Isn't this what Freemasonry is about? What will you do for the lodge this year and beyond with the tools in the bag that you were given?

Adapted from <http://www.financial-inspiration.com/bag-of-tools.html>



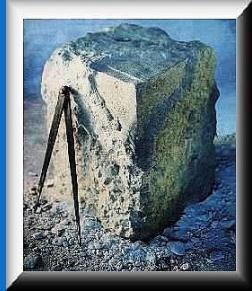
LUBBOCK
MASONIC LODGE
#1392
MASONIC DIST 93-A

4539 Brownfield Dr
Lubbock, TX
79410-1721

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

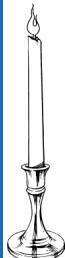
Floor School:
Every Tuesday @ 7p.m.

lubbockmasoniclodge.org



Brotherly Love, Relief & Truth

This Month's Sickness & Distress



John Berry—Crosbyton Lodge



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

Allen Jolly 2/1
Kenneth Luberger 2/2
Baha Tulu Tanju 2/4
Paul Bartlett 2/11

Heath Morgan 2/15
William Boone 2/16
Toby Calhoun 2/17
Jerry Moen 2/22

John Rosser 2/23
Alton W. Herring 2/24
Jerry Hendrick 2/28

The Quarry:
How long is your Cable Tow?
By Bro. Coke Etgen

Gädieke says that, "according to the ancient laws of Freemasonry, every brother must attend his Lodge if he is within the length of his cable tow." The old writers define the length of a cable tow, which they sometimes called a cable's length, to be three miles for an Entered Apprentice. But the expression is really symbolic, and as it was defined by

the Baltimore Convention in 1842, means the scope of a man's reasonable ability.

Source: Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry

"I drew them with the cords of a man, with bonds of love."

Hosea, xi 4.

The Cable Tow is thus a symbol of the cord of bond of Love, which should unite the whole fraternity. Its length or the length of your Cable Tow is the sacrifice you are willing to make on behalf of your

brethren. It is in your heart, not to be measured by miles. It is not gauged by distances, but by deed. It should correspond to the immensity of the monitorial lodge, and to do so should span the earth, touching wherever there is sorrow or distress.

Source: Wm. W. Vickers - The Canadian Craftsman, June 1898



Dear Gable

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."