

### This Month's Feature Stories

- Mediocrity in Masonry
- Dues notices going out soon.



### 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
Calendar	6
The Quarry: Our Degree Work & BIRTHDAYS	7

Volume 5, Issue 2

October 1, 2016

## Mediocrity in Masonry

By Robert G. Davis, 33\*, Grand Cross

One of the questions that occasionally eats at me when I am driving home from a Masonic event, degree, or function that has been woefully mediocre is how our members can sit through such Masonic happenings month after month and still believe our fraternity is relevant and meaningful to men's lives? How honest are we in claiming we make good men better while persistently repeating practices and behaviors which are so distinctively average, or worse? Self-improvement involves some form of positive change. It requires some level of progress; entails some elevated sense of being. Explain to me how a lodge facili-

tates self improvement by offering its members a venue that doesn't "feel" any different when they are inside the lodge than outside of it.

Perhaps many of us come into Masonry looking for nothing more than fraternal association. But, if that's the case, it ought to be the best fraternal association we have ever had!

Once we encounter the preparation room, or make our progress through the degrees, it is hard to dismiss the awareness that we are engaged in something wholly different from our other community experiences. We quickly learn that Masonry has a higher

calling which requires that we make an ascent into the very center of our being.

An endeavor of such high importance and due solemnity is not a run of the mill undertaking. It becomes clear there is nothing mediocre about Masonry. So why do we make it that way?

Here's the problem. Accepting mediocrity in our lodge practices is the same as living a mediocre life. By making un-extraordinary acts and behaviors our ordinary practice, we entrap ourselves from knowing how precious life really is. We don't use opportunities that come our way as a

*Continued on page 4*

## Programs & Announcements



It's October and that means Family Day in Arlington at the Texas Masonic Retirement Center. Harrold has the details in his column. Gun Show this month! Another chance for Lubbock

Lodge to get out front in the public eye! Saturday October 8th and Sunday the 9th at the Civic Center.

At our stated meeting on Friday October 14th, We will be selecting our member to carry our proxies for the next annual Grand Communication.

Don't forget, We are having our open house Sunday October 23rd from 2-4PM. We need a maximum turnout to help tell the story of Freemasonry!





*A Message From the East—  
“What is Freemasonry? – The Grand Lodge of Texas”  
Worshipful Master John Rosser*

Freemasonry is a fraternity. Its membership is restricted to men, but there is no hazing as is found in some college fraternities. The Masonic Order is a serious group. It exists to take good men and help them to become better men. Thus, it is not a reform society. It does not exist to reform criminals, nor would such persons benefit from its teachings.

Variously known as Freemasonry, Masonry or the Craft, the beginnings of our

fraternity are lost to history. Although Masonry is believed to be the oldest surviving fraternal organization in the world, the exact date of its founding is uncertain. Freemasonry can, however, be easily traced to sixteenth century Scotland although the first Masonic governing body was not founded until 1717 in London. The oldest Masonic document, the Regius poem, dates to around 1390 A.D. We know masons began to accept as members men who did not work in the building trade.

Eventually whole lodges composed of such persons arose, leading to a transition from lodges being composed of stone masons to lodges being composed of men from other occupations who gathered and shared a ritual replete with allusions to carpentry, architecture, and stone masonry.



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

*W. Washington*

*A Message From The West—The Oriet of France  
Senior Warden Jerry Hendrick*

Ancient Craft Freemasonry has never taken anything other than a neutral stand on religious beliefs, but groups of French Freemasons were especially angry over the changes in the Church, especially the shocking announcements of Pope Pius IX on papal infallibility. The French being the French, there had been an endless string of competing Grand Lodges operating in the country since

the early 1700s. The Grand Orient of France was one large group that became increasingly distanced from mainstream Masonic beliefs, and its members began to meddle in politics and social movements. In 1877, they shocked the Masonic world by removing the belief in a supreme being as a requirement for membership, and they stooped requiring an open Volume of Sacred Law in

Lodge meetings. The vast majority of mainstream Grand Lodges around the world declared the Grand Orient of France irregular, and it remains to this day a large, popular, but irregular and unrecognized Masonic organization.

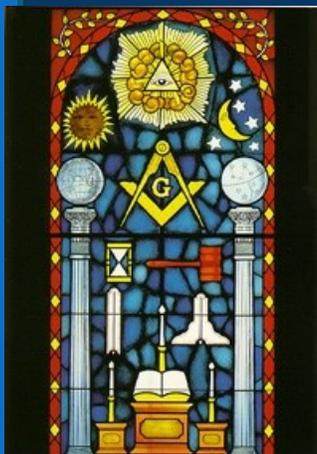


*From the South—Petition for the Degrees  
Junior Warden Coke Etgen*

The Three Great Lights of Masonry are the Holy Bible, Square and Compass. The Volume of the Sacred Law (no matter what religion) is an indispensable part of a Lodge. The Grand Lodges of the United States use the Holy Bible as the V.S.L. on their Altars. In our jurisdiction, a candidate may request to have his own sacred book present on the Altar with the Bible during his degree ceremonies. In Lodges in other countries, other sacred texts

are placed on the Altar in place of the Holy Bible, but no Lodge in Texas may stand officially open, unless the Holy Bible is opened upon its Altar with the Square and Compass displayed thereon. The open Bible signifies that we should regulate our conduct according to its teachings because it is the rule and guide of our faith and is a symbol of man’s acknowledgment of his relation to Deity. The Square is a symbol of morality, truthfulness and honest-

ty. To “act on the square” is to act honestly. The Compass signifies the propitious use of action and is a symbol of restraint, skill and knowledge. We might also properly regard the Compass as excluding beyond its circle that which is harmful or unworthy. The general public, as the symbol of Freemasonry recognizes the Square and Compass.



*“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.”*

*Benj. Franklin*



### From the Secretary Harrold Loveless *Taking Care of Business*

A continuing reminder, dues notices are going out soon and due by Dec 31, and will be going up to \$75. Talk to me if you need to make installment payments, and I will let you know what your options are.

Do not forget the Gun Show is coming up October 8-9 and we will need volunteers to work the booth.

Also, October 23rd, is the mandatory Open House from 2pm - 4pm.

We were honored to have DDGM Charles Mire for District 93A visit our stated meeting and present the Grand Lodge communications. For anyone interested in more in depth information from the communication, I will be posting a copy on the bulletin board by the door after every stated meeting for all to read. If you wish a personal copy of the communication just let me know and I will make you a copy.

#### Texas Masonic Family Day

October 8, 2016  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
at the  
Texas Masonic Retirement Center  
1501 West Division St.,  
Arlington, Texas 76012  
Bring your family and friends for a great time!  
Admission is FREE  
Parking is FREE  
Fun is FREE



### From the Senior Deacon Justin Robbins *Visiting Brothers & Prospects*

We would like to thank the brothers and visitors that attended last months stated meeting and our visit from right worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Charles Mire of masonic district #93A.

At our stated meeting we had the following visitors: Bob Clemmons, 33° PM; Dan Redman PM; Terry Euwing PM; and Rolan

Pirtle, from Yellowhouse Lodge #841; and Bob Lindley PM from Wolfforth Lodge #1447.

We hope to see you at our next stated meeting on Friday, October 14th at 7:30 pm (dinner at 6:30 pm) and encourage anyone interested in getting involved with the degree team to attend floor practice every Tuesday at 7:00 pm.



*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*

A Lodge is not held together with steel bands, but by the silken ties of brotherhood, woven of interest, friendliness, good times, wholesome fraternal intercourse.

A Mason is not necessarily a member of a lodge. In a broad sense, he is any person who daily tries to live

the Masonic life, and to serve intelligently the needs of the Great Architect.

As we continue to improve ourselves in Masonry, we are indeed improving life. We know from history that without ideals to guide us, the garden of a man's life will not grow into a place

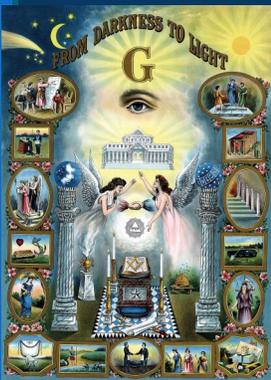
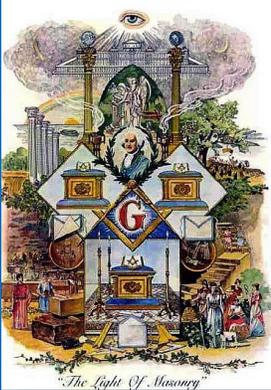
of beauty.



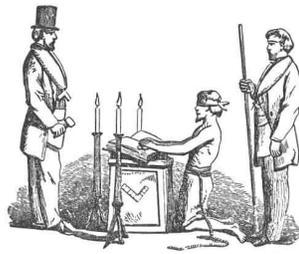
#### Upcoming Menu for October

- Chili and beans with corn bread
- Cookies
- Asst drinks

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means of expressing how special we really are. Instead, we walk the walk with the rest of the herd and soon find ourselves in such a deep rut of limitations we lose sight of our own value. We become trapped in mediocrity.



Regrettably, this too often seems the condition in which lodges, Scottish Rite Valleys, York Rite Chapters, Councils and Commanderies find themselves. When nothing extraordinary, educational, insightful, compelling, intellectual, contemplative, spiritual, or fraternal occurs in our private, sacred, fraternal spaces, then we become only another ordinary, average, run of the mill, dime-a-dozen organization. It is hard to see how this kind of Masonry takes good men and makes them better.

It is not the kind of Masonry we should want to share with our friends.

I believe that if we truly want to move "from the square to the compasses," we have to dare to be different. And we can't dare to be different by following someone else's expecta-

tions. When a lodge does the same thing year after year, it is accepting by default someone else's expectations. There is nothing creative, inspiring, or different about parroting ritual, paying bills, and going home. That's doing only what many others have done before us.

To distinguish ourselves among men and organizations, we first have to perceive in our own minds that we have something to do which will ultimately set us above the average. We start by thinking about the choices before us.



Do we choose what is safe rather than what is right? Do we only do things right, or do we do the right things? Do we set out on a new path, or take the same old, comfortable way? Do we bring credit to our teachings, or debit them as ideals of the past? Do we become the examples that young men want to emulate, or do we seem to them as just another group of ho hum guys?

You see, the choice always controls the chooser. To be exemplary men, or an exemplary organization, we have to be exceptional in



our awareness of who we are, what we are here to be doing, what we know, and how we practice what we know. We have to have the courage to be different from the rest of the crowd—nobler in our expectations and more refined in our state of mind.

Because that's just the way Masonry is.

He who wants milk should not sit himself in the middle of a pasture and wait for a cow to back up to him.

*Robert G. Davis is Executive Secretary of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Bodies in Oklahoma.*

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Lubbock 1392 in Action



Have a fun, **SAFE** Halloween!

Halloween is Monday  
October 31, 2016



October 2015 Calendar



Lubbock Masonic Lodge #1392  
Masonic Calendar

Proxy Certificates are due the GS Office NLT November 15

# October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Scottish Rite Reunion
2	3	4 FLOOR PRACTICE Wolfforth Lodge	5	6	7 Yellowhouse Lodge	8 Gun Show
9 Gun Show	10 Emma Lodge Commandery	11 FLOOR PRACTICE Lubbock OES	12	13 Abernathy Lodge Chapter	14 LUBBOCK STATED MEETING	15 Daylight Lodge TTU vs West Va.
16	17 Crosbyton Lodge	18 FLOOR PRACTICE Mackenzie Lodge	19	20 Slaton Stated Mtg Freedom OES	21	22 TT vs OSU
23	24	25 FLOOR PRACTICE	26 Scottish Rite	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween	September 2016 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		November 2016 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		© 2010 Vertex42 LLC <a href="http://www.vertex42.com/calendars/">http://www.vertex42.com/calendars/</a>



"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles with it."

*Winston Churchill*

# LUBBOCK MASONIC LODGE #1392

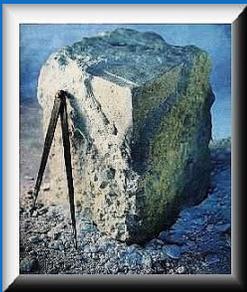
MASONIC DIST 93-A

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



PM Coke Etgen  
Family of Roy Shoemaker  
Family of Arnold Palmer



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

Jim Bob Merritt — 10/14  
Ricky Dean Spinks — 10/15  
Anthony Earle Bliss — 10/15  
Eugene Frank Caldwell — 10/15  
Kenneth Brownfield — 10/18  
John Andrew Klattenhof — 10/19

James R. Mears — 10/22  
Kevin Rush — 10/25  
Arven Jerry Townsend —  
10/29



## The Quarry: Our Esoteric Work By Bro. Coke Etgen

tence: "A Mason is a peaceable subject to the Civil Powers, wherever he resides or works."



## The Masonic Rite of Salutation

"The Rite of Salutation, in which the candidate salutes each station in turn, is, in addition to its function as a portion of the ceremonies, also a symbol of a Mason's respect for an obedience to all just and duly constituted authorities. The Old Charges state this in a single sen-



*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."*

*Blair Gable*

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