

Volume 6 Issue 5

May 1, 2017

THIS MONTH'S
FEATURE STORIES

Rebirth and
Reflection

Freemasonry - The
Shared Experience
of Initiation



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Rebirth and Reflection

Freemasonry - The Shared Experience of Initiation

**Rebirth and Reflection by
Dr. David Harrison**

We are charged during the third degree that the Lord of Life will enable us to trample the King of Terrors beneath our feet, and lift our eyes to that bright Morning Star. The degree thus teaches us to ask that famous question - what is life all about? We experience both the light and dark, we experience the contrast, and we henceforth see the value of life. We are reborn into the light; a new world where things are forever different and we realise we live not only for ourselves, but for the world as a whole.

We get to feel what it is like to see our own grave, and we get shown what it is like to be reborn. It is a personal experience, and it is also a shared experience, an experience to

reflect on deeply. It is a climax to our new life as a Mason, and for a short while, we die and are resurrected - something that the magicians, alchemists and natural philosophers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries desired, men like Dee, Ashmole, Desaguliers . . .



There is also an element of primeval fear in all of us when we see human bones; we know one day that is what we will all become. Like the Vanitas themes of renaissance art, skulls and symbols of mortali-

ty such as the hourglass and the scythe, remind us that time is ticking away, and we really do not have that much time on Earth, and we should try our best to be good and benefit society as much as possible. This is why charity should be part of Freemasonry, and Masonry makes good men better.

**Freemasonry - The Shared Experience of Initiation by
Dr. David Harrison**

In Freemasonry, one of the first things we are taught is that we are all equal as brothers; every brother in the lodge has undergone the initiation ceremony, and we have all experienced the same event. We are all brethren sharing a similar past experience. This binds us together, as shared experiences are valuable to the group. There have been many recent studies into this 'shared

Programs & Announcements



Don't want to miss the next stated meeting Friday May 12, TO AWARD OUR SCHOLARSHIPS AND THE LAMAR AWARD! The program portion will be open to all members, family and friends. The business portion of the meeting will include a

report regarding the sale of the lodge building.

PLEASE JOIN US FRIDAY MAY 19 7pm as we are presenting the Golden Trowel Award and honoring our past masters with our annual dinner in their honor The program will be open to all members, family and friends.

Mark your calendars: Yellow-house Lodge on August 20,

2016 at 9:00AM will be the site of this year's certificate exams.

September the Lubbock Scottish Rite will be hosting the Lodge Officer training program from the Grand Lodge of Texas.



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



From the East Worshipful Master John Rosser

I would like to congratulate our newest member and wish him the best on his start in his masonic journey and congratulate the Degree Team for a good degree.

As we are taught in the 1st degree, Freemasonry is the most ancient and the most moral human institution that has ever existed. Every time I hear that I think to myself, how great it is that I am a part of Freemasonry. One of the staples of Freemasonry is that it

takes good men and makes them better. But we are not perfect, we can continue to grow and become better people and better masons through such things as education and reflection to name a few. Always strive to become a better person, a better mason, our work is never complete.

I found a quote by Benjamin Franklin. "Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disap-

pointed. The wages of a Mason are earned and paid in their dealings with one another; sympathy that begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason."

It is that time of year again that we elect new officers for the upcoming year. This will take place at our Stated Meeting in June. Make sure you come out and cast your vote.

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

Washington



A Message From the West Senior Warden Jerry Hendrick

Well, as we get closer to the end of this masonic year, I have come to notice that we have accomplished many things. I would like to keep things going. Many of you have many great ideas that we can discuss and use to make our membership grow. I would like to see as many brothers

promote masonry and keep a record of the contacts that you make, let's find a way to get our Lodge seen. We may be small, but from what I have heard from the older members who no longer attend, we were well known for our degree work. Let's strive to get that proficiency back. As you know

we still have a graded visit coming up between now and December let's see if we can improve from the last one. Remember we need everyone to attend the May meeting. This is vital to the life of the Lodge. See you there.



From the South—Petitions for the Degrees of Masonry Junior Warden Coke Etgen

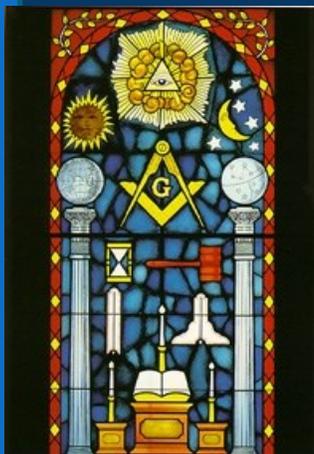
Art. 399. (436). Former Petition. If the candidate should answer that he has heretofore petitioned another Lodge, all action of the Lodge toward conferring a degree shall be suspended until it shall be shown that the candidate is legally entitled to receive the degree. The Lodge receiving the petition shall request full information from the Lodge theretofore petitioned, and the Lodge theretofore petitioned shall furnish under seal of the Lodge all information shown by the records of said Lodge to the Lodge inquiring.

Art. 400. (438). Suspicion of Former Rejection. A Lodge having reason to believe or to suspect that a candidate has

once been rejected, must not proceed with conferring the degrees until the matter has been thoroughly investigated. If it is discovered that a candidate has a prior rejection from any regular Lodge, and if that Lodge still possesses jurisdiction, all action upon the petition must cease. All fees that have been prepaid shall be refunded, and the facts of the matter shall be disclosed at the next stated meeting and noted in the minutes. (Revised 2012)

Art. 407. Referred to Committee. A petition for the degrees shall be presented at a stated meeting and referred by the Master presiding to a committee of three members for investiga-

tion and report. A member of this committee may not be a recommender or any Mason listed as a reference on such petition, unless and except no otherwise qualified Brother is available to serve as such. Such report may be made at a subsequent stated meeting; but no ballot shall be taken thereon in less than one lunar month from the date the petition is received, unless dispensation is granted by the Grand Master under Article 414. The Lodge may grant the committee further time upon request of one of its members; but no commitment may be made after the committee has reported to the Lodge. (Revised 2008)



"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 Harrold Loveless *Taking Care of Business*

I wish to remind everyone of the upcoming Stated Meeting on May 12th. We will be handing out scholarships and the Lamar Award. We need a good turnout to show our support toward public education as well as to the scholarship recipients and the Lamar Award winner for 2017.

Do not forget about the Open House to be held May

27th from 10am to 2pm. This Open House is one of the proclamations from our Grand Master. If you have anyone who is possibly interested in Freemasonry, this would be a good time to strike up a conversation and have him attend the Open House to see what masonry is all about.

Please remember to bring cash goods to our Stated

Meetings for donation to the Lubbock Food Bank. This is an ongoing charity Lubbock Lodge is doing in accordance of the second proclamation from our Grand Master regarding monthly charitable events.

Finally, election of officers is just around the corner on June 12th.



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

We would like to thank the brothers and visitors that attended our stated meeting for April. At our stated meeting we had the following visitors: Bob Clemmons, 33°, PM, Steve Sperry, and Glen Ashcraft from Yellowhouse Lodge #841.

We found out from Brother Steve Sperry that the Rainbow program was on its way

back to Lubbock and DeMolay might not be far behind!

We hope to see you at our next stated meeting on Friday, May 12th at 7:30 pm (dinner at 6:30 pm). We have a lot on tap this month.

We encourage anyone interested in getting involved with the degree teams to attend floor practice every Tuesday at 7:00 pm.

Don't forget our Open House, Saturday, May 27, from 10A—2P



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*

Can you believe that its May already?!

Giver to all things, as we gather for this banquet, we give thanks that we are again permitted to gather in this fellowship. May our friendships be strengthened and our lives be broadened. We give thanks for this food. Please bless it to our use and guide us so that

we may help others be the best they can be. Amen.

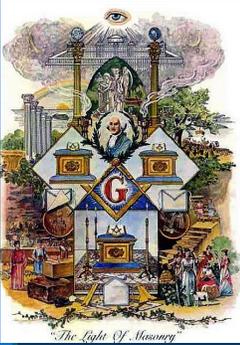
Please share and pray for all of the less fortunate in this world and that one day we shall all have peace.



Upcoming Menu for May:

- Steak burger with mushrooms**
- Mashed potatoes**
- Green beans**
- Dinner roll**
- Asst drinks**

Freemasonry - The Shared Experience of Initiation con't from page 1 Blackballing and Ballot Boxes



experience' by psychologists, some studies suggesting that shared experiences are amplified and are thus more powerful (Boothby et al. 2014). Of course, the experience of initiation into Freemasonry is a good experience, a powerful, moving and celebrated experience, one to be valued, and it is this shared aspect of it that creates the bond of brotherhood, a brotherhood that breaks down barriers of age, social background, nationality, and cultural background. For example, a study discussed by the British Psychological Society that was published in the *Journal of Consumer Research* puts forward that 'the first impression an individual has of an event has a greater impact when they share this experience with somebody else'. Of course there is a bit of a difference between being initiated into Freemasonry and consumerism, but as the overall study looks at the shared experience in a social context, then one can see how powerful and memorable the shared experience is. Of course, initiation as a process of entry into societies has been with us for thousands of years; the value of shared experience that creates bonding on a powerful level being known by our ancestors. It has been used in various religions, tribes, in the military, in street gangs and in social groups, to create that bonding and that sense of being part of a family. Masonic initiation also involves an obligation and as a society it teaches us moral lessons and above all, that we are all equal. Being forbidden to talk about religion and politics in lodge helps us, as brothers, to transcend our cultural and national differences, and this is what helps to make us all equal.

Blackballing and Ballot Boxes by Dr. David Harrison

The use of balloting using black and white balls in lodges dates way back to the eighteenth century, the method being a democratic, though anonymous means of electing new candidates and joining members, and to settle disputes within the lodge—a secret ballot in effect. So when a candidate is proposed and balloted for, a brother feels that he is not the right person to be involved in Freemasonry, they can choose a black ball, whereas if they favor the candidate, they would choose a white ball.

For example, in the Lodge of Probity, a lodge founded in 1738 which still meets in Halifax, Yorkshire, it was recorded in the minutes on the 10th of August, 1763, that a certain Robert Kelly was rejected as a new member with a ballot of 'five yes, and seven no'.

In the same lodge, after a dispute between two brethren, balloting was used to determine whether either or both brethren should be expelled, and in January 1767, a final ballot was taken to determine whether one of the brethren should be readmitted as a member, the result being recorded thus: It was thus agreed that this particular brother could visit and the dispute should never be brought up in the lodge again.

In the York 'Union' Lodge, a lodge founded in 1777, the use of black and white balls for balloting was evident, as on 19th January, 1778, the lodge blackballed a new candidate and no reason was given. He obviously just wasn't the right type of person for the lodge!

Other societies that became increasingly popular in the nineteenth century, such as the Odd-fellows, also used a similar sys-

tem of balloting, and there was even an instance of a 'Discussion Class' held at the Mechanics' Institute in Warrington, Lancashire, using a similar method of balloting, proposing new members who had to be accepted by a majority; the class tried to become exclusive and twice rejected a would-be 'debater' on grounds of class, leading to the rules being changed.

The use of black and white balls also reflects the use of white and black within the lodge; the chequered floor of the lodge room and the use of dark clothing and white gloves, giving the working of the lodge an overall theme as well as a striking visual effect, reflecting the light and darkness of human nature; the black choice a negative one, the white choice being positive.

n rule 190 of the 1919 edition of the UGLE Constitutions, it states that 'No person can be made a Mason in, or admitted a member of, a Lodge, if, on ballot, three black balls appear against him; but the by-laws of a Lodge may enact that one or two black balls shall exclude a candidate'. Thus, an effective and indeed, a flexible way of balloting has been used for centuries within lodges, to guarantee that 'no Lodge should introduce into Masonry a person whom the Brethren consider unfit to be a member of their own Lodge.' Today, some lodges use a 'yes' or 'nay' box instead of black and white balls for voting.

Dr David Harrison is a UK based Masonic historian who has so far written eight books on the history of English Freemasonry and has contributed many papers and articles on the subject to various journals and magazines
<https://drdavidharrison.blogspot.com>

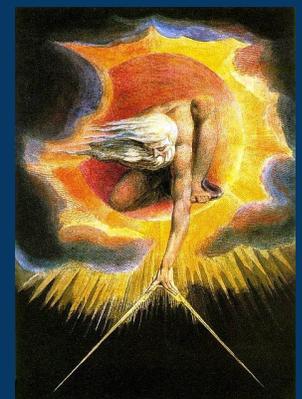
Lubbock 1392 in Action



Hilltop 2017



Our 2017 Hilltop Masters degree candidate, Zack Graves of Plainview Lodge (center), pictured with Chris Bates of Daylight Lodge (right) who delivered the lecture, charge, apron and Bible presentation and Josiah Herrera (left) of Plainview Lodge





Lubbock Masonic Lodge #1392
Masonic Calendar

May 2017

Vote on proficiency for incoming officers

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
	1	2  WOLFFORTH FRENSHIP FLOOR PRACTICE	3	4	5  YELLOWHOUSE LODGE	6																																																																																																		
7 Mother's Day	8  EMMA LODGE COMMANDERY	9  LUBBOCK OES FLOOR PRACTICE	10	11  ABERNATHY LODGE COUNCIL	12  STATED MEETING PRESENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIP AND LAMAR AWARDS	13																																																																																																		
14	15  CROSBYTON LODGE	16  MACKENZIE LODGE FLOOR PRACTICE	17	18  SLATON LODGE FREEDOM OES	19 Past Masters Dinner	20  DAYLIGHT LODGE YORK RITE COLLEGE																																																																																																		
21	22  Hilltop Meeting	23 FLOOR PRACTICE	24  SCOTTISH RITE	25	26	27																																																																																																		
28	29 Memorial Day	30 FLOOR PRACTICE	31																																																																																																					
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"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles with it."

Wisdom. Churchill

LUBBOCK MASONIC LODGE #1392

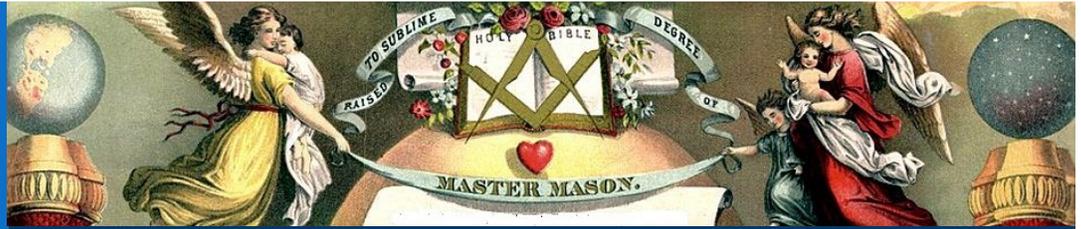
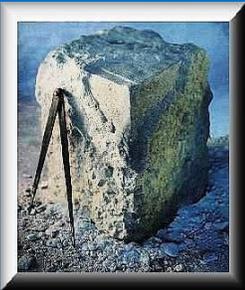
MASONIC DIST 93-A

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



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

Christopher Lupton 5/1
Thomas Jackson 5/9
James Urban 5/16
Leonard Buller 5/23

Billy Harris 5/25
Kenneth Olson 5/30

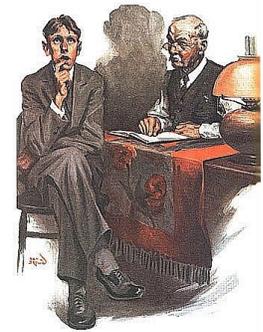
The Quarry: Our Esoteric Work By Bro. Coke Etgen

THE WAGES OF A FELLOWCRAFT

Corn, Wine, and Oil are symbolic wages earned by the Fellowcraft Mason who arrives at the Middle Chamber. These symbolize wealth in mental and spiritual worlds. Corn represents nourishment and the sustenance of life. It is also a symbol of plenty, and refers to the opportunity for doing good, to work for the community, and to the perfor-

mance of service to mankind. The Corn referred to in this Degree is actually what we call wheat.

sent the temporal rewards of living a good life.



Wine is symbolic of refreshment, health, spirituality, and peace. Oil represents joy, gladness and happiness. Taken together, Corn, Wine, and Oil repre-



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: info@lubbockmasoniclodge.org