

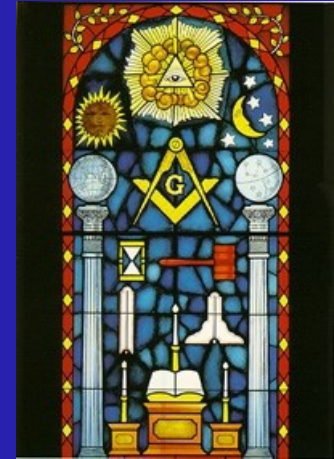
JULY 1, 2019

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 7

Lubbock's Light

The Newsletter of Lubbock Masonic Lodge #1392

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



The Ritualist's Corner

By: Bro. Mark Waks

As one of the goals and objectives of our new Master of the Lodge is to refocus and rededicate ourselves to our esoteric work, we are reprinting an article that appeared here in April of 2018.

One of the problems that most often plagues Masonry is poor ritual. By this, I don't just mean getting the words wrong -- I mean ritual that is drab and uninspiring, which fails to actually *teach* a candidate. Ritual is often mediocre, and it doesn't have to be; anyone can do ritual well, provided he knows a little about acting.

It isn't hard, actually; it's mostly a matter of knowing how to do it, plus a lot of practice. This article is intended to impart some guidelines on how to do Good Ritual. It doesn't demand a lot of time, or any particular talent, just a little drive to do well. Read it and play with it. With some practice, you should be able to use these tech-

niques to good effect in your Lodge. The course is specifically aimed at dealing with the longer speeches, but much of it is also relevant to shorter pieces; I commend it to junior officers.

This is adapted from a lecture that I worked up for my own lodge; having done that, I figured I should try to spread these tips around for the common weal of the Craft. (Caveat: I do assume that you have some kind of cypher book, with encoded ritual. If your jurisdiction doesn't use this, you'll have to adapt these lessons.)

1: Figure out the Words

The first step of learning any ritual is to know what you're saying! This should be obvious, but is often overlooked, because brethren are afraid to admit that they don't already know the right words. Don't be afraid to admit your own limits - I've never met *anyone* who gets every single

PROGRAMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Elections last month yielded the following new slate of officers for 2018-19: WM - Heath Morgan; SW - Henry Housour; JW - Harrold Loveless; Treasurer - Finus Branham; Secretary - Jerry Hendrick; Senior Deacon - Chad Conn; Junior Deacon -

Tanner Cooper; Senior Steward - Luis Ramos; Chaplain - Dewain Collins. Be sure and congratulate them and wish them well for the upcoming year.

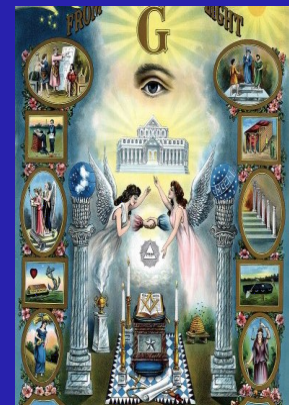
The first meeting of this Masonic year will be

July 12. The annual Briscoe Workshop will held soon. Keep your eyes open for the date. If you are an officer of your lodge or are thinking about being an officer in the future this is a great opportunity to pickup some skills and information. Officers Training this year will be in Odessa Sep. 20, 21,& 22, 2019. Registration forms can be downloaded on the Grand Lodge website.

We also have a gun show booth Saturday & Sunday, July 27-28. Work assignments will be firmed up at our stated meeting.

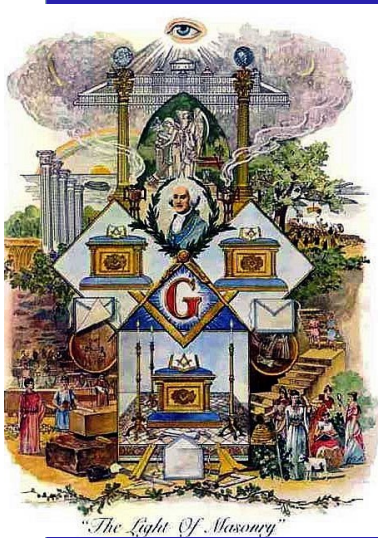
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“Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting

The Ritualist's Corner — *con't from page 1*



word right every time.

Start out by listening to someone say the speech, preferably several times. (You should be doing this the entire previous year, listening to your predecessor.) Listen carefully, and make sure you understand what's being said; ask questions if you don't. (After Lodge, of course.)

Next, go through your cypher or code book carefully, and see how much you can read. Mark words that you can't figure out, or that you're unsure of -- this is the point to catch any mistakes you may be making. Then call or get together with a Ritualist or a reliable Past Master, and talk through it, reading out of the book slowly. Have him correct any mistakes, and fill in the words you don't know. Take notes (preferably somewhere other than in the book), because you will forget the corrections as soon as you're on your own.

2: Understand the Speech

This step gets overlooked even more often than the previous one. Read through the ritual a couple of times, and make sure you really grasp it. Don't just know the words -- know what it's talking about. Find out who the characters being talked about are. Again, ask questions.

Now, start trying to understand the speech structurally. Any ritual is made up of components, separate pieces that are linked together. For example, a section may be talking about symbols, with three paragraphs per symbol: concrete meaning, abstract meaning, and purpose. Figure out what these pieces are -- you'll use them later.

The next step is especially useful for long speeches -- visualize the speech. Any speech can be thought of in terms of movements, places, rooms, stuff like that. Words are hard to remember in order; places are easy. The canonical example is the Middle Chamber Lecture, which walks through King Solomon's Temple. That's no accident -- that path is easily visualized, and makes a good example of how to learn ritual, which is probably why it is the first major speech an officer learns. This is why we use symbols in the first place: because they are easy to learn and internalize. Use them.

3a: Small-Scale Memorization

This is never anyone's favorite part; anyone can do it, but no one finds it simple. It's considerably easier if you do it right, though.

Start out by reading the speech over and over. Don't move on to the next step until you can read it from the cypher quickly, without breaks or hesitation. Read it *out loud*, when you get the chance. This step is particularly important, and skipped more often than any other. Don't skip it -- this is how you get your brain and mouth trained to the words. It may sound silly, but it really matters -- the mental pathways used to talk are distinct from those used to read.

Now, start trying to learn sentences. Just sentences. Read the first word or two of the sentence, then try to fill in the remainder from memory. Don't fret if you can't do it immediately; it will probably take at least 5 or 10 times

through before you're getting most of the sentences. You'll find some that are hard -- hammer those ones over and over (but don't totally neglect the rest while you do so). Again, get to the point where you're doing reasonably well on this, before going on to the next step.

3b: Large-Scale Memorization

Once you've got most of the sentences, try to move on to paragraphs. Again, some will be easy and some hard. Try to understand exactly why this sentence follows that one -- in most cases, the ritual does make sense. An individual paragraph is almost always trying to express a single coherent thought, in pieces; figure out what that thought is, and why all the pieces are necessary. Keep at this until you're able to get most paragraphs by glancing at the first word or two, or by thinking, "Okay, this is the description of truth," or something like that.

Finally, start putting it all together. This is where the structural analysis in Step 2 gets important. You visualized the speech, and figured out how it hooks together; use that visualization to connect the paragraphs. Make sure you have some clue why each paragraph follows the one before. In almost every case, the next paragraph is either a) continuing this thought, or b) moving on to a related thought. In both cases, you can make memorization much easier by understanding why it flows like that. Convince yourself that this paragraph obviously has to follow that one, and you'll never forget the order.

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

G. Washington

The Ritualist's Corner — *con't from page 2*

4: Smoothing It Out

You're now at the point where you've got pretty much all the sentences down, and most of the paragraphs, and you're able to get through the whole thing only looking at the book a few times. Now, start *saying* it.

When you're driving in the car; when you're alone at home; pretty much any time you have some privacy, try saying it all out loud, at full voice. Trust me, it sounds very different when you actually say it aloud. You'll find that you stumble more, and in different places. Some words turn out to be more difficult to pronounce than you expected. Try it a few times.

Start out by trying to do this frequently -- once, even twice every day. It'll be hard at first (and it's a real pain to pull out the cypher book while you're driving), but it'll gradually get easier. When you're starting to feel comfortable, slow down, but don't stop. Practice it every couple of days, then every week. Don't slow down below once a week. If you feel up to it, see if you can speed up your recitation. (But do not ever speed-talk the ritual in open Lodge -- that's for memorization and rehearsal only.)

5a: Mindset

Last part. You're now at the point where you pretty much have the ritual memorized. Now, the trick is learning how to perform it well. Very nearly everyone has some amount of stage fright; us acting types often have it even worse than most. The trick to overcoming it is control of the nerves.

Now that you're comfortable

reciting the ritual, observe how you do it. By now, you're not thinking about it so much; your mouth is doing almost all the work, with the conscious mind simply making a few connections between paragraphs. That is the right state to be in. Think about how that feels, and learn it.

Before you go in to "perform", do some basic acting exercises. Take a few deep breaths; concentrate on not thinking. I think the ideal is a little light meditation, but it takes a fair bit of practice to be able to drop into that state on demand; for now, just worry about being calm. Being calm is far more important than anything else. If you're calm, you're unlikely to screw up too badly; if you're tense, you're far more likely to. Some people like to exercise the body a bit, to relax the mind; you should do what works for you.

5b: Acting

Now the final nuance, which separates merely competent ritual from the really good stuff. Now that you're able to let your mouth do all the talking, start listening to yourself. Think about the ritual again, but don't think about the words, think about what it means. What are the important bits? Emphasize those. How could you use your body or hands to illustrate a point? Try talking *to* the person in front of you, not just *at* them -- look them in the eye and make them get the point. You are teaching important lessons here; try to capture a little of the emotional intensity of that importance.

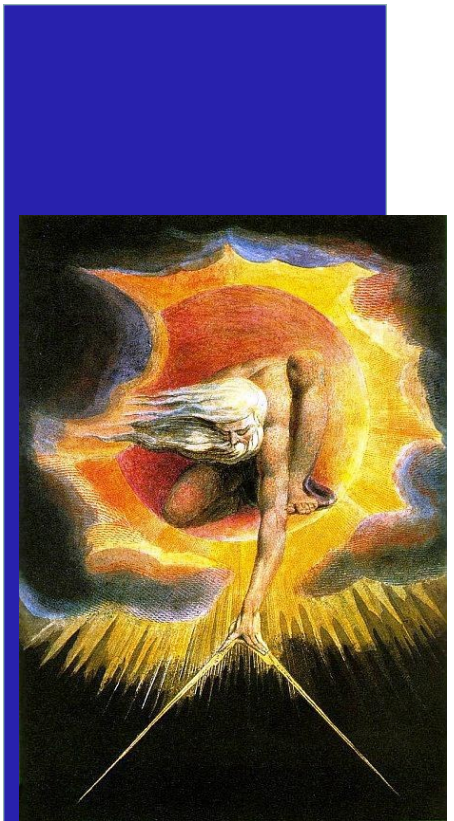
Think of your "performance"

as a melding of two parts.

Your mouth is providing the words, your mind and heart the emotion. Again, nothing beats practice. This is what rehearsal should really be for -- taking a dummy candidate in hand, and learning how to really get the point across. Don't fret if you find that you need to change "modes" now and then -- here and there you will need to think about the words briefly, when you change paragraphs or hit a hard sentence. That won't throw you, though, so long as you keep track of what you're saying; you've already figured out why each part leads into the next, and that will guide you when you stumble.

Conclusion

Don't expect to get all this down instantly; it takes most people a few years to really get good at it. Just try to advance yourself bit by bit. Learn the transitions and pieces first -- if you have that, you can get through the ritual. Next time, work on memorizing more thoroughly. The time after that, work on getting it really smooth. After a while, you can build up to the point where you have the luxury to act. And at that point, you will find that you start doing the kind of ritual that Masonry is meant to have -- both moving and interesting, enough so that the candidate (who is, remember, the whole point) actually *learns* what you're saying, and what it actually means. And if you really do it well, you'll find that you come to understand the meaning of the ritual a good deal better yourself...



“Take everything you like seriously, except yourselves.”

Rudyard Kipling



WORSHIPFUL MASTER HEATH MORGAN
From the East

Brethren, I am humbled that the lodge has trusted me to be able to fill the seat in the East once again. I am excited about the upcoming year. Not only do we still have the sale of the building at hand, but we have been bringing in several new members which is always a blessing. This year, I look forward deepening our knowledge in the esoteric work as well as looking for opportunities to take Masonry out of the walls of the lodge and into our community. I also look forward to working side by side with both youth organizations. Whether you believe they are the future of our fraternity or not, we have

been charged to better the communities in which we live. How can we do better than have a positive impact on its future leaders. Again, I am happy to serve this lodge again and look forward to the upcoming year.



SENIOR WARDEN HENRY HOUSOUR
From the West

Esoteric knowledge has played a role in many civilizations throughout the history of the world but it has never been more important anywhere than in our own fraternity as it serves as the foundation of our existence. It is designed for and to be understood by the specially initiated alone. Our work successively builds upon the other. The moral symbolism of our working tools is something which is gradually introduced into Masonic ritual. As such learning and retaining the floor work can be a challenge but it is a challenge we must all embrace.

practice, but the ones needing it the worst do not show up for it at all. Given the past history of our lodge when it comes to our esoteric work, it was embarrassing recently to have to have Slaton lodge help to confer our last Master's degree. Where are our brothers? We need you.

We need ALL of our members to show up on Tuesday work nights. We ALL need the



JUNIOR WARDEN HARROL LOVELESS
From the South

A new Masonic year is upon us and with it brings a new lineup of officers. I am honored to be the new Junior Warden of Lubbock Lodge and will strive to up-hold the high standards and trust you have shown in me. I am so looking forward to the ensuing Masonic year. It's a most humbling experience and I will try to be worthy.

of the officers. What I found interesting is according to the Grand Lodge of Texas, all officers of a lodge must be members thereof, except for the Tiler (Title II, Chapter 11, Article 265). All must be in good standing and willing to perform their duties. So it appears our tradition is to have the outgoing Master be appointed to the station of the Tiler, but the Grand Lodge of Texas' only requirement of a Tiler is to be a Brother in good standing and not necessarily a member of our lodge.

Being on an education sabbatical for the past eighteen months I am going to have to play catch up on masonic law, so bear with me. We have just completed both the elections and installation of officers for the lodge. I was searching the law book for information on duties and responsibilities

“Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip.”

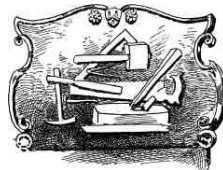
Will Rogers



FROM THE SECRETARY JERRY HENDRICK
Taking Care of Business

As most of you know each year after installation our report of per capita is sent from Grand Lodge, for me to read, correct and approve with the assistance of the Lodge. Even though we are in the process of selling this lodge building, we are still required to pay Grand Lodge the necessary per capita (\$22.50) on all members, with the exception of those who are Service Exempt and Endowed. So at this time I am asking for donations to boost our general fund so that we are able to meet this expense when this arrives. We raised 3 Master Mason, restated 1, Lost 7, (by Demit,

NPD or Death). So as you can see our loss is greater than our gain. So please dig deep and help the Lodge keep it's door's open. Now, let's have a great year.



FROM THE SENIOR DEACON CHAD CONN
Visiting Brothers and Prospects

We would like to thank all those who attended the June meeting for installation of officers for the new Masonic year. We were honored with the presence of Demolay and The Rainbow Girls. Thank you for your participation. Also, thank you to all the family members and visiting brethren that came to support our lodge.

We would also like to thank our visiting brethren for the June stated meeting.

Bob Clemmons 33rd, PM, from Yellowhouse Lodge, Roland Pirtle, PM, Yellowhouse Lodge, Jeremy Hogan, PM, Wolf-forth Lodge.

A called meeting to confer a EA degree for a new candidate was held on June 18. Thank you for all the brethren that attended.

We hope to see you at our next state meeting on Friday, July 12th at 7:30 pm (dinner at 6:30 pm) and encourage anyone interested in getting involved with the degree team to attend floor practice on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM.



FROM THE SENIOR STEWARD LUIS RAMOS
Food, Flowers & Frolic

Lord God, Great Architect of the Universe, who has so inspired the ancient members of our Craft that in the bond of brotherhood they met each others needs and first of all men came together in the hidden mysteries handed down to us, give us, we beseech Thee, grateful hearts, that in joyful service we may bring relief to the unfortunate, and in perfect loyalty both preserve our trust and leave behind us an increased inheritance.



Upcoming Menu for April:

- Menu:
- Deli Platter
 - Assorted Chips
 - Cookies
 - Assorted drinks

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

Mark Twain

LUBBOCK LODGE JULY CALENDAR



Lubbock Masonic Lodge #1392
Masonic Calendar

July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 WOFFORTH FRENSHIP FLOOR PRACTICE	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5 YELLOWHOUSE LODGE	6
7	8 EMMA LODGE	9 LUBBOCK OES FLOOR PRACTICE	10	11 RAINBOW GIRLS	12 STATED MEETING	13
14	15 CROSBYTON LODGE	16 MACKENZIE LODGE FLOOR PRACTICE	17	18 SLATON LODGE FREEDOM OES	19	20 DAYLIGHT LODGE
21	22 COMMANDERY	23 FLOOR PRACTICE	24 SCOTTISH RITE	25 RAINBOW GIRLS COUNCIL	26	27 GUN & BLADE SHOW GUN SHOW
28 GUN SHOW	29	30 FLOOR PRACTICE	31			
		June 2019 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		August 2019 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 31		

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A story that made the rounds a few years ago as "gospel truth" involved a Brother on a hunting trip in the wild of Maine. Day after day of his vacation was eaten up without a deer. On the last day, as he was about to give up in desperation, he heard a crashing in the woods: saw a glimpse of brown and fired. Silence! Rushing over to where he fired, he found that he had killed a bull moose, which is protected from hunters to save it from extinction. As he stood there staring at the dead moose, a Game Warden stepped out into the clearing. Our brother found his hands involuntarily raised in a certain position, "What shall we do with the body?" "Dress it out, you damn fool," said the Warden, "and make your escape"

"Freemasonry is an institution calculated to benefit mankind"

Andrew Jackson

LUBBOCK LODGE #1392 IN ACTION



WM Heath Morgan about to be seated in the East by Bob Clemmons, 33°, Installing Officer



2019-20 line about to be installed l-r Tanner Cooper, Jr. Deacon; Chad Conn, Sr. Deacon; Harrold Loveless, Jr. Warden; Henry Housour, PM, Sr. Warden, & Heath Morgan, PM, serving a second term as Master of the Lodge

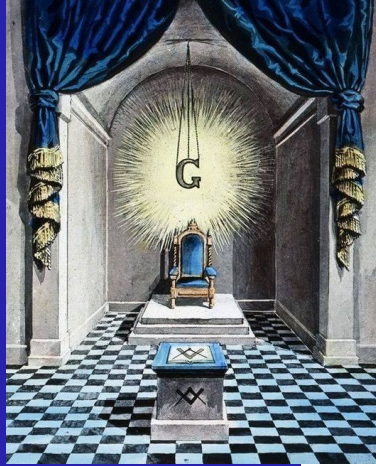
Installation of Lubbock Lodge 2019-20 officers



Immediate Past Master Justin Robbins being installed as Tiler



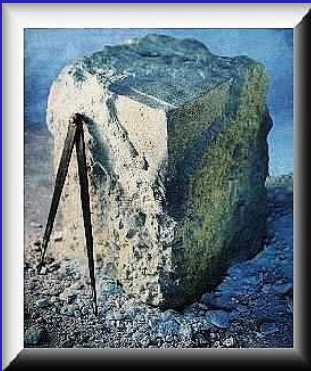
JW Harrold Loveless being led to the South by Installing Marshal Kevin Rush, PM



“To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.”

Theodore Roosevelt

LUBBOCK
MASONIC LODGE
#1392
MASONIC DIST 93-A



For more information visit
lubbockmasoniclodge.org



SICKNESS AND 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.

“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

This Month's Brothers' Birthdays

Jerry Eastham 7/25

Michael Hooten 7/27

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.



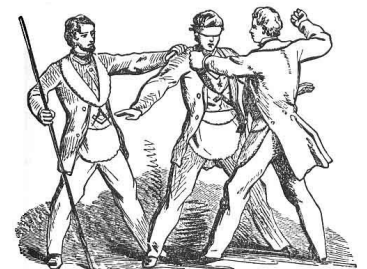
Our Esoteric Work By Bro. Coke Etgen, PM

RAISING OF A CANDIDATE part 1 of 2

Most people do not understand what being “Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason” means. This Degree is the sublime climax of Symbolic Freemasonry. If you learn only that the living, dying and raising of a Master is a drama, designed to teach the virtues of fidelity, faith and fortitude,

you have received only partial

light and have seen nothing but a moral lesson. This Degree seeks to answer the age-old question put forth by Job - “If a man die, shall he live again?”



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