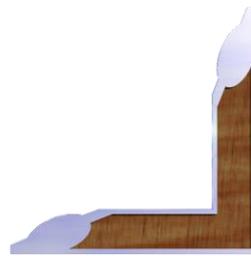


**Ashlar Lodge # 29**  
**Quarterly Trestle Board**  
**Spring 2015**

**Dee McAlister: Worshipful Master**  
**208-465-7114**

**Secretary: Joe Kowalczyk**  
**208-870-3099**



**Words From the  
Worshipful Master  
in the East:**

**Meetings:** Our Stated meetings are at 7:30 pm on the **First Wednesday of every month**. This meeting will usually open on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree. The called meeting (third Wednesday of each month) will be used to prepare for degree work or education, and will open on the lowest degree necessary for the planned work that evening.

**Practices:** held on the Saturday's following the stated and called meetings if needed. We usually start with breakfast at La Baron's Café at 8:00 AM, then up to the Lodge for degree work, usually by 9:15 AM. All are welcome for breakfast, practice or both!

**\*\* 2015 Lodge Officers \*\***

WM Dee McAlister

SW Howie Bloom

JW Bud Wethered

TR Bruce Wethered

SEC Joe Kowalczyk

SD Sean Fuller

JD Jay Nudds

ML Dale Winch

CH Bob Nelson

SS John Ransdell

JS Clinton Ransdell

TL Chris Wethered

Spring is with us and we are all enjoying this wonderful weather!

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a hearty welcome our newly affiliated Brothers Mark Neel and John Yates to Ashlar Lodge #29. Both are members from Acacia Lodge No. 49 in Nevada. On March 18<sup>th</sup> Richard Fretz was initiated as our youngest Entered Apprentice. A special thank you to Brother Harry Black and Brother Glenn Lovell for their work in the initiation of Brother Fretz. Congratulations to Brother Richard. On January 7<sup>th</sup> Jim Ervin was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Congratulations to Brother Jim. On February 4<sup>th</sup> Brother John Ransdell was appointed Chairman of the Public Relations Committee and Brothers Clinton Ransdell and Lex Rutter were appointed as members of this Committee.

On March 7 the Budget Committee met and set the budget for the year 2015. The fiscal year looks promising.

On March 15<sup>th</sup> Ashlar Lodge #29 sponsored an Open House, the time for which was coincided with the opening of the new Nampa Library in hope that the attending downtown crowd would find interest in the Masonic Order. We did have people call in and hence we felt the Open House was a success! Light refreshments were served. Thanks to the Public Relations Committee for the efforts they expended in organizing the Open House and to those Brothers who attended.

Brother Roger Gamble recently lost his sister and I and all brothers convey our sincere condolences to Roger and his entire family.

By Worshipful Master Dee McAlister

## Public Relations Update

Brothers, several of you assisted us in our 'Open House' on Saturday March 14th. This date was selected since it was the day that the City of Nampa held the 'Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting' of the new Library & Library Square. We actually had about 7 men come and observe our Lodge room. Bro. 'Howie' obtained some pamphlets from the Grand Lodge that we were able to hand out to those with questions about the Fraternity that they could take with them and read at their convenience. Several people from adjoining business, and prospective businesses, spent time talking with our brothers. A couple of visitors brought their wives, including our newest candidate to the Entered Apprentice degree, who was initiated the following Wednesday.

Brother Lex brought a variety of pastries and snacks for those that were willing to climb up our stairs. If you were not able to attend, be secure in the knowledge that you were missed.

We are looking forward to borrowing a float and entering it in the 'EXCHANGE CLUB PARADE' on **Saturday May, 16th**. Please keep this date and parade in mind, since we will need some assistance to ready the float for the parade. We would also ask all of you to consider riding on the float, we need a good turn-out of Brothers to make this a success. Please contact me if you can help.

Do svidaniya,  
Brother John Ransdell 608-1735

## Upcoming Dates to Remember:

\*\*\* **April 1;** Stated meeting at 7:30 PM, **no fooling!**

\*\*\* **April 4th;** breakfast at 8:00, practice for conferral at 9:00.

\*\*\* **May 6th;** stated meeting at 7:30 PM.

## Congratulations:

\*\*\* Our newest Entered Apprentice, Brother Richard Fretz completed his initiation on March 18th. We all enjoyed MWPGM Harry Black doing an almost perfect conferral.



\*\*\* We had the pleasure of Brother Mark "Scotty" Scott's company at our degree on Wednesday. He got around pretty good with his cane after just having knee surgery. Nice to see him come over from Oriental 60 and visit us, and bring Brother Harry!

\*\*\* Brother Jim Irvin has been raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason.





## And From The West

Friday, March 20th was the first day of

spring. Plenty of people are getting ready on this beautiful weekend to do some spring cleaning. Getting our houses in order, perhaps cleaning out the garage and helping our lawns and plants shake off the slumber of its winter sleep. But, have we ever thought to do a spring cleaning on ourselves? Perhaps we could take this vernal equinox as a starting time to once again divest our hearts and consciences of all the vices and superfluities of life. I myself will be attempting to get rid of a few vices and I have plenty of me that is superfluous that I would like to be divested of. And that leads us to some words: **Vices and Superfluities**.

**Vice:** The word "vice" comes from Latin where it means "a flaw or weakness.

**Superfluities:** It also comes from Latin and means "overflowing" with the implications of excess and waste -- something unnecessary.

Humans are the only animals who really have this problem. We eat too much. We exercise too little. We work too hard and sleep too little. Drink too much booze. Smoke or chew too much.

Overindulge our appetites. All excess and waste.

### Kindles for Kids Update

No new news here. We are still driving forward with two schools, New Horizon elementary and Owyhee elementary. Unfortunately we have been unable to get a response from them. Who would of thought it would be this difficult to give away stuff? Regardless, we are still pursuing this as it is a very worthwhile undertaking.

By Senior Warden Howie Bloom

## Upcoming Events

\*\*\* **April 1st;** Stated meeting at 7:30 PM, **no fooling!**

\*\*\* **April 4th;** breakfast at 8:00, practice for conferral at 9:00.

\*\*\* **May 6th;** stated meeting at 7:30 PM.

## The Symbolic (Blue) Lodge

The Symbolic Lodge is the foundation and cornerstone of Freemasonry. This is the local unit which has the daily responsibility for implementing the programs and policies of the fraternity. The primary mission of a lodge is to create Master Masons. This activity should extend beyond the conferral of the degrees and continue to provide general Masonic education for all members.

These Lodges have been termed "Blue Lodges," because "blue is emblematic of friendship, a peculiar characteristic of ancient craft Masonry." The color for borders of aprons, collars, and other regalia of the Symbolic Lodge is blue.

### The Degrees of the Symbolic Lodge

During the centuries of cathedral building, there were two classes of workmen, the Apprentices and the Fellows of the Craft (or journeyman). A Master was in a class by himself and few workmen attained this position. Therefore, when the ancient ceremonies of advancement became the degrees of Speculative Freemasonry, after 1700, only two degrees were practiced, those of Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft. The earliest record of a conferral of a Master's Degree in a chartered lodge was in 1732. The 1738 edition of Anderson's Constitutions used the term Master Mason.

From this beginning, the three degrees of the symbolic lodge eventually evolved into our present system. Additionally, a number of English lodges began to confer the degrees of Mark Master,

Installed Master, The Royal Arch and the degree of Knight Templar.

The Symbolic Lodges in the United States and England confer the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason.

**The Entered Apprentice degree** conveys the principal tenets of Freemasonry which are Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. These are necessary ingredients for a well ordered life and are the foundation for additional lessons in moral and spiritual development. The entered Apprentice begins to utilize the working tools that will bring spiritual, moral and philosophical light to his future endeavors.

**The Fellowcraft degree** conveys the candidate to the status of the finished workman. While not yet equipped with the secrets and wisdom of a Master, it was the Fellows of the Craft who performed the major part of the construction on the ancient cathedrals. This degree stresses the application of the liberal arts and sciences.

**The Master Mason's degree**, while symbolically imparting additional wisdom, endeavors to direct the candidate toward a daily search for additional light and wisdom. The degree reveals the sublime truths necessary for a well grounded life and hope for eternal life in "that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." The Master's Word was lost in this degree.

Freemasonry is a progressive science. The Lost Master's Word is found in the Royal Arch Degree. (The York Rite of Freemasonry, A History and Handbook)

Your Treasurer, Brother Bruce



## And finally, the South!

This year is off to a good start, we have had an open house, several Saturday morning practices/breakfasts, a third degree, a second degree, a Washington's birthday dinner, soup and sandwiches at stated communications, and a lot of

good fun. Any of the brothers who are attending meetings will attest to all of this. And those who have not been able to attend are missing out on a good thing. I hope that each of you can work it in to your schedule so that you can come enjoy the fun and we can enjoy your company.

By Junior Warden Bud Wethered

## Words of Wisdom

It's spring time once again and the weather in Nampa Idaho has been beautiful, Nampa, is just a short drive from anywhere, that's if you live close. I hope everyone enjoyed Corn Beef and Cabbage in celebration of St. Patrick's day, which is still available all over the treasure valley, one of my favorite meals. In fact, I will have it again for dinner tonight. Oh Boy, I can hardly wait. Did you wear green or red for St. Patrick's day? Those that know me, know that I'm Polish and grew up in Chicago; if my childhood memory serves me correctly, in Chicago the Polish wore RED on St. Patrick's day to harass the Irish. I've also heard wearing Red on St. Patrick's day meant you are asking for a Kiss! What goofy things do you know and remember about St. Patrick's day?

OK, let's get serious; time to get things done. Get out and do some yard work, like washing windows, cleaning your vehicle, oh yes, no fishing till later in the year.

Thank your lucking stars for all the great things you have and those yet to come during your life time; live life to the fullest, each and every day.

Happy Spring time brothers, now get up and do something fun and really let go and enjoy life, like visiting another lodge within your district, help a neighbor washing windows. No, not breaking the neighbors windows, not even for fun. Help your neighbors out by raking your leaves up and bagging them, make your home beautiful and once done, come over and do my shrubs and bushes...

Your Secretary, Brother Joe

## Words you might hear during FC degree next month?

**Inundation;** Flood, deluge.

**Conflagration;** A big destructive fire.

## For your viewing:

Brother Blake Titus of Silver City 13 has some great things to look at on his web page, check them out at:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmu88hxxkR\\_vrRQ15GJVbfg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmu88hxxkR_vrRQ15GJVbfg)

Blake Titus

Manager of Farm Animals and Magic Tricks

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And as Brother John would say:

All good things must come to an end,  
so we bid you ...

*Do Svidaniya*