

Ashlar Lodge # 29

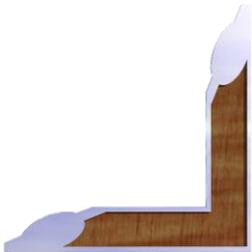
Quarterly Trestle Board

Winter 2016

Howie Bloom: Worshipful Master
208-559-6195
Secretary: Joe Kowalczyk
208-870-3099
Trestle Board Editor: Bob Bouy

Meetings: Our Stated meetings are at 7:30 pm on the **First Wednesday of every month.** We are dark in July and August. 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!



Words from the Worshipful Master in the East:

Brethren,

Greetings for 2017. January is the start of a new year and with elections held and the Installation performed we have some new faces in the chairs. Except my old face, it's still in the East. I thank you for having enough confidence in me to allow me the honor in sitting in the East for a second year. Congratulations to all of the elected Officers

and many thanks to the appointed Officers for saying yes! Ashlar's magnificent lineup is what makes being the Worshipful Master so much easier. Thank you! There are some things that I did not get accomplished last year that I wanted to. My effort will be re-doubled in doing that this year. I'm talking primarily about the Historical Records. There will also be a few more things that I want to implement, and you will just have to find those out at the next Lodge meeting. I hope everyone had a merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. I am looking forward to seeing each and every one of you at the next Lodge Meeting. Again, thank you for a great 2016 and we should all look forward to 2017!

By Worshipful Master Howie Bloom

"Building Character"

We are building day by day,
In a good or evil way,
And the building as it grows,
Will our inmost self-disclose?
Till in every arch and line,
All our thoughts and virtues shine,
We may build a castle grand,
Or a wreck upon the sand.
Do you ask what building this?
That can show both pain and bliss,
That can be both dark and fair,
Lo! Its name is character.
Build it well what'er' you do,
Build it straight and strong and true.
Build it clean and high and broad,
Build it for the eyes of GOD.

Written by: Benjamin F. Bledsoe, PGM,
Grand Lodge of California early 1900's



And From The West

With winter now here, Installations, Christmas and New Year's we all begin to plan for the year. Some of us do resolutions others just focus on one or two things this year. For us Brothers, we have family, work/business and our local blue lodge (along with other appendant bodies) to deal with. For some, this is a busy time of year and for others it is a relatively slow time. For me, however, I find myself with many irons in the fire and find it hard to get it all done. With that said we must not forget the life and heart of our lodge (i.e. the members) and setting goals this year and building a plan for our future of Ashlar Lodge 29.

As for me, I am building a plan for myself and what I can bring to the lodge. How I can be a part of a solution not a problem. I don't want to go another year wondering what the lodge did for me. You see, some people come to the end of the year wondering if they should spend the money to renew, or if they should focus on going to meetings. In which, that is not the way to look at it. Rather than asking what the lodge did for me, ask yourself, what did I do for the lodge (sorry for the grammar but trying to get a point across). If you have many things that you did for the lodge I want to say thank you! Thank you from the spirit of Freemasonry! Many of you have done a lot for the lodge and don't even get a thank you.

That's the spirit of Freemasonry; building a better man, being a better man!

Now I am going to speak to the few of you that have come to the end of the year, wondering why you are a freemason. Maybe you're wondering if this is the last few years of Freemasonry so why go another year. Maybe you're asking yourself, if it was fun, or if the dinners were good enough or the considered the conversations before and after. Trying to find some way to justify another year. I am going to say one word! "YOU", it's what you put into it is what you get out of it". Look yourself in the mirror and say, I am going to take this and run with it because like mutual funds it is the term not the moment. It might take 3-5 years of work on your part before you get the reward. Trust me; the reward is worth what you want it to be. Be the man that says I am going to give it 100% for 3 – 5 years and trust in the system that it will make you a better man in some way.

I for one have many things on the chalk board to focus on this year with the Master, along with helping him get his chalk board of ideas done. It's a lot. A lot for a family man, business man, work man with other obligations but don't let this go. Don't take Ashlar Lodge 29s' iron out of the fire. Make it work! God says he does not give you more than you can handle (some find that hard to believe). But keep this iron in the fire and use it to stoke the fire even bigger so it warms the house so much more.

Senior Warden

The 8th District Update

Greetings Brethren,

I attended all of our district lodge meetings in October and November, and enjoyed the fellowship with all the Brothers. I got to work with several Brothers who were completing their proficiencies prior to elections, and want to thank them for all the effort they spent towards this accomplishment.

George Orson Hess	WM Certificate
Roger Muzzy	WM Certificate
Chris Burgess	Warden Certificate
Mark Isserman	Warden Certificate

It is always enjoyable to have PGM Harry Black perform an installation, and he had the pleasure of installing WM Rick, WM Roger and WM Howie. WM Orson was installed by our own PM Dale Winch. Thanks to all the installing officers who took the time to make it all happen.

Ashlar Lodge was asked by the Grand Lodge of Washington to perform a Tribute of Affection for a departed Brother who had moved to the Nampa area. PGM Greg Winther performed the ceremony with WM Howie Bloom as the Bearer of Writings and Brother Joe Kowalczyk as Secretary. Also in attendance were Brother John Ransdell and a military team. The weather was very cold, and I wish to offer a special thank you to all those who braved the weather and took the time to lay our departed Brother to rest.

There will not be a Spring District Communication in 2017, since a new program is being developed for training. Be sure to read about the training which will be available, and support the program by promoting attendance by your Lodge members.

DDGM Bob Bouy

My email is: boblin4b@outlook.com
My cell is 208-761-1025.



And finally, the South!

Greetings Brethren,

So here we are in a new year! Brother Jake has left the South for the West on his Masonic Journey, and many new faces from this past year are joining us. I can't guarantee that the dinners will be as good, but I promise at least to keep the chair intact for the next occupant. Mostly, anyway! I do have a history of breaking furniture, after all.

As your next Junior Warden, I think I can excel. Holding the Master's hat, asking a few questions, and feeding a few people should be fairly simple for this past-master. Salmonella and E Coli will be optional, but available, I'm sure.

So on to the serious stuff, I guess: The plumb is the jewel of the Junior Warden, a symbol to remind us of the upright behavior Masons should exhibit. Going into every New Year, so many people – Masons not excepted – make resolutions to change their conduct for the better. We are taught to be upright in our conduct before God and man from the very beginning of our Masonic journey, yet we do this every year.

Why is it so hard for us to do or say the right thing, even when it's simpler and less of a hassle than doing or saying the wrong thing? This New Year, I would urge our brothers NOT to make those resolutions. Instead, let's just do the right thing and BE decent people.

Junior Warden Glenn Lovell

From our Secretary

Fall, it's my favorite season, next to Winter, and then of course Spring, my least favorite season is the remaining one, it usually gets too HOT and over crowded with folks to really enjoy. You're probably thinking, where is he going with all this? Actually, nowhere, I have too much work around my house due to things falling, like leaves from the trees, rain falling again from the sky. With any luck Gas prices

will also continue to fall, let's hope the stock market doesn't get any ideas from this season. Falling in love with this season, seems to be a favorite past time, so my brothers, enjoy the fall season, stand up straight, walk slowly, so you don't fall. It's ok to fall in love during this beautiful season, just be careful you don't trip along the way. With having said that, let's make an effort to attend lodge, enjoy some fellowship and brotherly love, along with the bright light this season bestows upon us.

Always, remembering and being thankful for the beautiful palette used by the Great Architect of the Universe during this season when things really color up nicely.

Brother Joe

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

*** **January 18**, Ashlar stated communication. Date moved due to bad weather. Dinner 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM.

*** **January 21**; Saturday. DeMolay installation of Officers will be at Meridian Lodge at 2:00 PM.

** 2017 Lodge Officers **

The Officers for 2017 were duly installed by PGM Harry Black on December 14th, with PM Dee McAlister as Marshal and PM Chris Wethered as Chaplain. PM Lex Rutter was our photographer.



WM Howie Bloom	208-559-6195
SW Jake DeBerg	208-515-9864
JW Glenn Lovell	208-571-1041
TR Bruce Wethered	208-854-9800
SEC Joe Kowalczyk	208-870-3099
SD Roger Gamble	208-409-0289
JD Clinton Ransdell	208-501-9250
ML Bob Nelson	208-407-7202
CH Richard Fretz	208-466-9516
SS John Ransdell	208-608-1735
JS Bob Bouy	208-761-1025
TL Bud Wethered	208-250-8501



Masonic Mirth

A new initiate returns home to his wife who is naturally curious to know what went on. The conversation goes something like this:

She: Well, how'd it go?

He: Very well - most interesting.

She: What did go on?

He: I'm not really sure if I can tell you about it.

She: Well is there anything you 'can' tell me?

He: Well it seems there are 3 classes of men in the Lodge - walkers, talkers and Holy men.

She: What do they do - if you can tell me?

He: The walkers walked me around the lodge. The Talkers talked to me and to the walkers as I was led around.

She: And the Holy men? What of them?

He: They seem to be a special class of men - all in dark blue and gold aprons and gauntlets. They just sit on the benches around the lodge with their heads in their hands chanting repeatedly - "Oh My God, Oh My God!"

Winter Birthdays

We wish all the Brothers below a very happy birthday, and hope there are many more in the future. I'm sure they are all a little "wiser" this year!

January

Can you believe, no January babies!

February

Bud Wethered	February 3
Dale Winch	February 16
Bill Hopper	February 27

March

Greg Winther	March 5
Allan Anderson	March 6
Chris Wethered	March 6
Dave Lakhani	March 16
Jake DeBerg	March 18
Sean Fuller	March 20

Words you might have heard in Lodge?

"Assiduously": Devotedly, attentively.

"Superfice": A surface or its area; the exterior part, superficial area, or face of a thing.

Brothers,

Let us always meet on the Level, Act by the Plumb, and part on the Square!

Remember, we always have room for an article you may wish to write for the Brothers!

Finally, all good things must come to an end, so we bid you... (As Brother John would say):

Do Svidaniya