

The Lantern

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Worshipful Master ----- Robert Bockel, PM
Senior Warden ----- David Zwahr, PM
Junior Warden ----- Maynard Fernando
Treasurer ----- Earl Bockel, PM
Secretary ----- Daniel McGettrick, PM
Senior Deacon ----- William C. West, PM
Junior Deacon ----- Arturo Valdez
Senior Steward ----- Marlon Villanueva
Junior Steward ----- Ronnie Phillips, PM
Tiler ----- Utah Brady, PM

Installation 2016 – 17:



My brothers, in the twelve years that I have been of the Craft, I have not seen as big a crowd in our lodgeroom as I did yesterday evening (24 July, 2016). The food was so plentiful that our counter could not contain it, and the late arrival of 5 pizzas meant that the food extended itself to our memorial display cabinet, whereby Brother DeLange's past Grand Master aprons and regalia were occluded for a while by pepperoni, cheese, and other more stylish pizza varieties (I believe I saw pineapple chunks somewhere).

Please forgive a portly gent dwelling on the victuals; but as of late, we have had the privilege to add to our ranks some brethren of Filipino heritage. And it is thanks to their efforts that our spread was a smorgasbord of truly American diversity. Our ladies have always provided excellent side dishes (and occasionally main courses), but I simply have never seen the counters covered to the extent that no white space was visible.

The photos in this newsletter are all amateur efforts taken by loved ones; but as usual, Jon Zwahr provided his expertise and hi-tech camera (which reminds one of Robocop's sidearm). With these, he will undoubtedly have provided the brethren with excellent photographs for posterity. I hope to send out a few other choice ones.

Anyhow, the officers were all installed as listed here, except Brother Bill West, as Senior Deacon, who is unfortunately ill at this time. We will install him at the soonest opportunity and we thought about him at the installation. He, being not only a Past Master but a master chef, barbecuer, and longtime steward, would have been particularly interested at the variety of foods we had last night. Yes, there I go talking about food again... and Bill, we missed you and the Mrs., not just your banana pudding!

It would prove too cumbersome here to acknowledge all the guests and Brothers that we had last night for Bob's installation. However, some honored guests should be mentioned. First of all, we had Brother Roger Anderson, whose cheer and ebullience means that he is always invited to serve as Marshal for the installation of officers, year after year. Then, of course, we were glad, as always to entertain our Grand Master's representatives, both RW Edmund Dipasupil and RW Joe Simms, the District Deputies for

District 30G, and at large, respectively. Last, but not least, as our Installing Officer we had RW Brother Ed Herron, PDDGM, the secretary of Walter Pierson Lodge. Brother Ed is not a member of #1403, but is a longtime very good friend and brother to us. Because of his experience and wisdom, and not least because of his willingness *and ability* to assist with any degree or ceremony, he is one of those Freemasons for whom the words "iconic" or "legendary" apply. As Hollywood had Gary Cooper and Laurence Olivier to headline their films, so are Houston Freemasons fortunate to have had Brother Ed Herron headline our installations.

Anyhow, congratulations to all officers for 2016-2017 !!



2016 Memorial Day Observance :

My brother, this Memorial Day, we continued the tradition begun by our esteemed Bro. Roger Anderson some years ago. Bedecked in light blue shirts and dark blue trousers, and wearing the white aprons that are emblematical of our Craft, over 60 of us from the Houston area gathered at the Houston National Cemetery to participate in the annual observance, and thereby pay our obeisance and homage to those who have fallen in service to our great country. It is still amazing to me, to think that this was not done (by us as a Craft) until about 6 years ago. At that time, the attendance was less than ten brothers. Each year since then, the number of brothers in attendance has grown exponentially. We gathered, presented our colors in salute as part of the official parade, and then retired to Aldine Lodge for burgers. It is, in my opinion, a simple but powerful tribute; and we, the Craft in Houston, with the support of the Grand Master, will gladly make that tribute year after year.



An Artful Party:

A few weeks ago, on or about the 26th of June, a large party descended upon the Rudy's Barbecue on Hwy 59 South. One of our brothers, Art Valdez, was celebrating his 41st (approximately) birthday along with some family and friends (many of whom just happen to be Master Masons). In fact, all the gentlemen in the photograph are Freemasons, and if you look closely you will see various dignitaries (not least among whom are one District Deputy Grand Master (RW Edmund Dipasupil of 30G), and two past District Deputies (RW Michael Sevilla of 30G, and VW (Very Worshipful) David Odilao, of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines).

Of course, there were many women and children, and a few non masons as well; this was a family party, after all. As I recall, most of the wives were watching this photograph being taken, and laughing at how their husbands thought they were so cool...



Anyhow, the food was great, and the company was even better. And yes, I am talking about food again.

Sickness and Distress:

Brothers, please know that, whether or not we know about it, your sickness and distress, or that of a loved one, is something that we pray and think about often. It is understandable that, at

times, it is not something that you would wish to discuss with anyone (brother or not). Therefore, in every newsletter, I will save this column not only for the mention of those who wish to be mentioned; but also for the remembrance of those beloved to us, who prefer to suffer in private.

With that said, please keep in mind Milton and Peggy Zwahr, and Wilfred Grimm, whose illnesses cause them much discomfort and who are special and beloved members of our lodge. Yesterday, Mrs. Zwahr missed her first installation in over 20 years. Also, we think of Mr. and Mrs. Bill West, who we also missed at installation.

Elaine, the wife of Brother Aundre Cross, passed away in February. Brother Cross is 82 now, was Past Master 1978-79, and has lived in Alabama for some time. But, thanks to the stories of Brother Earl Bockel, a fifty-year charter member of Albert J. DeLange #1403 (and its unofficial godfather), we newer members get to know brothers who are removed from us, both temporally and spiritually.

Finally, Brother Edmund Daniel was also called from labor this past year. Brother Daniel was a Past Secretary of the lodge.

From the Secretary's Desk:

My brother, it was a great honor to serve as your Worshipful Master last year. I can think of no greater way to have celebrated my tenth and eleventh years as a Freemason, and I now look forward with great anticipation to joining the hallowed ranks of the Past Masters.

How well I recall the first stated meeting I attended as a Master Mason, in summer of 2005... I remember how I heard the Past Masters being recognized by name, as they are at every stated meeting. I then realized the magnitude of the honor, and saw that, while Master Mason was the

greatest rank that the Lodge could confer, *de jure*, yet a seat in the East was the greatest *de facto* honor that a lodge could bestow. Put a different way, being raised a Master meant that the Lodge accepts you as a brother; but being elected Worshipful Master meant that the Lodge not only accepts you as a brother but also looks to you as the representative "face" of the lodge. It is my personal belief that this is a secondary reason why the heraldic Sun in Splendor, with its human face, represents the East in the Past Master emblem.

That emblem adorns the beautiful apron and jewel presented to me by some of the brothers who pitched in to obtain them for me. You brethren know who you are, and you have my gratitude!

Yes, I look forward to being a Past Master. However, I am looking forward even more to serving as your secretary, because I get a nice leather chair in which to sit during meetings!

Anyway, now that I have started with a greeting, allow me to follow up with a request. Well, two requests actually. And no, I am not going to "guilt-trip" you into coming to lodge (though we'd love to see you once in a while).

First, PLEASE call me at (832) 265-3678 with your e-mail address (unless you know for a fact that I have it), so that we may send you all future newsletters and items of interest by e-mail. We may send some newsletters in the mail; but if we had e-mails they could also be sent in that format. E-mail is the preferred method, because, obviously, it is free. It need not be your email (if a relative is willing to share their address we'd be glad to send you stuff there), and nothing that we send will be private information. For that, we'll still call you. And, it goes without saying that we will not spam your inbox...

Secondly, any information that is of interest to you might be of interest to your brothers at lodge. I'd like this to be a forum for any item of interest. So, again, I ask that you call or email me, at your convenience to let me know anything about

yourself or your family that is of interest and I will happily print it here, in this humble forum.

Maybe a grandson (or daughter) has served (or will serve) in the US military soon and you'd like us to recognize their service. Perhaps you have a loved one or a friend that is an artisan, and who might wish to show off their work in photographic form – well, send me the photos and give me that backstory. Or maybe the other day you were reminiscing about something (anything) and would love to share it with someone else at lodge. Brother..., call me! This newsletter has no specific format, and, as you can probably tell, the experience of its editor with graphic design is ZERO.



Ah, I should share with you an anecdote about last night's installation; one that I am certain I will not be allowed to soon forget..

As you can see, I was wearing a kilt, the first

one I have ever owned, which was a Father's Day present from the kids. This was my first time wearing the garment outside of doors. I wore it for 3 reasons: First, because I felt, for some reason, that it would have a slimming effect (the subsequent photos have shattered this illusion), secondly, because it would pay homage to my Irish paternal lineage, and, thirdly, also in remembrance of the fact that Freemasonry itself has some deep and mysterious Scottish roots.

Anyway, it wasn't long before the jokes were flying (this is what brothers do to brothers after all), and I was forced to conclude that the real reason I wore it was out of a symbolic and subconscious show of humility toward the office of Worshipful

Master that I was then vacating. The kindest jokes involved asking me if I realized that I was not at a Scottish Rite function; the less tame ones, well... I'm sure the reader gets the idea.

But the stars aligned to create a hilarity that will probably live on in perpetuity, within the bounds of lodge legend, and so, I will own it... Toward the end of the evening, my young daughter ran up to me after going "potty," and asked me to help her flush the ladies' toilet, as the handle was stuck. Most if not all of the kind readers of this newsletter will know that our lodge has a single user restroom for both men and women (one each). Well, obviously, upon the request of my daughter, I went in after she was done and fixed the handle. As I emerged a minute later, I did so to find that our Senior Warden, David Zwahr, and our Jr. Steward, Ronnie Phillips, were facing the door and watching a man in a non-bifurcated, skirt-type garment, emerge from the ladies bathroom. Naturally, my little girl was nowhere to be found to defend her dad from the commentary that came next...

Jokes on Us:

Jim and Edith are an old couple, married, and insane, and both are long time asylum residents. One day Jim jumps into the swimming pool but, doesn't come up for air. Quick as a flash, Edith sees her husband in trouble, so she dives in and pulls him out. Her furious CPR efforts then saved him. Later, the psychiatric director calls Edna into his office and says "Edith, I've got some good news and some bad news.

The good news is, we are releasing you as you are obviously sane – what, with saving your man's life and all. But unfortunately, the bad news is that Jim has since hanged himself in the bathroom ..."

"Oh no, no..." Edith replies, "that's where I put him up to dry!"

Masonic History:

In this column, I will occasionally discuss some Masonic history or Freemasons of note; ones that are not often spoken of in the usual apologetic literature. I will not discuss Bros. George Washington, Harry Truman, Franklin or Teddy Roosevelt, Andrew Jackson, etc. I will probably not discuss Sam Houston or David Crockett. Nor will I speak of Buzz Aldrin, Bob Dole, or Henry Ford. Why? Obviously we have nothing against them (Harry Truman is my favorite president), but I'd like this column to be about lesser known quantities.

So, for this newsletter, let us discuss Mustafa Kemal Ataturk (1881 – 1938).

As I write this article, a failed coup d'état has recently been attempted in Turkey, ostensibly by secularist army officers, to wrest power from the increasingly Islamist president. So this makes it a good time, ostensibly, to mention the founder of the Turkish Republic, the man who wrestled Turkey out of its medieval, long-moribund Ottoman culture and into a modern era of secular



republics. A former Ottoman military commander, he served as the first President of the Turkish Republic after the ouster of the last Ottoman Sultan in the wake of the defeat in World War I. He oversaw too many reforms to mention here (including

enforcing official Turkish usage of the Turkish Latin alphabet rather than the Perso-Arabic alphabet of yore).

Anyway, the secular constitution he instituted in Turkey guaranteed a level of religious freedom so valued by Freemasons, that although it has never been definitively proven on paper that Ataturk was a Freemason, it is thought extremely likely that he joined a lodge in Thessaloniki (a city in Greek Macedonia that was Ottoman when Ataturk grew

up there) along with many of the young military officers in that time and place. The website for the Grand Lodge F & AM of Turkey does not list Ataturk as a member (though they list his physician as one), but includes a poignant tribute to him from the Grand Master of Turkey on the front page. It is also quite possible that Ataturk was a member of a clandestine (to us), continentally-chartered, Grand Orient lodge. Either way, many of his actions in life certainly reflected our key principles, and he should arguably be remembered by all freedom-loving Masons as the man who created the country that would eventually prove a solid U.S. ally in the Cold War, and a secular Middle East democracy.

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