

Hempstead Masonic Lodge

NO. 749 AF & AM

Worshipful Master -- Kelly Cox Secretary -- "Corky" Daut
Hempstead Masonic Lodge Was Chartered December 6, 1893



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WHAT YOU CAN SAFELY SAY TO A NON-MASON

By Edward W. Brabham, Jr. P.M.
Baker Lodge No. 441
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Monroe, LA

We can safely say anything about Freemasonry we want to except (A) the methods of our initiation, (B) our obligations, (C) some signs, (D) grips, and (E) passwords. We can tell about what we do, what we believe, and what we stand for.

Let us expand on what we could or would say to a non-mason. First, I would tell what a Mason is. A Mason or (Freemason) is a member of a Fraternity known as Masonry or (Freemasonry). A Fraternity is a group of men who join together because: a) there are things they want to do in the world, b) there are things they want to do inside their own minds, and c) they enjoy being together with men they like and respect.

WHAT IS MASONRY

It is a voluntary association of men. It is a system of moral conduct. It is a way of life. It is the oldest fraternal society in the world. It is religious in its character. It teaches the Golden Rule. It seeks to make good men better men. It teaches morality through symbolism. It uses secret rites and ceremo-

nies to instruct its members. It is based on a firm belief in the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man and the Immorality of the Soul. Its purpose is to improve humanity as a whole, each Mason being charged to walk uprightly before God and man, and by his rectitude of conduct, encouraging others to conduct themselves in a like manner. Masons are proud to proclaim that their Fraternity consists of men bound by bonds of Brotherly Love and Affection, universally applicable throughout the world.

WHAT MASONRY IS NOT

It is not an insurance or benefit society. It does not solicit members. It is neither a religion nor a creed. It is not organized for profit. It dictates to no man as to his beliefs, or his religion. It seeks no advantages for its members through business or politics. It is not a secret society, as it does not conceal its existence, membership or purposes.

WHAT IS A LODGE

The word "Lodge" means both a group of masons meeting in some place and the room or building in which they meet. Masonic buildings are also called "temples" because much of the symbolism Masonry uses teach its lessons, and comes from the

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Hempstead Lodge

Brothers, I wanted everyone to know that Hempstead Lodge has had a pretty good year. Despite a very poor amount of profit at the Liendo fundraiser due to the weather, we still have enough money in the bank to pay all of the bills and despite losing 7 members this year we are still only 4 members less than our average number in recent years.

I'm sure everyone remembers, the June stated meeting is when members of Texas Lodges elect

the Brothers who will fill the top five officer's chairs, namely the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, the Treasurer and the Secretary.

Remember, the five men we elect this month will manage our Lodge for the next 12 months. I am confident that all of the Brothers currently in the line can do an excellent job. I hope you share that confidence and will help to support them.

However, if you are not in agreement, I hope you will attend the June meeting to let everyone know your viewpoint and support your choices.

What You Can Say

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building of King Solomon's temple in the Holy Land.

WHAT GOES ON IN A LODGE

Meetings include the business of the Lodge, degree work and discussions of charitable projects.

Teaching of Masonic symbolism and, of course, it's always good to spend time with friends who you can trust completely.

WHAT DOES MASONRY DO

The most common answer is "we take good men and make them better." Some thought must be given on how this is done. Masonry teaches by symbolism and allegories, taught in degrees. A degree is a stage of level of membership. It is also a ceremony by which a man attains that level of membership. The ceremony is a sacred play, just like in a theatre. The theatre is the oldest known means of teaching, especially the teaching of abstract ideas. It was one of the principal means of instruction in the Middle Ages as well as in ancient Greece and Rome. Freemasonry borrows this technique of theatre to make its lessons more impressive, and to aid the candidate in forming the beginning of what it is hoped will be a long-term pattern of study and thought. Degrees, like the symbols and allegories, are designed to raise questions and help people think. Masonry believes that each man must think for himself, come to his own conclusions, and act according to his own honor and integrity.

But Masonry also does charitable work such as Shrine Hospitals and the different charities of the York and Scottish Rites. But you need to also tell what happens in your Blue Lodge, how Masons try to help and care for other Masons and their families. You need to give a personal example of this.

WHY AM I A MASON

In my case this is an easy question to answer. I am a fourth generation Mason dating back on my father's side to my great grandfather who joined a lodge in 1860. But when you talk to a non-mason, you should tell why you personally became a Mason.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MASON

Being a member of the Brotherhood of masons means:

- a) Being a part of an unbroken tradition that stretches 500 years.
- b) Sharing the values of a nation's founding fathers.
- c) Becoming a better person while helping to improve the quality of life for others.
- d) Forming deep and lasting friendships.
- e) But most of all, being a Mason means the kind of deep satisfaction that comes only from selfless giving, from doing for others without asking or expecting anything in return.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

A person who wishes to join Masonry must be a man, sound in body and mind, who believes in a Supreme Being, is at least the minimum age required by the Grand Lodge of his state and has a good reputation.

HOW DOES ONE BECOME A MASON

When a man decides he wants to be a mason, he simply asks a Mason for a petition or application.

SUMMARY

You may say that Masonry accepts good men and endeavors to improve them. You may say that Masonry teaches moral lessons derived from the Old Testament literature through the use of symbols and allegory. You may say that masonry is a philosophical society of friends and brothers which strives to teach by degrees, high standards of personal living. You may explain to your friend that we are involved in charitable endeavors, and that each of the many different organizations within the Masonic family are dedicated to some worthy cause such as heart and cancer research, college scholarships, childhood language disorders, eye and diabetes research, and many others. These organizations collectively contribute in excess of two million dollars per day.

All of these things you can safely say to a non-mason about Freemasonry.

The Worlds Shortest Fairy Tale

He ask her to marry him.

She said no.

He lived happily every after.

Truth is not a gift to be given but a prize to be won. Only those who seek Truth find it; not because it is hidden but because the search readies them to receive it.

THE BRIDGE BUILDER

There once was an old man who walked a lone highway and came at night to a chasm vast and deep and wide. The old man because of his vast experience, had little trouble in crossing it, but when he was safe on the other side he turned to build a bridge to span the tide. A fellow traveler asked the old man why he stops to build the bridge when his journey would end soon and he would not again pass that way again; the old man replied,

“There followed after me today was a fair-haired youth. This chasm, which has been naught to me, might to him be a pitfall. He too must cross in the night; I am building this bridge for him.”

Past Masters are like that old man who built the bridge for the youth who followed along that lone road. We should build bridges for those that follow. We should not try to run the lodge, but neither should we permit ourselves to become useless has-beens.

Ours is the duty to set the example, to welcome the opportunity to perform any task the Master may ask of us, to give good counsel to others who may request it. Those of us that have Passed the Chair should be like the old bridge builder, and provide safe highways through chasms vast, and deep, and wide.

UPDATES

Brother Jim Brown informed me that I missed his 1 year anniversary date last month. Sorry about that Brother Jim. The secretary's records were wrong.

Let's Have A Brotherly Welcome For The First Master Mason We've Raised In 6 Years

On May 26, 2005, Brother John R. Hammack of Hempstead was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. At 21 years old Brother Hammack is also the youngest Master Mason in Hempstead Lodge.

Many thanks to Brothers Steve York, Bob Podvin and Kelly Cox who along with Bart Harvey and Wes Mersiovsky of Waller Lodge taught Brother J.R. the work.

Back In The Good Ol' Days



I am sure that all of you remember back in August of 1956 when the cornerstone for our Lodge building was laid .

Remember Us In Your Prayers

Ed Locklear trouble with legs and back
 Cynthia Cox taking cancer treatments
 Linda Wren taking cancer treatments
 Jim Brown had cyst surgery on both eye lids
 Pam York has been poorly

Masonic Anniversaries

Crow, John E.	06-10-68	37
Hester, Sidney Joe Jr.	06-30-80	25
Locklear, Edward	06-28-83	22
Podvin, Robert F.	06-23-03	02
Woods, Harold Ray	06-20-74	31

Happy Birthdays

Geisendorff, Fred W.	06-17-28	77
Sweetman, Clyde O.	06-10-21	84
Vines, James Ray	06-13-46	59
Zach, Freddie Ray	06-06-45	60

A police officer pulls over a speeding car. The officer says, "I clocked you at 80 miles per hour, sir." The driver says, "Gee, officer I had it on cruise control at 60, perhaps your radar gun needs calibrating."

Not looking up from her knitting the wife says: "Now don't be silly dear, you know that this car doesn't have cruise control."

As the officer writes out the ticket, the driver looks over at his wife and growls, "Can't you please keep your mouth shut for once?" The wife smiles demurely and says, "You should be thankful your radar detector went off when it did."

As the officer makes out the second ticket for the illegal radar detector unit, the man glowers at his wife and says through clenched teeth, "Darn it, woman, can't you keep your mouth shut?"

The officer frowns and says, "And I notice that you're not wearing your seat belt, sir. That's an automatic \$75 fine." The driver says, "Yeah, well, you see officer, I had it on, but took it off when you pulled me over so that I could get my license out of my back pocket." The wife says, "Now, dear, you know very well that you didn't have your seat belt on. You never wear your seat belt when you're driving."

And as the police officer is writing out the third ticket the driver turns to his wife and barks, "WHY DON'T YOU PLEASE SHUT UP??" The officer looks over at the woman and asks, "Does your husband always talk to you his way, Ma'am?"

"Only when he's been drinking." She answered.

**The New Hempstead Masonic Lodge
Web Site has Relocated To,
www.mastermason.com/hempsteadlodge/index.htm**

HEMPSTEAD LODGE #749

P.O. Box 1251

Hempstead, TX 77445

