


# The HILL CITY LIGHT

January 2021

<b>2020 - 2021 Lodge Officers</b>		<p><b>Hill City No. 456 A.F. &amp; A.M.</b> Chartered June 10, 1876</p> <p>Austin Scottish Rite Theatre &amp; Museum 18th St. at Lavaca St., Austin, Texas Mail: P.O. Box 1456, Austin, Texas 78767-1456 Phone: (512) 655-9858 Email: secretary@hillcitylodge.org Website: www.hillcitylodge.org</p>	
W.M.	Luke Michels	1876	2021
S.W.	Richard Garrett		
J.W.	Elan Mendoza		
Treasurer	Kent Kinkade, P.M.	<p><u>Stated Meeting:</u> First Tuesday at 7:30 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm</p> <p><u>Called Meetings:</u> Other Tuesdays at 7:00 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm</p>	
Secretary	Philippe Dewailly, P.M.		
Chaplain	Chuck Stewart, P.M.		
S.D.	Don Jarrell		
J.D.	Chris Enders		
S.S.	Ryan DiVincenzo		
J. S.	Sean Williams		
Marshal	Hunt Armistead		
M.C.	Nate Stilwell		
Tiler	Dennis Hill, P.M.		
<b>Work Schedule</b>		<b>From the East</b>	
<b>January 2021</b>		<p>Greetings Brethren,</p> <p>I hope you and your family had a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year. This Masonic year is nearly half over but I am optimistic the second half will be busier than the first. We have several items on the calendar for the next couple of months. On February 16th we will host our annual Sweetheart Dinner to honor those special people in our lives. Bring your spouse or significant other out for a nice meal prepared by our world class stewards. On February 23rd, Hill City will present Lodge Service Awards to recognize our dedicated members who have served the Lodge for 25 &amp; 40 years. Another important date to add to your calendar is March 9th when we will be presenting the Golden Trowel Award to a very deserving Brother. Make plans to come out to as many of these events as you can and help us honor our Brothers!</p> <p>I am also anticipating that Hill City will be conferring several degrees in the coming months. We have a few Entered Apprentices who should be ready for their Fellowcraft degree soon. Be on the lookout for more updates.</p> <p>I would like to remind everyone that Lodge events are now open to all members and their guests. We do however ask that you do not attend if you believe you are at risk or showing symptoms of covid-19. All attendees will be subject to a temperature scan</p>	
January 5	Stated Meeting		
<b>February 2021</b>			
February 2	Stated Meeting		
February 16	Sweetheart Dinner		
February 23	Lodge Service Awards		
<b>March 2021</b>			
March 2	Stated Meeting		
March 9	Golden Trowel		
<b>April 2021</b>			
April 6	Stated Meeting		
<b>May 2021</b>			
May 4	Stated Meeting		

## From the East (continued)

and will be required to wear masks. We have taken precautionary measures to help reduce the spread of the virus at our events such as providing hand sanitizer and following standard health protocols set forth by the state of Texas.

As we look forward to a new and better year let me remind you of some things we were taught when we first began our Masonic journey, these should be constant resolutions for all of us as Masons. In 2021, let's resolve to ever keep in mind the three great duties we assumed when we became Masons; to God, our neighbor, and ourselves. 1. We will refer to God with reverence and ask for his aid in all undertakings. 2. Act upon the square and do unto others as we would have him do unto us. 3. Avoid all irregularity and intemperance which may impair our faculties or debase the dignity of our profession. By reminding ourselves of these things we hope to become better men, Masons, and leaders.

I would like to end with one of my favorite quotes by Brother Edmund Burke, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." As Masons we have a duty, and duty requires action. Let's keep that in mind as we take on a new year.

Here's to a prosperous and blessed New Year!

Fraternally,

Luke Michels  
Worshipful Master, Hill City 456

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Many brothers out there might be feeling stress because of their economic situations, or for being forced to isolate all day.

If you've lost your job or your business is struggling, the lodge has information to help navigate filing for unemployment or small business loans. Contact [communications@hillcitylodge.org](mailto:communications@hillcitylodge.org) for more details.

Some of our members might become infected with the coronavirus and lose their ability to shop for groceries and other essentials. If, for any reason, you need help, call Luke Michels at (903) 926-4203.

## From the West

Hello my brothers. I hope you and your loved ones are all in good health and remain so. These are trying times. But, better days are coming.

Our lodge had a called meeting for training on December the 8th. Only the Worshipful Master, the Senior Warden and an EA were present. This reflects the trying times we are in.

On Dec 15 District 50 had a zoom meeting. Bro. Maddox lead us thru all the items to be voted on in Waco. If you are not familiar with Zoom, you need to learn how to use it on either your smart phone or your personal computer. I don't think Zoom will be going away even after this pandemic.

The federal CDC published guidelines that put people 75 years of age or older in category 2A for the Covid 19 vaccine shot. But the State of Texas changed the guidelines and put people age 65 or older in category 1B. So, we more mature (older) men will get the vaccine sooner

Our lodge had our regular stated meeting on Jan 5, 2021. There were seven people present and normal business such as paying bills was conducted.

In my daily bible reading I came across the below bible verses. It is so Masonic that I want to share it with you.

Psalm 133:1-3. 1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together [1] in unity! 2 It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; 3 As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

Love one another. Call a Brother. Stay healthy.

Fraternally,  
Richard Garrett,  
Senior Warden, Hill City 456

## January 2021 Crossword Puzzle

### Across

1. \_\_\_ erectus
5. Less inept
10. Fail to see
14. Bothers
15. 1957 #1 song
16. The "A" of ABM
17. Not able to understand Latin
20. Tour followers
21. Mends as socks
22. "\_\_\_ of the Flies"
23. Scoundrelly
25. Current amount
28. Eastern wrap
29. Spread
30. \_\_\_ line (major axis of an elliptical orbit)
31. Airhead
35. Parenthesis, essentially
36. Design for dune driving
39. Morgue, for one
40. Abbr. after many a general's name
42. A little lamb
43. Garbage
45. Circa
47. Filled with regret
48. Large Asian pheasant
51. Roll up
52. Dispatch
53. Missing shoe bottom
57. Defines a heart condition.
60. Attends
61. Committee head
62. Almond
63. At one time, at one time
64. Noobs
65. Abandon

### Down

1. Put up, as a picture
2. Aroma
3. Like old recordings
4. Openings in sponges
5. Look up to
6. Having a pair of feet
7. Golden Triangle country
8. "Star Trek" rank: Abbr.
9. Battering device
10. Coped
11. Foreword, for short
12. Restrict
13. Cream puff
18. Ducks seen outside harbour town and city
19. Halftime lead, e.g.
23. Kind of jar
24. Length x width, for a rectangle
25. Way, way off
26. \_\_\_ mortals
27. Agreement
28. Nautical pole
30. In conflict with, with "of"
32. "Carmina Burana" composer
33. Hilo feast
34. Be a snitch
37. Course
38. More moody
41. Most silly
44. Wooden wheel rims
46. \_\_\_ War
47. They measure monarchs
48. New moon, e.g.
49. Fast finisher?
50. Contents of some urns
51. Big sheet
53. Cicatrix
54. Carve in stone
55. "Your majesty"
56. Gulf war missile
58. Columbus Day mo.
59. Diffident

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	32	33	34
35					36	37				38		39		
40			41		42					43	44			
			45	46					47					
48	49	50						51						
52							53					54	55	56
57						58	59							
60						61					62			
63						64					65			

## November 2020 Puzzle Solution

A	L	A	T	E		A	L	A	M	O		B	R	O
N	E	P	A	L		G	O	N	E	R		O	I	L
T	U	T	T	I		F	R	U	T	T	I		A	D
						S	L	A	T	E		G	O	R
P	H	O	B	I	A					W	A	R	D	E
H	Y	D	R	O	G	E	N	B	O	M	B			
A	D	D	O	N		G	O	R	K	I		G	A	D
G	R	E	W		A	G	R	E	E		H	E	R	R
E	A	R			A	R	O	M	A		T	A	N	G
					T	R	A	N	S	M	I	S	S	I
R	E	V	E	R	B					S	U	P	I	N
O	M	A	N	I		G	L	E	N	N				
D	E	N			V	O	L	U	N	T	A	R	I	L
E	N	E			A	C	A	R	I		M	O	V	I
O	D	D			L	A	D	E	D		I	N	E	P

## Masonic Education

Readers may have noticed that this writer enjoys using titles that keep the audience wondering what is in store. While this one follows suit, the suspense will be short-lived. It is said that “Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you respond to it.”

Many of us will vouch for the fact that by living the life of a Mason, good things do come to us in terms of enjoying the Fraternity, enriching our souls, and simply by living as better men. But still, the things that do befall us in the world in which we live range widely from good to bad, at several intensities, and arrive as a function of the physical world, organizations of all kinds, and interactions with other people. Some things we encounter systematically, to some degree, based on our setting, behaviors and choices, while other things are pure chance. How should Masons react or respond to all these things that happen to us?

Of course the obvious, surface-level descriptions of the reactions of a good and faithful Mason involve kindness, compassion, tolerance (as previously discussed), love, justice, wisdom and many similar characteristics of a “good man”. But ... we all are human and trying to always be “nice” is difficult, not a guaranteed success and many times being particularly nice is not even the best answer. Again, we don’t claim to provide answers to any reader of these articles but only to point the reader toward some concepts and thoughts to assist him in finding his own satisfactory answers.

Another familiar element of this month’s article is the degree to which it comes from my own experience, and in this case, my own challenges. Those who know me recognize that I can be direct or intense. So I am working on this and thus this article is real output of serious contemplation and prayer. Yes, of course, there is the prayer thing again. Feeding the soul, asking not for outcomes but for blessings of enrichment of the powers that God has placed in our soul, is especially called for in the challenge of developing a pattern of reacting well and correctly to the things that happen to it. If only there were an organization and regular

## Masonic Education (continued)

activities that encouraged and supplied prayers. I jest. Look around at our Fraternity.

There are other tools to be contemplated and exercised in this pursuit. We have talked about the need to be truly in touch with what you know, think and believe – and to distinguish which circumstances should be judged by each. Even when one keeps an up-to-date inventory of such wisdom, it takes at least a bit of time to assess what things that are known, thought and believed are applicable to the circumstances at hand. That leads us to an important suggestion that we have heard since we were children that warrants a current reminder. Whenever you feel as though you might react rashly to an adverse condition or event, take a moment. Not just to delay but to meaningfully do the mental work and react in the way you need to. Some will say that delays and extra contemplation are not appropriate when faced with a serious violent threat, and I agree. That is the best reason to be well trained in threat recognition and proper rapid response to save yourself and others from harm.

Probably the only thing that beats taking time to think before reacting is another with which we are familiar, in particular from our Masonic education, and the building of our Masonic edifice. Upon first hearing that we should circumscribe our desires, and keep our passions within due bounds, some naturally believe that applies to the virtue of temperance to manage common vices. But importantly, the desires and passions to be so contained are all of the emotional reactions to events, information and issues to which we do not really need to react at all. The principles, ideas and values embodied in our Masonic edifices, or in the character of all people, have strategic application to how we develop ourselves, lead our lives and interact with others. But these same things, without losing importance, should not be applied tactically and immediately with the same intensity. They are absolutes, or at least strong guidance, that should be applied in the moment with tolerance. Sound familiar? Sometimes the appropriate tolerance is 100%. Just not always, or the man becomes, or is seen to be, unprincipled.

## From the South

## Masonic Education (continued)

Hello Brothers,

Seeing as it's January already and Grand Lodge is around the corner, I want to take this time to talk about how and why I became a Mason. You see, as I'm writing this, I realize it's been four years to the week since I was raised. I remember everyone at lodge trying to scramble to put on the Masters degree for me because I really wanted to be raised before Grand Lodge so I could go. If my memory serves me right, I was raised a few days before Grand Lodge. I worked my butt off to turn in my work and I was so excited to see and meet so many Master Masons in Waco.

I had never really thought about becoming a Mason 7 years ago. I really didn't know anything about Freemasonry back then. That all changed when I went to hang with my half brother who I was just getting to know. I saw his ring and told him I liked it. He asked me if I knew what it was, which I explained to him I didn't. He told me a little about Masonry and I was so intrigued. Like most who join Masonry, the mystery and secrecy caught my curiosity and I couldn't get enough. I went home and tried to do my own research on google and YouTube, and just like most people who do that, I got a ton of mixed information. After a couple weeks of trying to look into it I called my brother and started asking him more questions. He answered what he could and then asked me if I'd like to go with him to his lodge some time. I said yes and we went that next week. I was living in El Paso at the time and eventually I tried to petition for a lodge that no longer exists. Due to my brother and I's conflicting schedules, I was not able to make it out there enough for them to get to know me, so I didn't end up being initiated. Fast forward two years and I'm living in Austin and working at Guitar Center. One day a man comes in to purchase something and I see his ring. I told him I was interested but didn't really know anyone here. He was nice enough to ask me when I was free so he could take me to some lodges. The next week we showed up at the door of Hill City Lodge 456. I was supposed check out more than one lodge but I remember really liking the folks that night. They made me feel so welcomed so I decided to stick with them. I'm glad I did because I've met some great people these past 4 plus years. Now here I am, the Junior Warden of that very lodge I visited, I know still know I made the right choice.

Fraternally,  
Elan Mendoza  
Junior Warden, Hill City 456

No one said this would be easy, but we try to find mental working tools, often drawn from operative tools, and we understand those things symbolically. Perhaps one of the best mental working tools drawn from multiple Masonic symbolic tools, and that is very helpful for my appropriate reaction, is taught very clearly in the Serenity prayer.

God give me Serenity to accept the things I cannot change; Courage to change the things I can; and Wisdom to know the difference.

My Brethren, may you be Serene, Courageous and Wise as you react to the challenges we face.

**HILL CITY LODGE No. 456, A.F. & A.M.**  
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**AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767-1456**

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## **January Birthdays**

Frank Daniel Allard	William Howard Bryant	Dennis James Hill	William Forrest McFarlin, Jr.
Cecil Lee Anderson	Ty William Carl	Robert Gene Housman	John Anthony Padilla
Jeffrey H Armstrong	John Sammis Cole	Sampson Kenneth Jordan	Willard Lee Pannell
Thomas Bunnell Ayers	Charles David Collier	Michael Dean Larkin	Michael Owen Stafford
Edward Earl Bartel, Jr.	Robert Louis Eschenburg, Jr.	Michael Stephen Lummus	Jason Earl Thomas
Kevin Brown	Ronald Glenn Gamble	Sidney Patrick McDavid	Todd Alan Wesson

**Food Committee is suspended until we are able to reconvene.**