


# The HILL CITY LIGHT

April 2021

|                                   |                           |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|
| <b>2020 - 2021 Lodge Officers</b> |                           | <b>Hill City No. 456 A.F. &amp; A.M.</b><br>Chartered June 10, 1876   |  |
| W.M.                              | Luke Michels              | Austin Scottish Rite Theatre & Museum<br>18th St. at Lavaca St., Austin, Texas<br>Mail: P.O. Box 1456, Austin, Texas 78767-1456<br>Phone: (512) 655-9858<br>Email: secretary@hillcitylodge.org<br>Website: www.hillcitylodge.org  |  |
| S.W.                              | Richard Garrett           | 1876  2021   |  |
| J.W.                              | Elan Mendoza              | <u>Stated Meeting:</u> First Tuesday at 7:30 pm<br>Dinner at 6:30 pm  |  |
| Treasurer                         | Kent Kinkade, P.M.        | <u>Called Meetings:</u> Other Tuesdays at 7:00 pm<br>Dinner at 6:30 pm  |  |
| 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>April 2021</b>                 |                           | <p>Greetings Brethren,</p> <p>Spring has sprung and things are getting back on track again at the Lodge. We are getting into the full swing of things at Hill City and starting to see more Brothers returning for our Tuesday night meetings. April marks a little over a year since the onset of the Covid pandemic and it has been a challenging year for everyone. I am excited to see the Lodge getting back to work and look forward to an eventful Summer.</p> <p>The calendar is starting to fill up so I would like to share what we have going on in April. On 4/13 before our meal, the Lodge will be putting together over 200 dental care packets for the Fantastic Teeth Program. These packets will be donated to three elementary schools in the Austin area for distribution to those students in need of them. After the meal, at 7:30pm, we will put on a Fellowcraft Degree. On April 20th, we will have a Fellowcraft turn-in before the meal and another Fellowcraft Degree immediately following the meal at 7:30pm. On April 27th, we will have a MM degree practice.</p> <p>As you can see we have a lot of degree work coming up and a lot more in the months ahead. With so many new members coming on board, now is a great opportunity for our current members to connect and take an active part in becoming a positive role model for these young Masons. Remember</p> |  |
| April 6                           | Stated Meeting            |   |  |
| <b>May 2021</b>                   |                           |   |  |
| May 4                             | Stated Meeting            |   |  |
| <b>June 2021</b>                  |                           |   |  |
| June 1                            | Stated Meeting / Election |   |  |
| June 22                           | Memorial Service          |   |  |
| June 29                           | Officer Installation      |   |  |
| <b>July 2021</b>                  |                           |   |  |
| July 6                            | Stated Meeting            |   |  |
| <b>August 2021</b>                |                           |   |  |
| August 3                          | Stated Meeting            |   |  |
| August 10                         | Virtual Training          |   |  |

## From the East (continued)

Brothers, we were all drawn to our great Fraternity by something that gave us the desire to learn about Freemasonry. While we may have been introduced to the Craft in different ways, we all found something that gave us the inspiration to continue to grow in Masonry and as men. For most of us that source of inspiration was drawn from those active Brothers who took the time to help mentor us and assist us in our journey to become a Master Mason; at least that was the case for me. I hope to continue to see our Lodge members, new and old, take this opportunity to attend as many lodge functions as possible to share their ideas and get to know and support our new Brothers. With the lodge coming back to labor, now is a great time to come out and join in on the fun and fellowship Hill City has to offer!

Fraternally,

Luke Michels

Worshipful Master, Hill City 456

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

March 9th we had a called meeting for the presentation of The Golden Trowel Award to Brother Chuck Stewart for his long and excellent service to Hill City Lodge. The award was presented in a beautiful shadow box made by a Brother Mason. Please congratulate him when you see him.

Brother Hilton Crocker, a longtime member of this Lodge, has returned and is attending Hill City Lodge. I believe he has been in another area of Texas for the past 15 years. Come to Lodge and welcome him back. He is going to be an asset for our lodge.

On the third Tuesday of March Brother Uncle Bob Schmidt received his 60 a year award. I think this is the biggest turnout we had in the past year. Brother Eschenburg cooked brisket and Brother Hilton Crocker made potato salad from his mother's recipe. Of course the Deputy District Grand Master was there to present the award to Uncle Bob.

I went to a Shrine meeting this month. They had opened up their meeting and were not wearing masks. I guess most Shriners are at the age that they've had both vaccinations by now.

March 20th I attended the 2021 Grand Master's Conference in Thorndale. I guess there were about 100 people at the conference. The meeting was all about "Bring a Brother Back to the Lodge". The Right Worshipful Grand Master conducted this meeting in three different cities in one day. And this is Texas not New Jersey.

March 30th we had pizza and ice cream and then we had a Fellowship Degree practice. Even if you're not in the degree, you're encouraged to come and attend the practice. That way you can start to learn the ritual and maybe you will want to be on a degree team. There are both small and large parts to play. But all parts are important.

Brother Oscar Orum received his 60-year pin and certificate this month. Presentation was made at his home. Kudos to Brother Don Jarrell for organizing this presentation.

April 6 we had a Stated Meeting and an EA turn in. This was the biggest attendance in the past year. And we had a couple of prospective members for dinner.

I talked with Brother Tom Jackson. He is fine and will return to lodge when restrictions are lifted at his living quarters.

Thank Brother Hunt Armistead for producing this newsletter every month. Brothers like him keep this lodge going in both good and bad times.

All in all, we are slowly returning to a much more normal life and normal lodge functions.

Stay safe and healthy. And call a Brother.

Fraternally,

Richard Garrett,

Senior Warden, Hill City 456

## April 2021 Crossword Puzzle

### Across

1. Newborn
5. Lug
10. Black cat, maybe
14. Arch type
15. W.W. I soldier
16. Cover, in a way
17. Venerable
19. Auspices
20. "... \_\_\_ he drove out of sight"
21. recesses
22. Lagerlöf's "The Wonderful Adventures of \_\_\_"
23. Selena
25. Long, long time
27. "Calm down"
30. Kind of control
33. Bother
36. First president to marry while in office
38. \_\_\_ v. Wade
39. Benefit
40. Orb
41. Balance parts
42. "C' \_\_\_ la vie!"
43. Kitchen counter?
44. Hotel employee
45. Church official
47. Nickel, e.g.
49. Cleave
50. Caring
54. Arabic for "commander"
56. He can be in the South or in the West
60. "Hold on a \_\_\_!"
61. Totalitarian
62. Selfish
64. Aces, sometimes
65. Chip away at
66. 100 krus
67. Put on board, as cargo
68. Carpentry grooves
69. "Schindler's \_\_\_"

### Down

1. Gut
2. Ancient assembly area
3. Military wear
4. "Absolutely!"
5. Curl
6. Arizona Indian
7. "That's \_\_\_"
8. Months
9. Beats
10. First act
11. Authoritative
12. "... there is no \_\_\_ angel but Love": Shakespeare
13. 1987 Costner role
18. Dearest
24. "Pumping \_\_\_"
26. Long-jawed fish
28. Bit
29. Plant tissue
31. Bang-up
32. Medical advice, often
33. Lying, maybe
34. Barely beat, with "out"
35. Endorsed
37. Artificial bait
40. Trailing or twining plant
41. Oil source
43. Elephant's weight, maybe
44. Be a boaster
46. Red shade
48. Requirements for some degrees
51. Computer acronym
52. Approaches
53. Brilliant effect
54. Carbon compound
55. Spiritual life force energy
57. City on the Yamuna River
58. Cross
59. Lover of Aeneas
63. "\_\_\_ say !"

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 64 |    |    |    |    | 65 |    |    |    |    | 66 |    |    |
| 67 |    |    |    |    | 68 |    |    |    |    | 69 |    |    |

## March 2021 Puzzle Solution

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

## Masonic Education

### As a Man Thinketh...

“You are what you continually think, so take care to what thoughts you allow to exist in your head.”

-- Marcus Aurelius

The importance and salience of our thoughts, as an effect upon our behavior, has been talked about over many years, in many places and from several different angles. Let's consider the Masonic angle and perhaps find several layers of reinforcement.

Our articles in the past have mentioned differentiating what we know, think and believe, the consideration of absolutes and tolerances, the active development of the soul through prayer and a few other topics that touch upon disciplines in thinking. Throughout the writings and teachings of Masonry we talk about “the work” of a Mason. Since very few among us might be operative Masons, this usually doesn't refer to building cathedrals, buildings or walls in any literal sense but is of course symbolic. We know that the purpose of this work is to learn, and to improve ourselves in Masonry. Perhaps what we accomplish through active and directed work of thinking, and the disciplines applied to it, is a very important part of achieving that improvement.

Among the first real experience a new Mason has with “the work” is the memorization and preparation for the Trial Lecture of the EA degree. There is no doubt that that involves a good bit of thinking. That kind of active teaching and learning, which we discussed last year in contrast to atmospheric “education”, really does plant the seeds for improvement with the learner and reinforces it with the instructor. Repetition builds the memory of the words, their literal meaning and their symbolic meaning. Unlike most of the content that we absorb through various means, this memorized description and explanation of our rituals and ceremonies is something that we carry, in full and intact form, with us wherever we go and without the need for batteries of any kind. As we rehearse these words they become more and more ingrained so that they come back to us more easily as we are called on to repeat them out loud in our various settings but also as we thoughtfully go about our daily lives. When those Masonic words get associated with non-Masonic life we are most likely using them to impact our intentional actions.

Hopefully, what we all learn in advancing through the degrees and trial lectures is not abandoned and forgotten after we turn in our Master Mason work.

## Masonic Education (continued)

Masons benefit in this same way as they become officers and participate in the opening and closing of the Lodges and the special ceremonies, as they participate in degree teams and commit to learn their parts and, as I find personally rewarding, as they take on an advancing candidate for instruction.

The more we absorb and hold all of this Masonic body of knowledge it becomes something very real and substantive, as our “Masonic edifice”. Psychologists have used the notion of a spatial construct to describe associating and connecting many, many ideas in unlimited ways or kinds of connections, making use of three-dimensional space. Might whomever first used “Masonic edifice” have been thinking of a similar abstraction for all the interconnected thoughts and teaching in the Masonic experience ? The more wages a Mason has earned over many years suggests a rather vast edifice occupying space and time in the mind of the Mason, which is certain to effect his behavior. As each of us walks down the road of life, we need only think for an instant ... “Lambskin”, ... “Compasses”, ... “Trowel” to ensure we project the voice, the light and the man of the Mason. When those Masonic words, ideas and lessons get associated with non-Masonic life, we are most likely using them to impact our intentional actions.

Most of you, when hearing or reading the title of this article thought of its appearance in scripture and saw the connection to what has been said here. But I draw your attention to the actual text of the verse, Proverbs 23:7, which says, “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he”. For all of this talk here about thinking, constructs of knowledge, memory and making associations, it is not the brain but the heart that was invoked by this verse of scripture and reinforced in verse 12, as “Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge”. Masonic lessons cannot simply be memorized but must be taken to heart to make the Mason. But all of you already knew this and have passed that test. You have all declared that, before your many lessons in Masonry, before you ever knelt at the altar of Freemasonry, circumambulated the Lodge room, entered the door or even were prepared in the ante room, “where were you first prepared to be made a Mason ?”. You are each prepared and equipped with the working tools you need to “ever walk and act as such”. So mote it be.

## From the South

Hello Brethren,

Hope all are doing well this month. As Covid has taken an affect on out Masonic practices I must say that it was very nice to see so many brothers at this months stated meeting. It's been awhile since we have had so many Brothers in lodge it almost felt like it did before Covid. Since then I have been thinking about the bring a brother back program out Grand Master has set forth. I think it's a great idea and we as a lodge should take these next couple weeks and individually think of ideas on how we can bring our brothers back. I wrote an atrial on the diminishing numbers of Masons so we all know the importance of this proclamation. I personally think that more active community work would really benefit us. What I mean by this is us as a lodge getting out and volunteering at a food shelter together or maybe all of us spending a called Tuesday somewhere other than lodge. Somewhere in the community where those who aren't Masons or those who have never even heard about Masonry could see us giving back. I think this would really impact the growth of the lodge, especially with younger members. In my view holding an open house will only get those are are somewhat interested in Masonry to come in and talk to us. If we really want to make an impact I believe we need to show the community what Masonry is all about. I believe us doing more community work will bring our existing brothers back. I implore all of us to take the next couple weeks and think of ideas in which we could bring Masonry back.

Fraternally,  
Elan Mendoza  
Junior Warden, Hill City 456

## The Origins of Easter Traditions

As Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, children tuck into their chocolate eggs or chocolate rabbits, and everyone enjoys another long weekend, do we ever pause to wonder why Easter originated in the spring?

In Northern Europe, winter is drawing to a close and the coming of spring heralds longer days, warmer weather and the signs of new life in gardens and in the fields. Long before Christianity was born with the crucifixion and raising of Jesus Christ, ancients often described as Pagans, celebrated the feast of Eostre. Eostre was the northern goddess of spring and the dawn and of course fertility, whose spirit was felt in new plants and births both human and animals. The rabbit, with its predisposition to reproduce, was her sacred animal.

Easter, certainly in the northern hemisphere, is eggs and chocolate rabbits, but many people are not aware that ham, a preserved pork meat which we tend to associate with Christmas, is actually eaten at Easter. The ancients at the end of winter would then eat the remaining preserved meats. Eggs always formed an important element to the pagans of Europe and the Middle East at the Spring Equinox.

The Persians, Hindus and Babylonians all saw eggs as a sacred symbol. The Babylonians believed that in their 'world' a gigantic egg fell from outer space into the Euphrates and from this egg the goddess Astarte was born, another explanation for the word Easter. The story of the mystic egg moved to Rome and was part of the ceremonies of Bacchus. Colouring eggs, which are a treat for children, was a custom practised by the Druids and the Chinese and Japanese for many hundreds of years. The egg was also a symbol of fertility; Easter (Semiramis) was the goddess of Fertility. The Easter egg is a symbol of the pagan Mother Goddess and even bears one of her names. Mother Goddess is represented in many ancient cultures as the embodiment of nature, fertility and the bounties that Earth gives us.

Even before Christmas and New Year celebrations are over, major supermarkets have hot cross buns on the shelves. Those small fruit buns are associated with Easter with the cross symbolizing the crucifixion yet many Christians would be surprised to know that the bun and the cross is part of an earlier pagan fare. At the end of winter Saxons baked buns with a cross in honour of the Goddess Eostre, the cross symbolizing the four seasons and the four quarters of the moon. The early Christian Church quickly adopted the bun, recognizing the cross could symbolize the resurrection of Christ. In many Christian countries hot cross buns made without dairy products may only be eaten during lent beginning with Shrove Tuesday and ending on Good Friday. It is interesting to note that in the time of Elizabeth I, the sale of hot cross buns and spiced breads was forbidden except for funerals, Good Friday and Christmas, which caused buns to be baked at home. Even King James I attempted to control the sale of the bun. There are many old wives tales and superstitions about hot cross buns – one for example is that a bun served on Good Friday will not spoil or grow moldy during the year, another if given to a sick person it will help them recover.

Chocolate Easter eggs and rabbits are given at Easter as presents. The tradition may have started in the middle ages in northern Europe, with the giving of coloured hardboiled eggs to children. The Easter egg hunt started as a Pagan game. The question is of course: who actually started the chocolate egg and rabbit? Early German immigrants to America in 1800 brought with them the Lower Saxony Easter festival of the Easter Bunny or 'Oschter Haws' a custom followed later by Germans who settled in Pennsylvania and it quickly became a commercial icon for Easter.

As the children and adult chocoholics tuck into their eggs and rabbits, perhaps it is time to reflect that Easter apart from commemorating the Resurrection is also a time to reflect that Easter is new life and that Mother Nature is once again bestowing her wonderful gifts.

**HILL CITY LODGE No. 456, A.F. & A.M.  
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## **April Birthdays**

|                        |                         |                           |                       |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>April Birthdays</b> |                         |                           |                       |
| Hugh Larry Adkins      | Bob Day, Jr.            | Douglas Dwight Gullickson | Michael Eugene Kinser |
| James Ethridge Bailey  | Christopher M Enders    | Clyde H Hardy             | Margarito R. Sosa     |
| Mark Edward Bennett    | Douglas John Freyburger | William L Hatten          | Leslie John Whetham   |
| John Charles Casey     | Mario Humberto Guel, II | Bennie Len Hudson         |                       |
|                        |                         |                           |                       |
|                        |                         |                           |                       |

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