


The HILL CITY LIGHT

December 2021

| 2021 - 2022 Lodge Officers | | Hill City No. 456 A.F. & A.M. Chartered June 10, 1876 | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--|--|-------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| W.M. | Richard Garrett | Austin Scottish Rite Theatre & 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 | | | | | | | | | |
| S.W. | Elan Mendoza | | | | | | | | | | |
| J.W. | Don Jarrell | 1876  2021 | | | | | | | | | |
| Treasurer | Kent Kinkade, P.M. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Secretary | Charles Maddox P.M. | <u>Stated Meeting:</u> First Tuesday at 7:30 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm | | | | | | | | | |
| Chaplain | Chuck Stewart, P.M. | | | | | | | | | | |
| S.D. | Nate Stilwell | <u>Called Meetings:</u> Other Tuesdays at 7:00 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm | | | | | | | | | |
| J.D. | Ryan DiVincenzo | | | | | | | | | | |
| S.S. | Sean Williams | Work Schedule | | | | | | | | | |
| J. S. | Nick Grossman | | | | | | | | | | |
| Marshal | Hunt Armistead | From the East | | | | | | | | | |
| M.C. | Bob Wheeless, P.M. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tiler | Dennis Hill, P.M. | Greetings Brethren, I hope you are all in good health and prepared for the holiday season. Or maybe you are like me and wait for the last moment. This is a season for joy, happiness and brotherly love. For Christians it is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. And in my mind, as a Christian, to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It is a time for family, friends, and gift giving to each other. The three wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Sometimes they are called the Magi or Three Kings. The scriptures do not actually state that there were three men. Matthew does state they were from the East. Gold we can easily understand because of the value we still attribute to it today. The other two gifts are not so easy for me to understand. Frankincense is made by scraping the bark of certain trees for beads of resin. These trees are a species of Boswellia trees that grow in the Middle East and Western Africa This resin is then mixed with a certain recipe of spices.. When burned it gives off a strong and wonderful aroma. It was a very expensive item and not used by most households. It was usually only used to celebrate a deity. It was prescribed by God for use in the Tabernacle and later in the Temple. Myrrh is about the same as frankincense, but from a different type of tree. | | | | | | | | | |
| December 2021 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| December 7 | Stated Meeting | <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>December 14</td> <td>Past Masters' Dinner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>December 21</td> <td>Dark</td> </tr> <tr> <td>December 28</td> <td>Dark</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | December 14 | Past Masters' Dinner | December 21 | Dark | December 28 | Dark | | |
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| January 25 | Degree Practice | | | | | | | | | | |
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From the East (continued)

The Christmas tree is a familiar sight at Christmas. It started as a Pagan tradition and dates back to Roman times. In Europe the Celtic Druid priests decorated their temples with evergreen branches to symbolize eternal life. Both Latvia and Estonia claim to have used a modern Christmas tree as early as 1441. They danced around the tree and then burned it. Maybe this is where we get our Yule Log custom. Bremen, Germany has city records of a Christmas tree in 1570. It was in a guild house and decorated with apples, nuts, dates, and paper flowers. Some believe that Martin Luther introduced the Christmas tree. In the mid 1800's Germans immigrants introduced the Christmas tree to America. At first it was not readily accepted because of the Puritan origins of our country. But as other denominations grew stronger, it was fully accepted as a normal custom.

The holiday season, December, is also a time of celebration for our Jewish Brothers and friends. Hanukkah commemorates a second century event. The Seleucid Greek empire ruled over the Holy Lands. They outlawed Jewish practice and put an altar to Zeus Olympias in the Temple on which pigs were sacrificed. This caused a rebellion by a group called the Maccabees who defeated the Greeks after a three year war. Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days, November 29th to December 6th. Hanukkah celebrates the rededication of the second Temple. They lit a seven pronged lamp that had only enough oil for one day. But, it burned for eight days. Hanukkah is the word most often used, but Chanukah is also correct.

Muslims celebrate Ramadan. This is a period of fasting and prayer. It is believed to be the month in which the Holy Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. It is a celebration filled with much joy. Fasting during Ramadan is one of the five duties of healthy male Muslims.

Ho, Ho, Ho. To all a good night. Now Dasher, now Dancer.

And call a brother.

Fraternally,

Richard Garrett

Worshipful Master, Hill City 456

From the West

Hello Brethren,

I hope all are doing well this holiday season.

Since we are getting close to Christmas, I wanted to talk a little about Masonry and the Christian holiday. I was reading an article the other day which talked about a connection I never really knew existed. As you all know, we say the words *St. John's* a lot around lodge. Why do I bring this up and how does St. John have a connection with Masonry? Well, it turns out that winter is said to be represented by Saint John the Evangelist whose feast day falls on December 27th. The feast of the Evangelist not really remembered today, except within Masonry, where it is celebrated by a few lodges that still practice the Table Lodge ritual—where brothers gather together to celebrate it with a toast to those brothers present and absent. In the past, it was considered a feast day of high importance for Masons because it was so close to Christmas. Because of this it gave Masons a good reason to meet and close out the year. This was done back in the day when it was less common to travel to different cities for the holidays like we do now.

Because it is celebrated less does not diminish the importance of the holiday, nor the symbol itself, as in the modern ritual we are reminded that we come from a Holy Saint John's in Jerusalem, and as such we should pause and reflect on just what that means. John the Evangelist gives us an important lesson to pursue knowledge and wake from the darkness and renew our commitment to the awakening light of the Victorious Sun. Even taken out of the Christian metaphor, we can salute with Sol Invictus, as knowledge is reawakened from it's cold wintry defeat.

I thought this article was pretty interesting so I felt I would share it with all of you! I hope each and every one of you have a great holiday and I hope to see y'all soon. I know this can be a hard time of year for some so please keep all family, Brothers and friends in mind!

Fraternally,

Elan Mendoza,

Senior Warden, Hill City 456

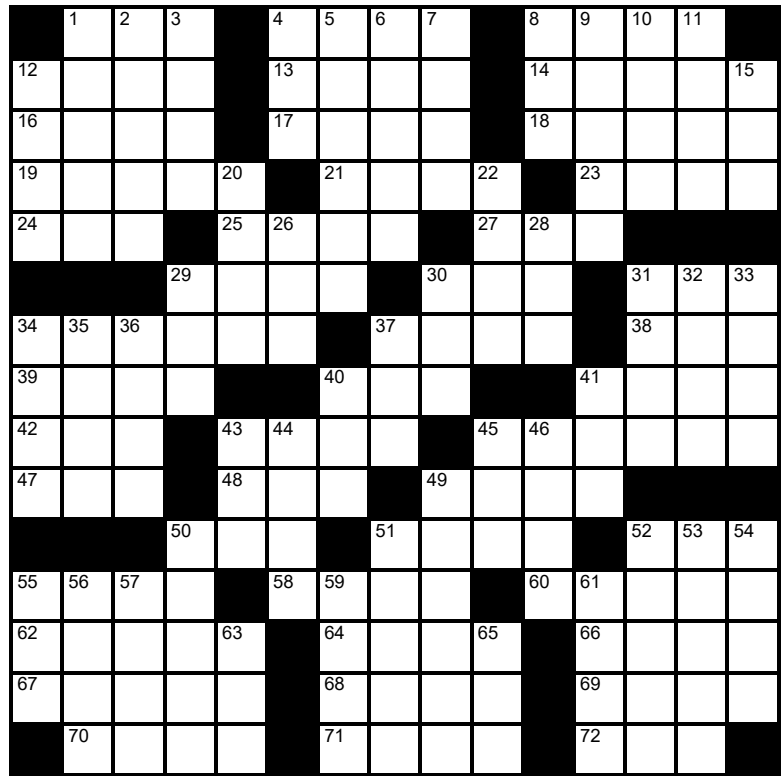
December 2021 Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. ___ grass
4. Band with the hit "Barbie Girl"
8. Irascible
12. #1 spot
13. Buggy terrain
14. Pool contents?
16. Ado
17. Art ___
18. Fertilization site
19. Standing
21. Em, to Dorothy
23. "Cast Away" setting
24. "___ alive!"
25. "Check this out!"
27. Carpentry tool
29. Channel marker
30. Morgue, for one
31. Cheat
34. Strain
37. Abbr. after many a general's name
38. ___ v. Wade
39. All excited
40. "___ not!"
41. Aesop's also-ran
42. Cambridge sch.
43. Showy
45. Authorized
47. ___ Wednesday
48. "It's no ___!"
49. Belt
50. Publicity, slangily
51. Good and bad quantity of a drink
52. Ceiling
55. Withdraw gradually
58. Vocalized
60. Adhesive
62. A-list
64. Nicknames for grand-mas
66. Arabic for "commander"
67. Grand Canyon transport
68. Mouth, in slang
69. "O" in old radio lingo
70. Capital of Rhône
71. ___ podrida
72. Nancy, in Nancy

Down

1. Santa's reindeer, e.g.
2. Muslims V.I.P.'s
3. Course
4. Make sense, with "up"
5. Upset
6. Full-length
7. Long, long time
8. "I" problem
9. Man with horns
10. Lions' prey
11. Cry
12. ___ Spumante
15. "Comprende?"
20. Tater
22. Drawn tight
26. ___ sauce
28. Lent's start, e.g.: Abbr.
29. Impede, with "down"
30. Cabernet, e.g.
31. Civil War side, with "the"
32. Auld lang syne
33. Let fly
34. "Oh, ___!"
35. Auspices
36. Unwilling to obey
37. Free from, with "of"
40. Directly
41. Pillbox, e.g.
43. Under the _____ (Pressured)
44. Says "When?"
45. Hooter
46. Bucks
49. A gesture
50. Foreword, for short
51. Distort
52. Band
53. Adage
54. Combustible heap
55. Fly catcher
56. Hebrew calendar ending
57. Breezy
59. "Do ___ others as..."
61. Hacienda hand, maybe
63. Long, long time
65. Marienbad, for one



November 2021 Puzzle Solution



The Deal

Again this month, I’m sharing perspectives that come from my reflecting on recent experiences. And I’m touching on themes and topics on which I’ve previously written – personal responsibility, that 90% of our lives is our reactions to our environment, and our need to “keep our passions within due bounds”. I hope readers will not be bored from perceived repetition.

I’m now focusing on what I consider the origin story of these pieces of wisdom, that I call “the Deal”. This Deal, as I imagine it, precedes each of our entry into Freemasonry, and even our earliest memories. As I see it, everyone reading this article entered into a covenant by drawing our very first breath that, in exchange for the wonderful gift of life in this physical world, we would accept whatever that life might throw at us and respond in the best way we can. Whenever I encounter something unpleasant and think “This isn’t fair”, “This should not happen to me”, or “I need to get even”, I am renegeing on the Deal. We all have heard that difficulties make us stronger, problems make us smarter to better deal with the next problem, pain makes us more compassionate to others who are suffering, and other bits of wisdom about dealing with adversity. I remember and appreciate those ideas in times of quiet and comfort but admit that sometimes I forget them.

Of course we Masons spend a lot of time talking about the symbolic use of the compasses. We frequently think about, and communicate both implicitly and overtly, that keeping our emotions in check is critical to make the better moral response to a situation. While that is certainly true, I want to emphasize, as my recent reflections have reinforced, that keeping my emotions in check also enables me to make the most effective response to the situation I face - whether it is a horrible or a wonderful one. Whatever skills or talents I may have are always diminished by giving way to the emotional side. Whether it is in teaching an easily-distracted child, interacting with a hostile colleague, negotiating a complex high-value business deal, or making plans and decisions about end-of-life care for a loved one, keeping

ALL my passions within due bounds lets me be calm, clear and calculating and perform at my best. Even in the dramatic portrayal in movies of righteous violence, Denzel Washington and Clint Eastwood are seen as totally cold and emotionless when wiping out a roomful of bad guys in an amazing fashion.

By helping us make the most moral and effective response to what life throws at us, I would say that the compasses and “due attention to their use” probably are the most important lesson for us in leading a truly Masonic life. I also personally believe that there is a parallel consideration in this lesson. There is nothing in what I have said here that means I should regularly choose submission in the face of opposition. A core value in living this way is to use this moral and effective behavior to be a force for good where and when we can. And, in doing that, we will surely face opposition occasionally.

So that is the full scope of the Deal with life as I see it and try to live it. Some days I live up to it. When I don’t, I try to recommit for tomorrow and Masonry has given me much to contemplate, and many tools, to help me do that.

District 50 Happenings

Ben Hur Shrine

7811 Rockwood Ln, Austin, TX 78757

Fundraiser: Quilt Raffle benefiting the Shriners Children Hospitals.

There is a quilt made from unit and club shirts and patches that will be raffled off for the benefit. Tickets are 5.00 each or 5 for 20.00. contact James Heineman heineman@yahoo.com for tickets.

The National Sojourners meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month in the Holiday Inn at 6000 Middle Fiskville Rd. Austin, TX 78752. Please RSVP by the evening before.

Any questions can be directed to Brother James Medlock at 979-575-7787 or Kyle Nigro at 203-206-0660

From the South

Brethren,

I'm sure WM Garrett and SW Mendoza will recap Lodge events better than I could since I have missed Lodge a few times in recent weeks due to travel and illness. This month I'm sharing a smorgasbord of short items.

I would like to thank Philippe Dewailly, Hilton Crocker, Luke Michels, Nate Stillwell, Lee Kinser and RW Charles Maddox for volunteering to be Mentors for our newest Masons. I believe our Mentoring program is a valuable and important function in our Lodge to help our younger Brothers grow in Masonry.

If you are not receiving the Texas Mason magazine from the Grand Lodge, please make sure that your records are updated. If you receive it and don't read, you are missing some very good Masonic reading. The same goes for our Scottish Rite Brethren with respect to the Scottish Rite Journal. When circumstances prevent us from enjoying each others' fellowship, we can still enjoy other aspects of Masonry on our own. As examples, in the November-December edition of the Scottish Rite Journal, I learned that Hanukkah, which ended just before our December Stated meeting, was originally primarily a celebration of a military victory by the Maccabees over the Syrian-Greeks. Only later did leading rabbis shift the focus to the miracle of a limited supply of lamp oil lasting for the eight days needed to reconsecrate the temple. I also learned in that edition that from the founding of the first grand lodge in England in 1717, until at least 1723, only the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft degrees existed. In 1726, a Master Mason degree was cited in the minutes of Dumbarton Lodge #18 in Scotland, but there were no records of what comprised the ceremony itself. I invite all of you to explore these publications and the vast amount of literature that is widely available on Masonry.

Next month, in preparation for the Grand Lodge Annual Communication, we will be reviewing and voting on the proposed resolutions and GM Recommendations. While it is the principal officers and/or proxy who cast the official votes at the GL meeting, unless the proposed resolutions are

From the South (continued)

amended, the offices are to cast votes reflecting the will, and vote, of the Lodge. If you have not already received a copy, please contact me or our Brother Secretary. You might find particularly interesting Resolution #7 that would clarify restrictions on using images in social media about Brothers' advancing through degrees; Resolution #24 about adding official music to rituals and ceremonies; GM Recommendation #4 about certain electronic communications; and GM recommendation #7 about revising the Monitor over the next two years. If you can attend the Grand Lodge Annual Communication you will probably find it educational and will definitely have some fun with your Brethren. You can register online in the member portal and if you don't have a room yet, you had better hurry.

We will have a break this month with the Lodge being dark on the 21st and 28th but we hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a great, and safe, New Year's and we will see you in the New Year.

Fraternally,
Don Jarrell
Junior Warden, Hill City 456

Masonic Happenings

Pre-registration is open for the **2022 Grand Annual Communication!** Skip the line and save time by registering through your member portal on Grand View. Cost for pre-registration is \$25.00.

The Grand Communication will begin Thurs. Jan. 20 and run through Sat. Jan. 22. If you wish to vote, you must attend in person; if you only want to observe without voting, you can register to attend virtually.

Hotels are quickly filling up. If you plan to stay the night in Waco, book your hotel now!

The East-West Shrine Bowl™, America's longest-running college football all-star game, which supports Shriners Children's®, will be played on Feb. 3, 2022, at Allegiant Stadium, the home of the Las Vegas Raiders, as part of NFL Pro Bowl week.

Consider hosting a watch party.

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

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**AUSTIN, TEXAS
Permit No. 1675**

December Birthdays

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Thomas Seth Bonnacarrere | Roy Lynn Henson | Carol L. McGee | Robert Henry Schmidt |
| Chad Damon Collier | Raymond H. Herrington | Billy F. Peel | Brian Thomas Schnautz |
| Thomas D. Dickson | Don Boyd Jarrell | Robert Stephen Peel | Charles Marcus Stewart |
| William Sam Dickson | Christopher DeWitt Jordan | Dale William Reynolds | James Correll Tisdale |
| Gene L. Freudenberg | Terrance Michael Linn | Joe Craig Robinson | Bob M. Wheelless |
| Robert Warren Hensley | James Dale Loflin | Benton E. Ryon | Timothy Earl Willett |
| | | | |

Food Committee is suspended until we are able to reconvene.