


The HILL CITY LIGHT

January 2022

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|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 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 | |
| S.W. | Elan Mendoza | Mail: P.O. Box 1456, Austin, Texas 78767-1456 | |
| J.W. | Don Jarrell | Phone: (512) 655-9858 | |
| Treasurer | Kent Kinkade, P.M. | Email: secretary@hillcitylodge.org | |
| Secretary | Charles Maddox P.M. | Website: www.hillcitylodge.org | |
| Chaplain | Chuck Stewart, P.M. | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> 1876  2022 </div> | |
| S.D. | Nate Stilwell | <u>Stated Meeting:</u> First Tuesday at 7:30 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm <u>Called Meetings:</u> Other Tuesdays at 7:00 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm | |
| J.D. | Ryan DiVincenzo | | |
| S.S. | Sean Williams | | |
| J. S. | Nick Grossman | | |
| Marshal | Hunt Armistead | | |
| M.C. | Bob Wheeless, P.M. | | |
| Tiler | Dennis Hill, P.M. | | |
| Work Schedule | | From the East | |
| January 2022 | | <p>Greetings Brethren,</p> <p>Welcome to the new year. I hope this new year finds you in good health and good spirits. I would imagine that we all celebrated in many different ways. Some probably ate too much or perhaps drank too much. But probably most of us thought about the past year and counted our blessings. As I write this I am thinking of several lodge brothers who are currently ill or were recently discharged from a hospital. Some things in life just seem to be the luck of the draw. This was really impressed on me during my tour in Viet Nam. That was so many years ago, but just like yesterday in many ways. I often wonder why I came back when other men did not return. We can attempt to protect ourselves and our loved ones, but fate plays a part that we have no control over.</p> <p>I suggest you try to examine how your past year went and how you plan to proceed in this new year. Some problems I had in the past year were totally out of my control. Other problems were entirely my fault. Some problems were just made up in my mind. But even these are no less problematic than wounds inflicted by our worst mortal enemy.</p> <p>I cannot say that I have a perfect answer to these problems. But, I think a start would be to stay in prayer to The Great Architect of the Universe. And to be tolerant and forgiving of your brothers and sisters, and of yourself.</p> | |
| January 4 | Stated Meeting | | |
| January 11 | FC Degree Practice | | |
| January 18 | Degree Practice | | |
| January 25 | Degree Practice | | |
| February 2022 | | | |
| February 1 | Stated Meeting | | |
| February 8 | Degree Practice | | |
| February 15 | Sweetheart Dinner Post-poned due to Covid | | |
| February 22 | Degree Practice | | |
| March 2022 | | | |
| March 1 | Stated Meeting | | |
| March 8 | Degree Practice | | |
| March 15 | 50 & 60 Year Awards | | |
| March 22 | Degree Practice | | |

From the East (continued)

The scripture that I read implores me to be thankful for all things both good and bad. I struggle with this concept. I am of course thankful for all good things that happen to me. The bad things, I struggle with being thankful. But, I have learned that the bad brings me closer to my Maker. That at least I can be thankful for. It is too easy to not be thankful for the good that happens to me. I can easily think that I may deserve it because I am so intelligent, good looking, and such a nice guy. But who would I be kidding.

I know that I must stay in prayer, read the scripture every day, and be thankful for both good and bad. I may not intellectually understand this, but intelligence does not overrule faith. Realizing that we have eternal life with a loving Father seems to cancel out all the problems of this earthly existence.

I have now a recommendation for you. Spend time with your Maker and love your neighbor and yourself.

And call a brother.

Fraternally,

Richard Garrett
Worshipful Master, Hill City 456

From the West

Hello Brethren,

I hope all are doing well this month and staying safe. I also hope that not many of you have ended up getting Covid over the past couple of weeks as we get together with our families. There wasn't much to do over Christmas break, so I ended up watching a lot of movies to kill the time. While watching a few movies, I noticed that I heard what I had always considered to be a masonic words, Boaz and Jachin, for instance. Now I can't remember for the life of me the name of the first movie I heard these words uttered, but I definitely remember the second movie. Netflix's new movies "Don't Look Up". I heard one of the characters mention the words "...the pillars of Boaz and Jachin..". It was in the middle of a speech one of the characters was giving and I wasn't truly paying attention all that well if I am to be honest, but it did make my ears perk up. I had to rewind the movie to hear exactly what he was talking about. The exact quote is "When these treasures from heaven are claimed, poverty as we know it, social injustice, loss of biodiversity—all these multitudes of problems are just gonna become relics of the past and humanity is gonna stride through the Pillars of Boaz and Jachin naked into the glory of a golden age".

I really do like the way this was used here since it's how we should feel when we used the pillars in masonry. It's how I've always thought of them in my head but never had words to explain the way I feel about them. I like the idea of stepping through the pillars into something new and positive. Something better than what we had before. Something so magnificent that we stay there speechless, which is the way I picture I would react once I've stepped through the pillars into King Solomon's temple.

Even since I've become a Mason, I have noticed small phrases, sayings or little key words in my normal life that trigger a memory or feeling of masonry. I usually tell my partner something along the lines of "that is a masonic saying" but I know she could never fully understand since she is not part of the craft. Only we who have gone through all three degrees can.

Fraternally,

Elan Mendoza,
Senior Warden, Hill City 456

January 2022 Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Follower of Mary
5. Fill-in
9. Was a girl watcher
14. Apple spray
15. Antares, for one
16. Item with a ladder
17. Peewee
18. "Green Gables" girl
19. Blasé
20. Succeed in doing a boring job
22. Dark clouds, maybe
23. Big mess
24. Cavern, in poetry
26. Chest protector
29. Green
33. Cough medicine ingredient
38. Kind of network
39. Casting need
40. Atwitter, with "up"
42. Like young Abe Lincoln
43. Intelligent cephalopods
45. Returns
47. Make paler
48. Clavell's "___-Pan"
49. Navajo home
52. Cemetery spirit
57. It holds water
60. See a tough new structure near an entrance
63. Grape seeds, in botany
64. 100 dinars
65. Alone
66. Fence made of bushes
67. "... there is no ___ angel but Love": Shake-speare
68. Halftime lead, e.g.
69. Amount of hair
70. Congers
71. Live wire, so to speak

Down

1. Reading lights
2. Roswell crash victim, supposedly
3. Food from heaven
4. Succinct
5. Boris Godunov, for one
6. "Empedocles on ___" (Matthew Arnold poem)
7. Kind of ray
8. Be exultant
9. John - - -, dramatist
10. Heartless darkness I tempt to return, finding blood filters
11. Euros replaced them
12. "Our Time in ___" (10,000 Maniacs album)
13. 1990 World Series champs
21. IV part
25. Siberian earth
27. Be annoying
28. "Ciao!"
30. Persia, now
31. Qualm
32. The "E" of B.P.O.E.
33. Cultivate
34. Poland's Walesa
35. Abominable Snowman
36. Uniforms
37. Alkaline liquid
41. "Dig in!"
44. Indiana state flowers
46. Approaching
50. Acquiesce
51. Green
53. Bamboozled
54. Best
55. Grammar topic
56. To fish with bait anchored on the bottom
57. Thai currency
58. Maple genus
59. Fries, maybe
61. Detective, at times
62. Building additions

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December 2021 Puzzle Solution

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| A | G | O | G | | | D | I | D | | | H | A | R | E | |
| M | I | T | | G | A | U | D | | O | K | A | Y | E | D | |
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| | L | Y | O | N | | O | L | L | A | | N | O | M | | |

Masonic Education

My Peace

Happy New Year to the Hill City Lodge Brethren and all Masons. This is the time of year when many make New Year's resolutions, so of which will actually be kept. I think it is comforting to me that I have already turned my 2022 resolution regarding the Lodge into practice. Over the last several months, it has been stuck in my mind that, although with the best of intentions, I sometimes can get a bit "preachy" in these articles. I have said numerous times, whether overtly or in a more nuanced way, the reader "should" do something or other. I expect some of you have had some degree of negative reaction to that at times. So instead, I have recently begun simply describing my perspectives, choices and experiences, leaving assessment, comparison and judgment of applicability to themselves to each reader. Now, I have considered that some may start wondering, if they haven't already, why I seem to talk about myself so much. That then reminds me of some wisdom I have shared a few times on social media. "The only way to surely avoid criticism from others is to say nothing, do nothing and be nothing." I think that is true within Lodges so we just keep trying to get it right.

So this month I am talking about me again, or more specifically what my many years on earth has taught me about what I should want above all else. Peace. This wasn't just about resting for an hour, this was about truly changing my state and my ability to regain something I felt like I had not had in a while. And this was hard. My calendar, emails, principles, rules, to do lists and such were not just what helped to order my life but gave me a constant sense of progress, accomplishment and reward. I have been, for a long time, addicted to getting things done. Every time I, or my wife, forced a "mental health day" on myself, I would still end up making new mental lists of to dos and feeling guilty for not progressing on my existing lists. Simply stopping the activities of production was not really peace.

As introspection and reflection on various interactions with others have continued, I experienced and applied other themes that have

Masonic Education (continued)

also surfaced in some of my Masonic Education articles, especially last month's "The Deal". I had thought in the past that a quick response to issues was a strength. Now, by slowing my response, taking the time to "subdue my passions", to carefully weigh both the morality and effectiveness of possible outcomes, really has produced better outcomes as I discussed last month. With more time operating this way, I see it is more than just a short-term effect on an incidental basis but this condition is becoming more a longitudinal part of my life and being.

So now I am exploring how to take peacefulness to the next level. I discovered Pico Iyer, who wrote the book "The Art of Stillness: Adventures in Going Nowhere" and thought immediately "going nowhere" has always seemed like a bad thing, but I'm learning to redefine several things in my life. Henry David Thoreau wrote, "It matters not where or how far you travel but how alive you are." Sometimes he used "travel" in the literal sense, but other times, as we Masons do, used it to represent experiencing life beyond ourselves.

District 50 Happenings

Thursday, January 27.

MWSA meeting of the 50th Masonic District.
Hosted by University Lodge no. 1190. York Rite.
6pm. 7th & Lavaca.

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,

This month, the news I am reporting on my From the South article is again tied with the background story of what I have written in my Masonic Education article for January. In recent months, I have shared in the FTS article for November, in various announcements in Lodge and individual conversations, my thoughts and plans for instituting a Strategic Planning and Operations Committee for Hill City Lodge. My introspection and reflection over the last several months, as described in a few articles – most notably ME articles “The Deal” from last month and “My Peace” this month – have brought me to a new perspective and plan.

The officers who were intended to make up this committee, and with whom we have had a few discussions, probably represent the consensus of the Brethren in the Lodge. And the truth is they simply have shown that they do not share my perspectives on those ideas. I cannot, and should not, continue to push something without the appropriate agreement, support and shared effort. I’m fine with that a new way forward, without controversy is best for the Lodge. If things should change and others rally a consensus to try this again, or something like it, I will, of course, do anything I can to help. I will always do what I can to serve the Lodge but for now, this just isn’t it.

On another front for which I’m responsible, regarding the Lodge’s IT infrastructure, we have run into an issue. We had planned, for the sake of simplicity and consistency, to let several Lodge officers share a few login accounts on our Google Workspace platform which provides our Lodge emails, calendars and shared files. Google has evolved their policies and technical functions over the recent few months to make it really impossible to use any such shared accounts. We will create individual login account for all Lodge officers and Committee members to be able to access that platform and Lodge resources to conduct the business of the Lodge. For certain special functions, we will designate an IT committee member to be responsible for certain functions that still need to be tied to individual login accounts. I will be working this out through the IT committee

From the South (continued)

in the coming days, as well as work out some succession/transition plans for future change-overs in responsibilities in new Masonic years. Most Lodge members won’t notice anything different.

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.

High Twelve International, Inc.

2022 Governing Board

Mid-Year Conference and Grand Master Conference.

Saturday - January 29, 2022

Meeting Time: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

2500 S Shore Blvd, League City, TX 77573

281-334-1000

HILL CITY LODGE No. 456, A.F. & A.M.
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December Birthdays

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Frank Daniel Allard | John Sammis Cole | Sampson Kenneth Jordan, Sr. | Willard Lee Pannell |
| Cecil Lee Anderson | Charles David Collier | Michael Dean Larkin | Michael Owen Stafford |
| Jeffrey H. Armstrong | Robert Louis Eschenburg | Michael Stephen Lummus | Jason E. Thomas |
| Thomas B. Ayers | Ronald Glenn Gamble | Sidney Patrick McDavid | Charles Michael Wentz |
| Edward Earl Bartel, Jr. | Dennis James Hill | William F. McFarlin, Jr. | Todd Alan Wesson |
| Ty William Carl | Robert Gene Housman | John A. Padilla | |
| | | | |

Important Announcement Regarding COVID-19

Due to the number of Brothers and/or spouses that are ill and concern to protect everyone, meals at Hill City Lodge meetings are temporary suspended. You will be notified when meals are again provided.

We will continue to meet at 7:30 pm each Tue. Masks and hand sanitizer will be provided for those who want them. Stay healthy and have a blessed New Year.

Food Committee is suspended until we are able to reconvene.