


# The HILL CITY LIGHT

March 2022

<b>2021 - 2022 Lodge Officers</b>		<b>Hill City No. 456 A.F. &amp; A.M.</b> 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  2022											
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	<b>Work Schedule</b>											
J. S.	Nick Grossman												
Marshal	Hunt Armistead	<b>From the East</b>											
M.C.	Bob Wheelless, P.M.												
Tiler	Dennis Hill, P.M.	Greetings Brethren, Guilds first started in Europe as early as 1300 BC. But they were strongest in the 11th through the 16th century and still exist today. Not only were stonemasons organized into guilds, but many other professionals such as cobblers, candle makers, apothecaries , tanners, etc. Guilds provided a method by which skills could be passed from one generation to the next. They were supervised by Wardens who were elected and members of the guild took an oath. Members of the guilds were organized into apprentices, journeymen or fellow crafts, and masters. Most apprenticeships were for seven years duration. Guilds became controversial in that some governments felt that they restricted trade. In 1835 the English Parliament abolished all privileges enjoyed by guilds. Industrialization and capitalism forced many people to find employment in factories and businesses. Stonemason guilds possessed many specialized fields of knowledge such as geometry. I think that this was what attracted men who were not stonemasons to join operative stonemason lodges. There is some documentation that a prince became a speculative Mason as early as the 10th century. The liberal arts and sciences contained within operative masonry must have been a strong attraction. Also men of the early speculative lodges were men of importance such as royalty or politicians. As the											
<b>March 2022</b>													
March 1	Stated Meeting	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>March 8</td> <td>Degree Practice</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 15</td> <td>Degree Practice</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 22</td> <td>Master Mason Degree</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 29</td> <td>Degree Practice</td> </tr> </table>		March 8	Degree Practice	March 15	Degree Practice	March 22	Master Mason Degree	March 29	Degree Practice		
March 8	Degree Practice												
March 15	Degree Practice												
March 22	Master Mason Degree												
March 29	Degree Practice												
<b>April 2022</b>													
April 5	Stated Meeting DDGM Visit												
April 12	Degree Practice												
April 19	Scholarship Awards												
April 26	Dark—MWSA Meeting												
<b>May 2022</b>		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>May 3</td> <td>Stated Meeting</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 10</td> <td>Degree Practice</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 17</td> <td>Golden Trowel Award</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 24</td> <td>Degree Practice</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 31</td> <td>Degree Practice</td> </tr> </table>		May 3	Stated Meeting	May 10	Degree Practice	May 17	Golden Trowel Award	May 24	Degree Practice	May 31	Degree Practice
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## From the East (continued)

number of speculative Masons grew, the guilds or lodges became less important to operative masonry and more important as the holder of speculative Masonry philosophy.

Another contributing factor to the decline of operative masonry was the Protestant Reformation. Henry the VIII created the Church of England and separated from control of the Pope so that he could marry whom he wished. He stopped the building of cathedrals as they were associated with the Papacy. This was of course supported by the Puritans and other Protestant groups.

So there were mixed lodges in England and Scotland. Mixed meaning both operative and speculative masons. But as early as 1646 there was a lodge that was apparently all Speculative Masons.

As we all know the Grand Lodge of England was formed in 1717 on St John the Baptist Day, June 24th. It started with only four lodges . Three of these lodges were mainly operative lodges and one was primarily speculative Masons or Accepted Masons. There are of course many other lodges that did not affiliate with the new Grand Lodge; these lodges were referred to as old Masons, St John Masons or Saint John lodges . In 1725 the Grand Lodge of Ireland was formed making it the second oldest Grand Lodge. But it took decades to bring all the Irish lodges under its jurisdiction.

We have a rich and interesting history. Let us hope that it continues for many more centuries.

Call a Brother. Bring a Brother.

Fraternally,

Richard Garrett

Worshipful Master, Hill City 456

## From the West

Hello Brethren,

I hope all are doing well this month. I wanted to do something different this month and share with you an article I found while surfing the internet. I think it's a great read and something we should all consider. This article was written by the Rev. Dr. James M. Floyd, Jr., MPS Evergreen Lodge No. 713.

Are you a source of light, or of darkness?

We create our own reality. What we expect from life is what we receive. If we expect and look for the trouble, disagreement, and negativity in situations that is what we are sure to find. If however, we expect and look for the good, cooperative, and positive outcomes in situations that is what we will experience.

Life cannot, and does not always go smoothly. We cannot appreciate the good times and the joys that life brings without the rough times and the sadness that must cross our path on occasion. It is our response to these times that defines who we are.

Brothers, I am guilty of being a source of darkness. That is, in seeing and focusing only on the problems in lodge that I perceive need to be corrected. And in being privy to, and a part of, the occasional personality conflicts that are destined to arise in any group.

Yes, there are problems in every lodge. Yes, we do not always agree with, or get along with each other. This has always been, and always will be. But we cannot be negative about these difficulties. Our negative thoughts are like a cancer which spreads and weakens us, and those around us, emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

It is easy to fall into the trap of negativity or darkness. But, with effort on our part, and the assistance of the G.A.O.T.U., we can instead choose to open our eyes to the light. My Brothers, that light is Brotherly love. Love is being positive and expecting the best life has to offer. Love is knowing that, although our human frailties will result in disagreement, where there is hope and understanding there can be the peace and harmony to work together towards a common goal.

So, for the sake of the Fraternity and your well-being, I urge you to make the commitment to change your life, to become a source of Masonic Light, that, like the Sun in the heavens, all the world can see.

Fraternally,

Elan Mendoza,

Senior Warden, Hill City 456

## March 2022 Crossword Puzzle

### Across

1. "It's no \_\_\_!"
4. Photographer's request
9. High degree
12. Bother
13. One's backside
14. Up, in a way
16. Kind of approval
17. Most improbable
19. Unlawful, illicit
21. Bin chicken
22. Drawing
23. "Follow me!"
24. Marienbad, for one
27. Voice communication
31. Bean counter, for short
33. "... happily \_\_\_ after"
34. "... there is no \_\_\_ an-  
gel but Love": Shake-  
speare
35. Boat propellers
37. Chip away at
40. 12-point type
41. \_\_\_ Minor
42. Approaching
44. "Uh-uh"
45. Campanologists' activ-  
ity
50. "The Joy Luck Club"  
author
51. "Beowulf," e.g.
52. Operatic villains, often
55. High-hatter
56. Brutus, for one
58. Resigned
62. "Give it \_\_\_!"
63. Indian language of  
about
64. "... thus the lord"
65. Mother Teresa, for one
66. Telekinesis, e.g.
67. Ballade
68. E or G, e.g.

### Down

1. Ill-suited
2. In a wistful way
3. Fair on principle
4. Curl up with a lap cat
5. Polynesia spiritual quality
6. "\_\_\_ be a cold day in  
hell..."
7. "Fantasy Island" prop
8. Alaska native
9. \_\_\_ Dee River
10. Consumes
11. "Silent Spring" subject
14. Dior creation
15. \_\_\_ Master's Voice
18. Black, in poetry
20. Charlotte-to-Raleigh dir.
23. Ingrained
24. Center of interest?
25. Fold in your skin
26. Put to rest, as fears
28. "The Three Faces of \_\_\_"
29. The "p" in m.p.g.
30. Delicate mushroom
31. Do together
32. Ottoman title
36. Gabriel, for one
38. Kipling's "Gunga \_\_\_"
39. \_\_\_ roll
43. Tailgate grill
46. Andrea Doria's domain
47. A body of poems
48. Organic sugar
49. Apprehend
53. Smooth transition
54. O. Henry device
55. Arch
56. Gangster's blade
57. Josip Broz, familiarly
58. Appear, with "up"
59. "48 \_\_\_"
60. "Rocky \_\_\_"
61. Calphalon product

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## February 2022 Puzzle Solution

T	U	S	K					I	C	E			F	E	A	S	T
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**Disagree—Part 2**

So now, having broached the subject of disagreement, and having laid out the premise that initial disagreement can, and should, lead to an opportunity and positive outcome for both participants, lets look into how one can navigate the discussion of a disagreement to make it productive.

Probably most of the time a disagreement surfaces, it is at the expression of an opinion in the form of a conclusion, decision, or characterization of something or someone. Most of us have seen pitched battles resembling ping-pong, lobbing “Yes, it is.” and “No it isn’t” back and forth, which gets nowhere. One of the best things to move into the productive phase is for one participant to ask the other, “How did you arrive at that conclusion ?” or decision or characterization. First this represents, hopefully honestly, that one person is ready to listen to and understand the other. The person who was asked can outline the facts, perceptions and logic used, and hopefully will ask, or at least listen to, the other person list and explain the facts, perceptions and logic he used to reach a different position. I like the expression Brits use for resolving a disagreement or problem – “sorting it out” - because that is exactly what you’re doing. If both parties have entered the discussion sincerely and can granulate these elements, hopefully, a key turning point can be isolated for one or the other, which can then be focused on for discussion or can be tested or proven as a follow-up effort. Sometimes this requires finding provable evidence to prove or rebut a fact one or the other person was committed to, settling on the definitions for words, highlighting an abstraction of logic separated from the current people or objects being discussed, or a simple illumination of an idea or observation the other person had not perceived. It can require a few cycles as the different parts are explored sometimes in multiple layers.

Doing this is not necessarily easily, especially the first few times it is attempted but, when both parties do this genuinely, some progress is most likely to be achieved. Unfortunately, there are

some things that can derail the process. The first is that one party or the other may not recognize the difference between these cognitive products with which we start the disagreement – a conclusion, decision, or characterization – and the fundamentals which should be provable or at least demonstrable. Perhaps an example of this would be helpful and I’ll draw on a great well spring of disagreement – FOOTBALL. Person 1: “The New England Patriots are the best football team ever”. Person 2 “No, it’s the Green Bay Packers”. Person 1: “How did you decide that ?”. So then we start through a litany of current season and cumulative records and standings; number of Hall of Famers; head-to-head win/loss record; counts of play-off games and play-off win/loss, and on and on. The discussion might use the next technique in discussing the relative weight that each of these supporting facts is given in each person’s determination of “the greatest”, and that is always a good thing since the objective is not to win or lose the disagreement but to reach mutual understanding. And sometimes it is not any of the statistics that are the strongest part of someone’s position but the natural bias of where the person lives. The Cleveland Browns may have had horrible statistics for decades but to millions of people they are still the “home town” team, worthy of cheering for. Contrary to the perspectives of some, biases, like the home town thing or others, are not to be eradicated – and probably cannot – but just understood. So, even when fairly and sincerely carried out, disagreements, especially like this with football, rarely end with one side conceding that the other was right.

Getting back to the main line of this, there are other potential barriers to this productive end. The biggest or worst is when one participant or the other simply refuses to try to use techniques like these, or any others, to honestly examine the elements upon which their decisions, conclusions and characterizations are based and seek to listen, learn and understand. Whether from a big ego, fear of being disenfranchised of a perspective that

*Continued on page 5*

## From the South

Brethren,

This past Tuesday was quite a special day. On top of Hill City Lodge having our Stated Meeting, it was also our day to build the Fantastic Teeth kits, Mardi Gras, Primary Election Day in Texas, and the date for the President's State of the Union address to Congress and the Nation. I wanted to share something special about that day. I served as an Alternate Election Judge at a polling place very close to the Lodge. It was a long working day, from 6:00 AM until 8:30 PM, but was exciting, very interesting and felt very fulfilling.

I got to see the complete inside story on how voting is conducted and the many safeguards in place for this, one of the most important activities of our society. All of the poll workers, representing both major Parties, were not simply cordial but clearly showed the shared good experience and the fun we had working together. Despite several speculations about elections in general that have been floating around, I can state objective and with first-hand knowledge that both the procedures and technology used in Travis County polling places were very reliable and accountable.

Our particular location was the Hillel Foundation on San Antonio St.. I had not realized that in that area of about six square blocks are also centers and administrative offices for organizations of the Catholic Church, Latter Day Saints (Mormons), Lutherans, Muslims, Episcopalians and others faiths and denominations. Beyond that, the location is obviously on campus so the voters we saw included some originally from many states and quite a few naturalized citizens from foreign countries. Everyone we saw throughout the day was happy and excited and very much grateful. We thanked everyone who came in to vote and almost all of them thanked us for our volunteering to work the election.

So my take away from that aspect of the busy day was a gratifying and fulfilling experience to see everyone coming together in harmony, cooperation and purposefulness to exercise our most American of freedoms.

Our degree team practices have been getting much better as we are sharing the fraternal work and having fun. WM Garrett did a great thing by declaring that we assemble an "under 40" degree team. While we

## From the South (continued)

cannot hold to that every time, we are getting a lot of newer Brothers into roles in the teams for each degree and rotating around to gain depth in our "bench" so to speak. It is always a great experience and I strongly urge any Brother who is interested in this important part of Lodge service to contact SD Nate Stilwell to get worked into the line-up.

One further note about a different topic. By the time you read this, the Hill City Lodge Light newsletters will be available for download from the website. Everyone who wishes can visit <http://hillcitylodge.org> and look under About for the link to the newsletters going back to at least some months in 2014. We will continue to find and upload others as we can.

Fraternally,  
Don Jarrell  
Junior Warden, Hill City 456

## Masonic Education (continued)

is important to him, or a sense of commitment to a certain outcome, some mistakenly elevate what is an end-point of their thinking to the status of an unassailable basic fact. When one person in the discussion of a disagreement sees that in the other person, the productive opportunity is lost and the game is over. That person is no longer just a participant in a disagreement but has become a disagreeable person. As we heard in the beginning, as many have shared, everyone has the right to disagree but no one has the right to be disagreeable. Still, when that is the case, it is time, as a certain Hill City Lodge Past Master has often said, "It's time to be the bigger man and walk away."

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

Alfred Williams Boulter	Myron J. Fischer	Russell Monroe Hur	Khalil H. Sakakini
Vernon Lee Bracewell, Jr.	Milton E. Francis	George Albert Pipes	Calvin Stokes Story, Jr.
Bradley Cooper Cole	Richard Lee Garrett	Isadore Reichek	Raymond Lum Toungate, II
Tommy Paul Cox	William Donn Haffelder	Robert Lehman Roberts, Jr.	Alfred Munoz Vasquez
David Edward Ferguson	George C. Holland, Jr	Michael William Roy	Weldon L. Welch

### Important Announcement Regarding COVID-19

We have fully reinstated meals. Austin is now at level 2 Covid stage.

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.**