

The HILL CITY LIGHT

December 2017

2016 - 2017 Lodge Officers

W. M.	Oscar Orum, P.M.
S. W.	Bob Wheelless, P.M.
J. W.	Aaron Evans
Treasurer	Kent Kinkade, P.M.
Secretary	Philippe Dewailly, P.M.
Chaplain	Chuck Stewart, P.M.
S. D.	Luke Michels
J. D.	Richard Garrett
J. S.	Elan Mendoza
Marshal	Hunt Armistead
M. C.	Doug Freyburger, P.M.
Tiler	Dennis Hill, P.M.

Hill City No. 456 A.F. & A.M.

Chartered June 10th, 1876

Austin Scottish Rite Theater & Museum
18th St. at Lavaca St., Austin, Texas

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1876  2017

Stated Meeting: First Tuesday at 7:30 pm.
Dinner at 6:30 pm.

Called Meetings: Other Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.
Dinner at 6:30 pm.

Work Schedule

From the East

December 2017

December 5	Stated Meeting Food Committee
December 12	Past Master / Christmas Dinner Family Night
December 19	Work Night or Degree
December 26	Dark for Christmas

January 2018

January 2	Stated Meeting Food Committee
January 9	Ritual Practice
January 16	Work Night or Degree
January 23	Certificate Practice
January 30	Work Night or Degree

February 2018

February 6	Stated Meeting Food Committee
February 13	Sweetheart Dinner Family Night
February 20	Ritual Practice
February 27	Certificate Practice

A Mason's Christmas

I don't believe in a Christmas celebration by the lodge. I don't think we ought to have one, or be asked to contribute to one or in any way, engage in Christmas festivities."

The Junior Mason spoke emphatically and with marked disapproval of the little ante-room group nearby, making happy plans for Yule-tide.

"That's very interesting," commented the Old Past Master. "I like to hear points of view unfamiliar to me. Would you mind telling me why?"

"Of course not. It's very simple. Masonry is not Christian. King Solomon, of course, wasn't a Christian, nor were either of the Hiram's. Masonry admits to her ranks any good man of any faith; Christian, Jewish, Mohammedan, Buddhist... it makes no difference, so he has a faith. Then, as a lodge, we celebrate a holiday belonging on one faith. Now I personally am a Christian, and of course I celebrate Christmas. But my brother across the way is a Jew, who does not recognize Christianity. To ask him to spend his proportion of Lodge funds in celebrating the birth of a Leader in Whom he does not believe would be exactly like asking me to celebrate, with my proportion of Lodge money, the birth of Confucius. Of course, I have only one vote and the majority rules but, when

From the East (continued)

it comes to personal contributions to a Masonic Christmas celebration, my hands will never come out of my pockets.”

He shoved them deeper in as he spoke to emphasize his intention not to spend.

“Hm!” answered the Old Past Master. “So you think your Jewish brother across the way doesn’t recognize Christianity? Don’t you mean he doesn’t recognize Christ as the Son of God? Wait a minute... Oh, Brother Samuels.” The Old Past Master called across the ante-room. “Here a minute, will you?”

The Jewish brother rose and came forward.

“I just wanted to ask you if you are in favor or against the Lodge Christmas celebration?” said the Old Past Master.

“Me? I am in favor of it, of course, both for the lodge appropriation and the individual contribution.”

“Thank you,” nodded the Old Past Master. Then, as the Jewish brother went back to his seat, he turned to the Junior Mason.”

“You see, my son, our Jewish friend is not narrow. He does not believe in Christ as the Redeemer, but he recognizes that he lives in a country largely Christian, and belongs to a Lodge largely Christian. To him, the Christmas celebration is no one of His birth but of the spirit of joyousness and love which we mean when we sing, at Christmas time ‘Peace on earth, good will towards men!’ If you argue that ‘peace’ is only a Christian word, he might even quote to you the words of

Continued on page 4

From the West

We held our December Stated Meeting on the 5th; I want to thank our Steward for the wonderful Italian meal he prepared. We had two masons from Mason, Texas visit with us during the meeting, James Morris and Spider Johnson. Some of you might remember that Spider was a member of our lodge back in the 1980s. In fact he created the two columns that stand on either side of the stage in the Scottish Rite Theater. When you get chance, examine them up close and you will see an excellent example of the art of marquetry. Marquetry is inlaid work of small pieces of wood or other material used for decoration.

The Worshipful Master, Oscar Orum thanked our Junior Warden, Aaron Evans for the time and effort he put into finding our lodge a new freezer, He also recognized Treasurer, Kent Kinkade, the chairman of the blood bank committee for his steadfast dedication to keeping the lodge in a position that allows us to donate blood to our members in need or anyone else that request help.

Our Marshal, Doug Freyburger, gave a most interesting talk about the two pillars in masonry. He felt they would be a good topic since we had Brother Johnson with us at the meeting. He noted that the two spherical globes on the top of the Masonic Pillars were in actuality two bowls or baths filled with a molten sea. Look in 1st Kings starting in Chapter 7:15 for the complete story on the pillars.

By the time you read this Austin has had its first snow in a long while and we will have eaten our Past Masters Christmas dinner. Let’s take time to thank our past masters. They provide so much aid and support to the lodge.

We have all heard the quote from President Franklin Roosevelt “that we would never forget December 7, 1941 as a date that would live in infamy”. Twenty-four thousand service men lost their lives that day as a result of the Japanese attack. Today there are about 2000 survivors, most in their late eighties or nineties.

Our next stated meeting is on January 2nd 2018. We hope to see you there and have a safe and merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Bob Wheelless, P.M.
Senior Warden, Hill City 456

December 2017 Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Chatises
8. Impede, with "down"
11. "20/20" network
14. Shinleaf
17. Montessory
18. Cabernet, e.g.
19. "Acid"
20. Minimal
21. "Little piggies"
23. A pint, maybe
24. Copper
25. Catch a glimpse of
27. High degree
28. "___ say!"
31. Symbol of hotness
34. "Flying Down to ___"
35. Affirmative vote
36. Charlotte-to-Raleigh dir.
37. Accident
40. Discouraging words
41. Astern
42. Caribbean, e.g.
43. "Who ___?"
45. Chop (off)
46. A.T.M. need
47. The Sails constellation
48. "I had no ___!"
50. When it's broken, that's good
51. "___ does it!"
55. "He's ___ nowhere man" (Beatles lyric)
57. Campaigner, for short
58. "Give it ___!"
59. Angstroms
64. Name
65. ___ gestae
66. "___ calls?"
67. lowfat

Down

1. Argus-eyed
2. Idiot box
3. Avoid
4. Big Apple inits.
5. ___ few rounds
6. Lizard, old-style
7. corking
8. Curve
9. Egg cells
10. Mad
11. Dogs
12. "All ___ are off!"
13. Dermatologist's concern
15. Cheat, slangily
16. Bank claim
22. Undertake, with "out"
23. Congenital absence
24. Broth
26. Blubber
27. Pandowdy, e.g.
29. Capital of Rhône
30. "___ we forget"
31. Clap
32. Data
33. Dishes
34. Biochemistry abbr.
38. Animal house
39. Costa del ___
44. "Dig in!"
46. Cesta
47. Gorge
49. "Fudge!"
50. Techschool
52. Bigot
53. Bond, for one
54. Law school class
55. Gulf V.I.P.
56. Carnival attraction
57. Compassion
60. Time div.
61. 1969 Peace Prize grp.
62. Computer storage unit, informally
63. Australian runner

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64															
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November 2017 Puzzle Solution

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

From the East (continued)

From the South

who said 'I bring you not Peace, but a Sword.'

“Now let me explain something to you. The Jew has just as much right to refuse to recognize Christ as the Son of God as you have to refuse to consider Mohammed the Prophet the followers of Allah say he is. But, as an educated man, you must know that Mohammed was a good man, a devout leader, a wise teacher. As an educated man, you admit that the religion founded by Buddha has much in it that is good, and you admit that Confucius was a wise and just leader. Were you in the land where the birthdays of any of these were celebrated, would you refuse your part in the people’s joy in their Leader simply because you followed another? I trust not. Well, neither do our Jewish brethren or our Mohammedan brethren desire to be left out of our celebration. They may not believe in the Divinity of Him we, as Christians, follow but, if they are good men and good Masons... and they wouldn’t be here if they were not... they are perfectly willing to admit that the religion we follow is as good for us as theirs is for them, and to join with us in celebrating the day which is to us the glad day of the year.”

“Believe me, boy, Christmas doesn’t mean Christ’s birthday to many a man who calls himself Christian. It is not because of joy that He is born that many a good man celebrates Christmas. It is because his neighbor celebrates it, because it is a time of joy for little ones, because it is a day when he can express his thanks to his God that he is allowed to have a wife and family and children and friends and a lodge, because of that very ‘peace on earth’ spirit which is no more the property of the Gentile than the Jew, the Chinese or the Mohammedan.”

“It is in such a spirit that Masons can join, all, in celebrating Christmas. It is on the Masonic side of the tree we dance, not the Christian side. When this Lodge erects its Christmas tree in the basement and throws it open to the little ones of the poor of this town, you will find children of all kinds there; black, white, yellow, and brown, Jew and Gentile, Christian and Mohammedan. And you will find a Jew at the door, and among the biggest subscriptions will be those from some Jewish brethren, and there is a Jew who rents cars for a living who will supply us with a

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Brethren,

I'd like to tell a brief story about a man named Baruch who was not a Mason but had a considerable impact on Masonry.

Part of what makes his story fascinating is he grew up in a less religiously tolerant age, for he was expelled from the Jewish community of Amsterdam in which he was raised; a group which had found refuge in the Netherlands after fleeing the Spanish-Portuguese Inquisition.

This was an age when in much of Europe, believing the wrong faith was a matter of life or death. In fact, the Jews of the Iberian Peninsula, after forcible conversion to Christianity, remained under suspicion by the Inquisitors for generations. It was said they had the rejection of Christ in their very blood. Baruch was born after his community had fled to the relative tolerance of the Dutch and reconverted to Judaism.

This man's name was Baruch Spinoza, and his principal works were on Thomas Jefferson's bookshelves.

The crime for which he was banished by Amsterdammer Jews was his claim that no person, nor group, nor religion, could claim infallible knowledge of God's will.

Philosophers that came afterward are called post-Spinozian because his simple observation kicked off a revolution in enlightenment thinking. If no priesthood holds a monopoly on interpreting God, then the divine right of Kings is suspect. Democracy, it therefore seemed, must be the only system of government that can preserve the right of individuals to come to their own understanding of the divine.

Today, as the world grapples with rising religious intolerance, we can take some refuge that neither Inquisition nor community intolerance can ever stop the progress of man's inalienable right to decide for himself the nature of God.

Aaron Evans
Junior Warden, Hill City 456

dozen free to take baskets to those who cannot come. And when the Jewish Orphan Asylum has its Fair, in the Spring, you will find many a Christian Mason attending to spend his money to help along the cause dear to his Jewish brethren, never remembering that they are of a different faith. That, my son, is Masonry.”

“For Charity is neither Christian nor Jewish, nor Chinese nor Buddhistic. And celebrations which create joy I little hearts and feed the hungry and make the poor think that Masons do not forget the lessons taught in Lodge, are not Christian alone, though they be held at Christmas, and are not for Christians alone, though the celebration be in His honor. Recall the ritual: ‘By the exercise of brotherly love we are taught to regard the whole human species as one family, the high and low, the rich and poor, who, as created by one Almighty Parent, and inhabitants of the same planet, are to aid, support, and protect each other.’

“It is with this thought that we, as Masons, celebrate Christmas, to bring joy to our brethren and their little ones, and truly observe the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God, whether we be Jew or Gentile, Mohammedan or Buddhist.”

The Old Past Master ceased and stood musing, his old eyes looking back along a long line of Lodge Christmas trees about which eager little faces danced. Then he turned to the Junior Mason.

“Well,” he said, smiling, “Do you understand?”

“I thank you for my Christmas present,” came the answer.”

“Please tell me to which brother I should make my Christmas contribution.”

Oscar Orum, P.M.
Worshipful Master, Hill City 456



Brethren,

This year's Veteran's Day parade saw twice as much participation as last year. There were over a dozen of us from University and Hill City lodges marching in our aprons. There were over a dozen Shriners following us in a parade unit riding gasoline powered trikes behind us. In front of us was a color guard by the York Rite Commandery. We had a pickup truck for those who weren't up to marching.

It's not often we get to march in public in our aprons. This is one of the few opportunities this year. It's a rare treat to be in an apron march approved by the Grand Master. Please consider marching with us next year.

We started on the Congress Street bridge, famous for its bat colony. Let's say that motivated us to move along once the parade started. Whew.

Once we arrived at the mall south of the Capital Building the guys from University Lodge presented a wreath at the memorial site. There was a line of organizations doing so.

The Veterans Day festivities at the Capital had a long list of events. The one I found the most impressive was the Ambassador from France presenting the Legion of Honor to a number of WW2 veterans who had seen combat in France in WW2. It's the highest civilian medal awarded by the country of France.

I hope to see you with us next year. Let's fill up the truck with Brothers riding and crowd the street with Brothers marching.

Fraternal regards,
Doug Freyburger PM Master of Ceremonies

**HILL CITY LODGE No. 456, A.F. & A.M.
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Food Committee for February 6th Stated Meeting

Stanley Chester Anderson	Clarence Joe Haney	Paul Melvin McCarty, Jr.	Michael Blake Olson
Donald D. Beach	John Ross Hepburn	B. Rex Melton	William Oscar Orum
Roberto Salinas Cantu	Huie H. Lamb, Jr.	Chad Wright Miller	Lavan Riley Parker, Jr.
Jesse Charles Copeland	Robert Leon Ligon, Jr.	Richard Scott Miller	Bill R Pierce
Kenneth Wayne Evans	Charles Edward Maddox	Kenneth Christian Nicolas	

Food Committee Meeting is on Tuesday, January 2nd at 6 pm.

Duties of the food committee: We don't place many demands on our food committee members. The only business at the food committee meeting is to set the menu for the coming stated meeting. Then, on the afternoon of the stated meeting, your presence is earnestly solicited. Help cook if willing and able, or just sit in the kitchen and keep the Stewards company – it gives our future Masters the opportunity to get to know you.

A \$20 donation is requested from the food committee members at the food committee meeting unless you included your food committee donation with your Lodge dues in December.