



Kendall Masonic Lodge No. 897 AF & AM
897 East Blanco Road • Boerne, Texas 78006

April 2017



FROM THE EAST

**Greetings Brethren,
Why Attend Lodge?**

Those who attend Lodge get more out of Freemasonry than those who don't. That's an axiom; everyone knows it. So why don't more attend or attend more often? Do they think they've received most of what Lodge can offer, and the extra value isn't worth the extra time? But if those who do attend more do believe the extra is worth the time, what is that extra? What are they getting that others aren't? And just how much extra value does it have?

To find out, there's no point asking those who don't attend often. How could they possibly know? True, you can get a lot out of reading about Freemasonry. You can buy books, subscriptions, memberships in research lodges, an Internet connection, and stay home and read. But does all the light available from Freemasonry shine full brightly through its words alone? Ask those who attend Lodge often. They say no.....

Have I received all the light Freemasonry has to offer? If not, is that because Freemasonry doesn't really offer as much as it claims; as much as I expected when I joined? Or is it because I haven't worked with it enough, or haven't given it full opportunity to work with me.

If some Brethren say they get more out of Freemasonry than I think I do, can I get that extra value without attending more often?

Ask yourself those questions, sincerely. Some, for certain, you won't be able to answer without attending Lodge—and that's one of the most important answers!

Seek more answers. Seek them in the Lodge Room. The great aim of our institution is to enable you to discover how to find them, to make you so much happier you'll want to share that happiness with others, and thus to enrich your journey through life and theirs.

George I. H. Mason, 1998

1. Your opinion is important

Lodge leadership genuinely wants to hear your ideas and feedback. Fraternal engagement is a vital part of the Lodge. Effective fraternal engagement is about recognizing that involving lodge members is no longer



about information dissemination and telling the members what is being done, but is a two-way information sharing tool. Regardless of your qualifications, everyone knows what they like and dislike, has an opinion about what needs to be done and where priorities should lay.

2. More perspectives

Lodge activities are often heavily one-sided, the same five or six members making decisions to ensure the activities are successful. Without other perspectives being proposed, decision makers might not make the best decision for the Lodge as a whole simply because of a minority of voices. If your opinion differs to the more popular opinions, The committee members want to hear from you so they get a balanced understanding of your views. Additional perspectives expand options and enhance the value of the ultimate decision. The more views gathered in the process of making a decision, the more likely the outcome will be successful.

3. New information

Lodge leadership recognizes that the input of additional information for the events that it's planning, have unique knowledge in the area that they themselves often do not have. Because of this knowledge, Lodge members can provide new information on an event or idea that has yet to be approved. More involvement brings more information to the decision, methods or ideas that have not previously been considered. More information can make the difference between a good and poor decision.

4. Ownership

When the more members are involved in a project, they have ownership of it and the decision-making process, which is key to a successful project outcome, even if not all individuals necessarily agree with the outcome.

5. It feels good

When a project is finalized and you can see the fruits of your labor, it feels good knowing that you were involved in something that benefits the Lodge.

6. How to make changes?

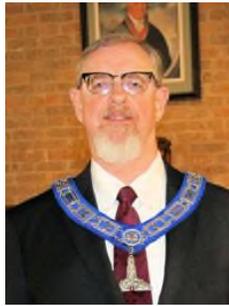
Attend Lodge meetings, volunteer to help a committee in an area that peaks your interest. Most Monday evenings, Saturday and Wednesday mornings someone is at the Lodge. If you see vehicles in the parking lot, pull in and find out what is happening.

**Clarence Smith
Worshipful Master**



FROM THE WEST

THE TWENTY-FOUR-INCH GAUGE



“The twenty-four-inch gauge is an instrument made use of by operative Masons to measure and lay out their work. But we, as Free and Accepted Masons, are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of dividing our time. It being divided into twenty-four equal parts, is emblematical of the twenty-four hours of the day; which we are taught to divide into three parts, whereby we find a portion for the service of God and a distressed worthy brother; a portion for our usual vocations, and a portion for refreshment and sleep.” (GLoTX Monitor, pp 18-19)

This is the explanation of the twenty-four-inch gauge that we’ve all heard, that we’ve all learned, that we’ve all given back to the lodge when required of us. But is this all the twenty-four-inch gauge is? I think it’s more than just a measuring stick that represents the hours of the day. It represents so much more. It represents time itself, and we would be remiss to disregard its importance.

In the twenty-four-inch gauge we find not just a tool to divide our days, but also a reminder that for all men, time is finite. Like the twenty-four-inch gauge, our time on this earth had a beginning and it will have an end. The important thing for us is what we do with the time we have between those ends. Early on, we felt that we had forever, that we had, “all the time in the world.” As that time passes, however, we begin to see that “all the time in the world” really isn’t that long after all.

In the lecture, do we find the gauge divided into some arbitrary number of parts? No, it is divided into exactly twenty-four parts. Not a couple dozen parts with a little left over. Not some big parts and some little parts and some medium sized parts, but twenty-four equal parts. For me, this means that I should make the very best use of the time that I have, not just each day, but each week, month,

year, etc., until I too lay down my working tools.

The gauge is an instrument for measuring and laying out work. We can use it to gauge how well we lay out our own time and lives. Do we measure twice before we cut, or do we just eyeball things and hope that they’ll be “close enough?” Do we measure out too little or too much of the time we have for our God? Our distressed brethren? Our families? Ourselves?

Carry your twenty-four-inch gauge with you always in your heart and mind, and use it liberally to measure and lay out the work of your life. Let it not gather dust and rust in your memory, but use it until the numbers are rubbed off and the wood is as smooth as silk. By close attention to its use, I think that you’ll find that you’ve got just enough time for the work at hand.

**Dow Mathis
Senior Wardern**

<i>April Birthdays</i>	
Brother	Date
Duane J. Garza	4/2
Terry J. Reagan	4/7
Steven D. Fisk	4/8
Roland L. Peckne	4/8
Nelson R. Davis Jr.	4/10
Roger W. Hall	4/10
Kenneth O. Booth	4/11
Kenneth L. Fitzpatrick	4/14
Herbert A. Rittimann Jr.	4/15
Eddie R. Perez	4/16
Brent W. Berry	4/18
Thomas B. Johnson	4/18
Don E. Herald	4/24
Samuel E. Offer	4/26
Alvis R. Mathison	4/29



FROM THE SOUTH



Brethren,

This month we will be breaking from our usually scheduled program to bring you an article written by Kristine Wilson-Slack, who wrote an article in The Masonic Philosophical Society titled “Ego and the Freemason”. I highly encourage the Brethren who have followed my articles thus far, during this Masonic year, to read the article and relate the discussion and understanding of Ego, to that of the practice of the universal moral virtues.

“I have to say, I love my Lodge’s Study Groups. They bring up all kinds of interesting subjects in relation to all aspects of life, and more particularly, life as a Freemason. We recently discussed how Ego affects our lives, and what our particular work is as Freemasons in regards to the Ego. These study sessions give me an opportunity to explore not only my own experiences with the topic but also what I think about it objectively—form an opinion, as well as be able to articulate that opinion. Since we all have an ego, it’s easy to have experiences with it. It’s harder to form objective opinions. After all, isn’t the ego involved in forming those opinions?”

One of my first college classes as a fresh-faced 18 year old, was Psychology 101. This was predated by Western Philosophy, both having an extremely big pull for me. These were classes that my high school did not offer, a whole new world of living that was and still is exciting. We learned all about Freud and Jung’s theories of the Ego, amongst other things, but nothing really “stuck” with me after that class. I never really went back and explored ego until it came up so often in religious and metaphysical studies years later. I identified most closely with Jung’s writings and I often go back to read up on him when questions of psyche were, and are, involved.

In his writing about ego, “One of Jung’s central concepts is individuation, his term for a process of personal development that involves establishing a connection between the ego and the self. The ego is the center of consciousness; the self is the center of the total psyche, including both the conscious and the unconscious.” The reference goes on to say, “For Jung, there is constant interplay between the two. They are not separate but are two aspects

of a single system. Individuation is the process of developing wholeness by integrating all the various parts of the psyche.” The most interesting part of that statement is the fact that the ego and the self are different entities that must be integrated. How did they get dis-integrated in the first place? How did something that was whole become separate, linked, and our goal is to try to integrate the two? Is it birth that separated them? If so, what are we before? And is that the state we are trying to achieve? It makes my head spin to think that we might have been integrated in the womb (or before?) and dis-integrated at birth, and we spend our whole lives working toward integration. What happens, then, if you integrate earlier than dying? Is that perhaps our goal? Do we evolve as a species if that happens?

Hurts your head, right? Well, it does mine.

I imagine a binary star system, two bright points of light circling each other, embracing each other as only two fiery systems of gas and elementals can – never touching and continually burning each other. Love that consumes and renews itself. Yes, that must be the ego and the self, in Jung’s world.

If the ego and the self are inseparable, then it seems to me we have to learn to live with both, separate and equal parts, calling and screaming at one another all the time. How do we reconcile? Do we even try? Since we cannot unequivocally say where the mind resides, perhaps these two things are part of the overarching mind that controls us. And, logic gives us, that if as above, so below is representative, does that Divine mind have a self and ego, too? Does the Divine even have a mind? Maybe that’s a weird question, but maybe not. I do know that Freemasonry simultaneously chooses to subdue our egos and find our “self.” Perhaps one of the binary stars must be dominant, and in that dominance is where we find the traits of a person—arrogance or humility, graciousness or rudeness. In the balance between the stars, we find the nature of the gasses they put off. It is difficult to be of service to your fellow Masons and at the same time be immodest and arrogant. There’s little room for others when you fill the room with your ego. Perhaps that is also why we learn to subdue passions—the passions of the ego—and develop the passions of the self—the connection to the divine. One star must dim to have the other shine. The Roche Lobe of Personality. I kinda like it.

In the past, I wondered why we, as Freemasons,

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pin medals on our chests and put numbers at the end of our names, or added titles when we attain certain Masonic degrees. I think this is another of those tests—do we do it for prestige? Do we wear our outward jewels as a “brag rag,” as I heard one brother call it long ago? Or do we wear them to honor the Work we’ve completed and bring to the gathering? Do we shine our ego brightly to make our “self” fade? Intent is everything and nothing; we must be clear about what the outward trappings mean in order to not fall into the trap itself, yes? Is one degree better than another? What have we really attained? I think about these things often. I do my best to remember the duty and cautiously regard the glitter. It seems to stick to everything. Does Masonry feed the ego? Or help one subdue it? Maybe it’s an ongoing dialogue rather than a simple, solitary question.”

I hope you enjoyed the good read above, and with some depth of understanding, are able to unite the two: the practice of universal moral virtues with understanding of the Ego and “self”.

Join us next month Brethren for a wonderful meal carefully crafted by our Stewards followed by our usual business meeting.

Matt Archilla
Junior Wardern

April Service Anniversary

Brother	Years MM
Alfred G. Gray	63
William H. Mayo	59
Gerald C. Shows	48
Jimmy I. Miller	45
Donald F. Hoose	43
Earl L. Noah	36
Gordon S. Waldeck	35
Gavin D. Waldeck	35
William R. Kendrick Jr.	31
Jerry D. Tilley	30
Arthur B. Williams	25
Roy L. Dwyer	22
Brian H. Rittimann	22
Koyle D. Knappe	13
Sermet D. Agolli	8
Gregory B. Tom	8
Dow C. Mathis	7
Randall J. Stahl	5
Austin L. Roberts III	4
Eddie R. Perez	2

Building Preservation March Donations

<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Memory/Honor of</u>
Billy Lemmons Jr.	Bro. Billy Lemmons Sr.
Bob Easterling	The Easterling Family
Clarence Smith	Kendall 897



Worshipful Master Clarence Smith & Brothers
 Serve Kendall Lodge Sweethearts



Senior Deacon David Vaughan Introduces
 Speaker at February Sweethearts Dinner



SECRETARY'S CORNER



Brethren...

Can you believe that this Masonic Year is three quarters over. It's gone so fast that it's hard to believe. However, if you not sure, ask the Worshipful Master what he thinks. He'll normally tell you that if seems to him it just started... and it's over. Here are some of the things going on this month.

April may be a month of showers, but keep these events dry on your calendar:



First day of April is the Kendall Lodge Fish Fry. Brother Dale Curry and the Kendall Brethren are back again this year to fry up all of those fish, French Fries, and hushpuppies. We pair that with coleslaw, desserts, and tea or coffee to make a great meal. What more could you want for **\$10.00**. We start at **11:00 AM and go until 2:00 PM** on Saturday morning or April Fool's Day, but no fooling here. We'll also have the South Texas Bloodmobile at the event.



Then on **Saturday, April 8th** Kendall Lodge will host the **Grand Lodge of Texas Committee on Work's Forum and Certificate Exams** with newly elected **Committee on Work member Keith Richards** overseeing the work. It will run from 9:00 AM to about 11:30 AM for the Forum and after a lunch break we'll begin the certificate exams for A, B, and C certificates. So come for one or both.



Then on **April 10th at 7:00 PM** Kendall Lodge will honor **Mr. Patrick Heath** with our **Community Builder Award for 2016-2017**. Brethren...come and be there when we present this award to an individual who has done so much for Boerne. We don't need empty seats. We need our officers and members to make this night memorable for our recipient.



Then **Monday, April 17th** will be our **April Stated Meeting** with Dinner starting at 6:30 PM, Food and Fellowship lasting until 7:20 PM or so, and our Stated Meeting starting at 7:30 PM. Boerne Chapter of the Eastern Star did a great job on their March "Honor the Masons" Night and we certainly

appreciated the great dinner. This month Billy and Jimmie will be back in the kitchen. Remember that some of our wives stay in the Banquet Room during the meeting so bring your wife and/or other family members and come to the dinner and meeting.



We're still not thru... as on **Saturday, April 22nd, at 4:00 PM** we will conduct our second **Master Mason's degree** in two months. Come and help us put on this degree for a deserving Fellowcraft!

PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR:

Saturday, May 27th, will be the **Grand Master of Masons' in Texas's Open House** in all Texas Masonic Lodges. It will start at **10 AM and run at least through 2 PM**. This will be a good time to look at the different fraternal bodies using our Masonic Lodge. So plan on coming to the lodge and seeing what's going on. There will be members of Eastern Star, Commandery, Scottish Rite, DeMolay, and Shrine who can talk about their different areas of Masonic affiliation. Also this is a great time to bring someone by who you think might make a good Mason.

Brethren Remember: It is important to get together and socialize with the Brethren from time to time and rekindle that fuel that first brought you to Masonry in the first place.

Gary L. Bausell

Secretary
April 2017

**Kendall Masonic Lodge No. 897
Death**

Gene Clifford Worthington

Almighty Father! Into Thy hands we commend the soul of our beloved Brother.

