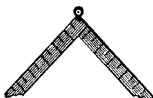




May 2017

From the East



Greeting Brethren,

April has been a busy month Master Mason Degrees, Fellow Craft Education, Community Builder Award and Golden Trowel, one sixty-five-year award and two fifty year awards. This year the recipient of the Golden Trowel is Jim Davies. A truly worthy Brother. If you did not attend these events you missed some really great speakers.

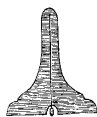
Our upcoming events in May are Master Mason Education Night date TBD, Scholarship awards, Lamar Medal presentation and of course our open house and Stated Meeting. I look forward to seeing all of you there.



members. As you are no doubt aware, Freemasonry has been declining in numbers since the early 1960's. Understandably, this trend is of concern not only to Grand Lodge but to the local lodges as well. As a matter of fact, the local lodge is impacted much more seriously than Grand Lodge. In our own 51st district, we have seen one of our own seek to join with a larger lodge, reducing our district from six to five lodges.

These reduced numbers are a symptom not only of attrition due to age and death as the greatest generation, and in turn the baby boomers, lay down their working tools and pass into that Celestial Lodge Above, but of a lessening of interest in fraternal organizations in general. How do we address this? How do we attract men of high moral character? How do we make our Gentle Fraternity appealing without violating the age-old prohibition against recruitment? One of the ways is the upcoming open house. This is an opportunity for the curious non-mason to take a peek behind the door. To take a step across the threshold and get a taste of what lies within the door of Masonry. If this is done correctly then the visitor will walk away with answers, but also with new questions. He'll go away wondering, "What's this all about? Those seem like some fine men... men I'd like to be associated with... maybe I should go back and take a second look."

FROM THE WEST



2017 Spring Open House

By order of Grand Master Kirby, all constituent lodges under the Grand Lodge of Texas will hold an open house on Saturday May 27th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The hope is that this will help improve the visibility of the Masonic Fraternity in the community, and make us more appealing to potential



Brethren, this is one way we can improve our visibility in the community. Please think deeply on this, and consider inviting a worthy and well-qualified friend to visit our lodge for the Spring 2017



From the South



Brethren,

Last month we looked at the oldest known religion in the world, that of Hinduism. This month we continue our journey in the East with the ultimate purpose of examining the virtues within what many consider to be the third oldest religion, Buddhism.

There are many similarities between Buddhism and Hinduism, and for good reason. Buddhism spawned from Hinduism in India sometime between the 6th and 4th centuries BCE. Like other religions Buddhism has many “denominations”, but more appropriate terms to describe the branches would be schools or practices. In the San Antonio area there are many of these schools/ practices, and in order to understand enough about the religion to write about it with any degree of accuracy, I attended service and several meditation sessions throughout the month. The service was very different, as would be expected, from my traditional Christian upbringing. To summarize the overall experience I would describe it as both relaxing and unifying, but allow me to briefly expand on the experience before we delve into the virtues.

What I can speak to about the Service that really stood out was the chanting, in fact this probably made up the majority of the Service. The chanting consisted of reciting parts of the Lotus Sutra, one of the most popular scriptures (sutras), in a mantra-like chant at a pretty good speed, which admittedly took a little practice to catch on. Coming from a

Christian background I awaited the delivery of a Sermon or overall message which just never came. Turns out that’s what we did as a group by chanting the Lotus Sutra. Without a sermon, and feeling very dumbfounded having stumbled through my way through reciting of the Sutra, I asked one of the members what the meaning of this practice was, the answer was very interesting to say the least. In a quick summary, the reciting of the Sutras is a way for all members to stay mindful of the teachings and not necessarily through the conscious mind, but through the subconscious mind. This explained the speed at which the Sutras were recited; there was no way a person could discern or contemplate the meaning through the conscious mind, the Sutras were recited way to fast. Another reason for the focus on chanting the Sutras was that it “disengages” the “clinging conscious mind”, that is, it settles our typically busy mind, to focus on the Buddha nature inherently within each person.

Following the Service the members form a circle in the middle of the room for a group discussion, or what Buddhists call a Circle of Hoza (Compassion). The Circle of Hoza allows members to present problems of a personal nature to the group with one catch: the group cannot tell the inquiring member how to solve the problem. In lieu of giving one’s opinion of how to solve the problem, the members, if they can relate, tell stories of similar experiences and the outcomes of such, which in theory allows the inquiring member a chance to formulate their own solution from the experience of others. This may sound similar to how one would offer advice to a friend, but more often than not that advice comes in the form of “let me tell how to solve this” solutions rather than emotionally relating to an experience, and sharing that experience without telling the other how to solve their dilemma.

Last, but certainly not the least, regarding my experience at the Buddhist Temple, was the meditation sessions I attended on a different day other than the day of Service. I am pretty familiar with meditation as I loosely partake in the practice myself. Really the only thing I will say on this subject is that this is something you must experience for yourself, and in my opinion is vital to decreasing the amount of stress while maintaining one's health in the fast-paced society we all live in.

If you made it this far into the paper I assume you are interested in learning about what we set out to learn, the Buddhist Virtues, or what's called The Eightfold Path. Without any further delay, here they are in bullet form for convenience, just in case you wanted to skip the beginning and quickly attend the virtues:

““Right view” means to abandon a self-centered way of looking at things and to have the right view of Buddha.”

““ Right thought” means not to incline toward a self-centered attitude toward things but to think of things rightly, from a higher point of view.” A concept in Buddhism called big mind vs. small mind.

““ Right speech” teaches us to use right words in our daily lives and to avoid the “four evils of the mouth”: lying, double tongue, ill speaking, and improper language.”

““ Right action” means daily conduct in accordance with the precepts of the Buddha. For this purpose it is important to refrain from the “three evils of the body” that hinder right actions: needless killing, stealing, and committing adultery or other sexual misconduct.”

““ Right livelihood” means to gain food, clothing, shelter, and other necessities of life in a right way. This teaches us not to earn our livelihood through work that makes trouble for other or through vocations useless to society...”

““ Right effort” means to never do evil and always do good.”



““ Right mindfulness” means to have a continuous right mind toward both oneself and others.”

““ Right Concentration” means to strive constantly for the True Law and to be fixed and settled in it”. “Do not be agitated by any change of circumstance...” A big concept in Buddhism is to accept change as that is the way of nature.

As it has been with the study and experience of the other religions this year, Buddhism certainly was not shy on delivering a unique experience that words cannot capture.

Please join us next month Brethren for dinner served in the dining hall by our wonderful Stewards, followed by our usual business meeting.

Matthew Archilla

Junior Warden,

Kendall Lodge 897



**Boerne's Past Mayor Patrick Heath Receiving
Lodges's 2017 Community Builder Award
on April 10, 2017**



SECRETARY'S CORNER



Brethren... **this year is really moving fast.** We're already in May and the end of the school year is fast approaching. Graduations are but a few weeks away which mean scholarships will be presented at each of the high schools in Kendall County.

April showers bring May flowers, but don't lose sight of these events on your calendar this month:



On the first day of May we will be honoring our own. **Past Master James E. "Jim" Davies will be presented with our 2016-2017 Golden Trowel Award** at 7:00 PM that evening. And...



If that's not enough for one night, we will then have our **District Deputy Grand Master for the 51st Masonic District, R.:W.: Jim Harrell, present Past Masters Jim Davies and Lewis "Knuckles" Gimbel with their 50 Year Service Awards and Certificates.** Come and congratulate them, as well as their friends and families.



Then **Monday, May 15th** will be our **May 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. 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... on **Saturday, May 27th, at 10:00 AM and lasting through at least 2:00 PM** we will host our **2nd Kendall Masonic Lodge Open**

House to the Community of Boerne! This will be a great time to look at the different fraternal bodies using your 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.** Come meet the Community and talk with them about Masonry.



Has it been awhile since you've been to the lodge? Then come on in and meet the officers and members! We're not going to kick you out.

PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR:

- **Monday, June 5th will be our Annual Past Master's Dinner and Program.** All Past Masters of Kendall Lodge or now affiliated with Kendall Lodge are welcome to attend. You should get a letter during May inviting you to attend at 7:00 PM on the 5th of June, 2017.
- We will be **honoring our scholarship recipients and presenting our Lamar Medals to their recipients** at the June Stated Meeting on **Monday, June 19th.** Don't forget.
- We will also be **voting on the 2017-2018 Officer Corps** at the June Stated Meeting.
- And last, but not least, **we will have our Installation of Officers at 10:00 AM on Saturday, June 24th** at Kendall Lodge. Come and participate.

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
May 2017




<i>May Birthdays</i>	
Brother	Date
Austin L. Roberts III	5/2
Stanley D. Young	5/4
Alfred C. Gray	5/4
Claude Smith Jr.	5/9
Lennox W. Stewart	5/11
Oscar B. Martin	5/12
James R. Schmitz	5/12
Phillip W. Archilla	5/13
Abner L. Kestler Jr.	5/16
Charles W. Lloyd Jr	5/21
Lon J. Jett III	5/23
Lance L. Lira	5/25
Harold E. Sill Jr	5/26
Gabriel H. Garner	5/27
Thomas L. Cottle	5/31

<i>May Service Anniversaries</i>	
Brother	Years MM
Garth W. Gombert	65
Albert M. Racer	58
Don M. Edmondson	53
Lewis F. Gimbel Jr.	50
Jackie D. Elliff	47
James K. Duncan	45
Johnnie R. Wimpy Jr.	44
David L. D'Spain	42
Cecil L. Noah	41
Garil D. Allerkamp	39
Jeffery A. Sill	32
William L. Webb	28
Henry C. Kohl	22
William R. Martin Jr.	18
Herman H. Hass Jr.	15
Scott A. Hardin	11
Clarence M. Smith	11
Carl G. Praesel	9
Robert D. Easterling	9
Cary L. Clark	6

Kendall Masonic Lodge No. 897

Deaths

James Thomas Stewart



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

The dust shall return to the earth as it
was and the spirit shall return unto God
who gave it.

---Ecclesiastes 12:7

