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THE SCOTTISH RITE
REPORTER



Vol. XXXVII Published Quarterly

June/July/August, 2013

Happy Father's Day

JUNE 16th

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The views expressed in the *Reporter* are not necessarily those of the Scottish Rite Bodies.
Submission of articles are welcome and due by the 15th of the month preceding the publication.

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From the Desk of the Personal Representative

Due to the fact that the Long Beach Scottish Rite Bodies is catering all the meals for its functions, the following is in effect and mandatory!

EVERY FUNCTION and for EVENTS WITH A MEAL WILL REQUIRE AN RSVP. There will be **NO EXCEPTIONS**, no RSVP, no meal!

Ill. Tim Cable, 33°

Personal Representative for the Valley of Long Beach 

The Masonic Emblem

Submitted by Keith Renner, 32°

The Masonic emblem, consisting of the square, compass and letter G, was never used to a great extent for commercial purposes. Between the years 1810 thru 1834 "Old Sheffield Razors made by the Lummus Co. were labeled with the Masonic square and compass. The Poindexter and Orr Ranch in the Montana Territory registered the first cattle brand in 1864, made with the square and compass. Koch Industries, which still uses this brand, gave one of their branding irons to the Grand Lodge of Montana.

When the owner of a flour mill in the late 1800's decided to use this emblem on his flour bags, a suit was brought against him. Even though there was no trademark protection as such, the courts decided that the square and compass was so clearly identified with Freemasonry that he was stopped from using it. In 1872, the American Commissioner of Patents ruled that the square and compass emblem could not be used as a trademark or trade name for any commercial purposes.

In England, in the 1880's, there were two companies making ginger beer with the Masonic emblem on its label. Also, one company was putting out "Master Mason Tobacco." In 1992, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania registered the square and compass for their jurisdiction and the Masonic Service Assn. of North America. Since there was no U.S. Masonic national authority, each Grand Lodge would have to register independently.

According to the Grand Lodge of Michigan Constitutions and By-Laws, any non-Mason that uses the names and emblems (square and compass) can be taken to court. Any Freemason who does the same can be charged with un-Masonic criminal charges. The Grand Lodge of Scotland has a copyright in place for the square and compass with the letter G.

Although the state of Idaho has no formal policy on the usage of the square and compass, the brethren are free to use it to promote Freemasonry. In 2001, the Grand Lodge of New Zealand registered the Mason's mark.

So it would seem that there are those who would use the square and compass to promote more than Freemasonry.

Who would have thought it? 

The Fourteenth Degree Ring

(Continued from Page 11)

art of acquiring the technique of the master. The ring reminds him that when the student is ready, the master will appear and that the way to election ever comes through pureness and worthiness.

A translation of the inscription appearing inside the ring should help clarify the meaning of the Fourteenth Degree Ring. Virtus Junxit Mors Separabit. The attainment of manly excellence, capacity, worth, goodness and virtue overcomes and survives death of the body and is forever inseparable from the one who has earned or attained it. In a more general sense, the inscription denotes the immortality of the individual soul and at the same time, denies the worth and permanence of purely material values. In the Fourteenth Degree Ring we see represented symbolically one of the greatest truths of Masonry. 



Notes from the Personal Representative

Ill. Timothy Cable, 33°

Personal Representative of the
Sovereign Grand Inspector General in CA

Brethren,

What has happened to this fraternity which once was renowned for its support of the Grand Master of Masons in the State of California? What has happened to the fraternity which has been a strong supporter of the public school system? What has become of an organization which was founded as an organization that supported its well being and that of those in distress? Over my 45 years within the vineyards of Free Masonry I have seen the good and bad time we've endured. I have enjoyed being a part of an organization that was supposed to be paramount to none in its beliefs and customs. I am ashamed and to tell you the truth quite embarrassed over what I've seen this past month. To start, we held our annual reception for the Grand Master, John F. Lowe and to my complete surprise, NOT ONE sitting master, NOT ONE sitting warden in fact NOT ONE sitting officer of ANY BLUE Lodge found it possible to attend. This was not just a Scottish Rite event this was for the entire Masonic family in the greater Long Beach Area. What is the problem? Is \$20.00 for dinner, entertainment and paying your respect to the leaders of Masonry in California too much to ask? I have long heard the moaning of those who say we do nothing but have stated meetings and degrees, nothing to bring our spouses and families too enjoy. We are trying to open the doors to a variety of types of entertainment and enjoyment of all who live within the bounds of the city. Yet, you choose not to attend. Public Schools have always been a program which was supported by every Blue Lodge in California, at least it used to be, and according to our Grand Master, we still do. I am again embarrassed to say that we held a well publicized appreciation night, which again offered dinner and entertainment and the awarding of appreciation plaques to teachers from four of the 12 high schools. The event brought out the Superintendent and President of the Long Beach Unified School District, two City Council members but only about 50 people which included the honored teachers and their families. Is this how we show our support for Public Schools? In the coming months we have many fun and exciting events booked and they have been so booked in an attempt to bring you back to the most beautiful building in Long Beach. These events include the South Coast Chorale of the play "Into The Woods", The "Rock for Vets and Meals on Wheels" variety show and others. These events are listed in the *Reporter* and on our Website. Then on Friday June 21st, we are hosting a Law Enforcement appreciation night and Isincerely

(Continued on Page 6)

Notes from the Secretary

Hon. Charles Bruggeman, 32°, K.C.C.H.

THE TRAINING of MASONS

MASONS should never consider the acquisition of membership as a primary importance, because by tradition and example, based upon law and usage, one of the very fundamentals of Masonry is the prohibition of solicitation. Masonic influence in a community is not based primarily upon numbers, but rather it is represented by the quality of its leadership. The value of Masonic membership is gauged by the conduct, devotion and contribution of its individual members.

The fundamental function of the Lodge should be the training of its members in the understanding of the truths and ethical values of the fellowship. All of its ceremonies and rituals emphasize the proposition of inculcating the desire to be benevolent men, instructed in the social virtues of human relationship, and imprint indelibly upon the hearts and minds of its members their duty to propagate the ideals of the art.

The success of a Masonic Lodge cannot be guided by the measuring stick of its membership roll or by the accumulation of funds, "for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things he possesseth."

The chief concern of a Masonic Lodge should be the welfare and happiness and the development of its members. The activation of those high principles of human virtue that result in a fellowship so closely entwined together and so firmly dedicated to making alive our ritual and the fundamental virtues that are taught at the altars of our symbolic Lodges.

The value of a Masonic Lodge to the community in which it lives consists entirely in the operative art of Masonry as practiced through the influence of those whom have helped to train into what we recognize as the Masonic character.

The most important function of a Masonic Lodge, therefore, is to train its members and keep them informed in the arts, history, philosophy and symbolism of Masonry and endeavor to make these the shining symbols of a Mason's life and conduct.

It is important to recite again and again the fundamentals of Freemasonry. These truths should be spread abroad so that all who are interested may know of the strong moral and spiritual foundation of the Institution.

That which makes visible these truths to the world, and which commands the respect and attention of the world, is the Master Mason, whose life is in harmony with the principles of Freemasonry.

We cannot expect to receive a just appraisal of Masonry from those who are our avowed enemies; those who oppose every humanitarian ideal and

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The World's Freemasonry

(Continued from Page 16)

to do Extraordinary Things, adds his comment in the same "ights Templar" Magazine, Volume LIX, Number 3, Pages 18 and 19, an excerpt to his "Grand Commander's Message for March, 2013," and is therefore also quoted as follows:

"Sometimes Extraordinary Things come out of Ordinary Acts. You've heard me say it time and again ... do something to make a difference to someone near you. It doesn't have to be a big thing ... small things, such as Random Acts of Kindness, to brighten someone's day, can make an Extraordinary Difference ... In 'The Lord of the Rings' series, as I am sure most of you know, one of the Heroes is a Wizard named Gandalf; and, he is credited as saying something worth Quoting: "Some believe it is only Great Power that can hold Evil in check. But that is not what I have found. I have found that it is small everyday deeds, of Ordinary Folks, that keep the Darkness at Bay. Small Acts of Kindness and Love." *And so ends the Learned Lesson, to me, of these Learned and Insightful Freemasons; one I hope you hear!* 🏰

BROTHERS:

We would like to add some new names to our list of those submitting articles to the *Reporter*. Articles submitted are appreciated and this is an invitation to any brother to send in an article we can use, as well photographs of Masonic events, all articles should be optimistic. Even articles to share, that absent brothers can send on their thoughts and travels are welcomed. Remember this is YOUR news publication.

Submit to: Ben Ponder @

ben.ponder@dslextreme.com, send in word 97 – 2003 format.

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“The World’s Freemasonry”

Submitted by

Robert A. “Rob” Reynolds, P.M., P.C., K.Y.C.H., O.P.C., 32°, K.C.C.H.,
Long Beach, California.

This Article below, has been adopted, and is now quoted, from an Address Brother Thomas W. Jackson made to the “Masonic Society” during their Annual Meeting in 2012; and was originally published in the “Journal Of The Masonic Society,” having the same Title as above, Issue: Number 17. The Article was subsequently and with permission, and published in the “Knights Templar” Magazine, Volume LIX, Number 3, Page 31, March, 2013, as an official publication of the “Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America.” Its Author, Sir Knight Jackson, is a Past Commander of Continental Commandery Number 56, in Chambersberg, Pennsylvania. His credentials are extensive, as he served for Twenty (20) years as the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and now serves as the Executive Secretary of the “World Conference of Masonic Grand Lodges,” having served in this position since its inception in 1998. He is a Past Division Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania, and a Knight Commander of the Temple (K.C.T.) of he “Grand Encampment,” and Resides in Skippensberg, Pennsylvania. The following excerpt, a “Quote,” is as follows:

“We have a tendency to lose sight of the Great Accomplishments for which Freemasonry has been known, and to concentrate our efforts on Issues not paramount to our existence, and of little consequence to Society. This is not a Viable Option. We simply cannot afford to Fail to Understand, the diverse Impacts we have Created, and continue to Create, on Human Society.

For three hundred Years our Past Brothers worked to Develop an Unparalleled Organization, whose Philosophical Purpose, could easily be used as a Template, for World Peace; and, there has probably been no time in our existence, that the Influence of that Philosophy, was any more needed in the World, than it is Today. As we acknowledge and recognize our place in the World, as Freemasons, we must also acknowledge and recognize our Responsibility to the World, as Freemasons.

Our Brothers of the Past, have done their job Exceedingly Well. They have Placed the Fraternity in the forefront, as an Elite Organization, one highly Respected for its Contribution, in Developing World Society. It is now up to us, to continue to Build upon what they Established. The Very Least we must do as Freemasons, to contribute to this Better World, is to Live always as Freemasons; and, “So Mote it ever be.” *Our Seated Grand Commander, Knights Templar of California, “Bad” Ransey, K.Y.G.C.H., P.M., who resides in Los Altos, California; and whose theme this year is “God Calls Ordinary People*
(Continued on Page 17)

A Singing Craft

By Charles Henry Johnson, P.G.M., P.G.S., Grand Lodge of New York
[Originally published in *One Common Purpose* by Charles Henry Johnson
New York, Gettinger Press, 1937]

Ours was a singing Craft back in the early days. All the records to us of those ancient Lodges testify to the important place occupies by group singing. Some of the most impressive passages in our ritual, extolling the virtues of music, bear witness to the reverence in which the art was held by the builders of our Fraternity. Further evidence is to be found in any shelf of old Masonic literature,

We look back with admiration upon those hardy Masonic forebears of ours; upon the devotion that kept them true to Masonic principles in the face of abuse, falsehood, and even physical violence — but always they went on singing, and their singing was of the secrets of the staunchness of their faith. Our Brethren had not yet delegated Lodge music to organists, quartets, and orchestras. Singing was one of the ways of giving expression to their Masonic faith and hope, and they would as soon have delegated attendance at a Lodge to a Brother as to ask someone else to sing for them, “Sing, Brother Sing” is the theme of a modern song: in those days no Brother had to be told to sing; singing was spontaneous in the practice of his Masonry.

The musical equipment of modern Lodges has tended to make us forget that we are a singing Craft. It has robbed us of the one feature of the work of the ritual in which every member may be an active participant; all save our officers and the candidate sit silent on the sidelines and observe the work performed to the accompaniment of music which it should be our privilege to provide, but which we have no part in.

Even within the memory of many of us this was not true in some Lodges. My own entrance into the Lodge-room in which I was brought to light was to the accompaniment of a singing Lodge. It was not an event that merely a class of candidates and the Lodge officers were taking part in, but the entire Lodge, every man. To the initiate becoming a Mason was a solemn and impressive experience, but no less so to the members there on the sidelines, who literally

Musical organizations have their place, and a most important place. I our Masonic life; not a Lodge possessing a quartet, orchestra, or organ should dispense with it for a moment, but - the Lodge whose members delegate to such an organization the business of helping to confer the Degrees is losing an inexhaustible source of inspiration.

The refreshment period in other times was a time for song; too °Ken today song and member alike disappear from the Lodge-room, the member to himself in the ante-room and the song to become another “lost chord.” Brothers in many Lodges can bear witness to the fact that no ante-room activity during refreshment can compare with lusty community singing in the Lodge-room,

(Continued on Page 6)

Notes from the Personal Representative (Continued from Page 3)

hope and I pray that we see you here in support of our Police Department. We cannot continue to offer these events without your support. With the current budget problems being felt by everyone including our Fraternity it would seem to me that combining such annual events like the Grand Master’s reception is a benefit to all. We have continually asked and still ask for YOUR suggestions on what you would like to see, what YOU believe would breath life back into our beloved Fraternity, and yet no suggestions have been brought forth. In closing remember that together we stand, divide we fall and brothers we WILL fall if you as members remain members in name only and you do not support your Lodges and above all Masonry. God Bless. 🙏

THE TRAINING of MASONS (Continued from Page 4)

effort; those who glibly claim infallibility; those who oppose Freemasonry because they oppose all free institutions; those who rule the masses by the iron hand of tyranny; those who perpetuate hate, fear and superstition.

Our families and friends, those who look with favor on the long and honorable history of Freemasonry; those who know something of the vast contribution that Masonry has made to the cause of freedom; those who look for Masonry in the Mason; must never have cause to question the sacred principles and the spiritual goals of Freemasonry.

The non-Mason does not look for an unattainable perfection in the Mason. He does expect to see that which distinguishes the Mason from the rest of the community. The Mason must stand as the proof of Masonic teachings.

Compiled from Oklahoma/Georgia Masonic Messengers 🙏

A Singing Craft (Continued from Page 5)

with the popular ballads of every age and people to draw from.

If I were to make a suggestion to a Master whose members were not coming out to Lodge it would be, “Get your Lodge to singing!” If he complained of lack of Masonic enthusiasm among his members would reply, “Get your Lodge to singing!” To members who asked me how they could contribute most to their Lodge and to Masonry I would say, “Sing!” A Fraternity that marches on its way singing will go ever forward to new achievements and new conquests.

There are great possibilities of inspiration and unification in song. The longshoremen sang as they carried their loads aboard the ships of commerce, the sailors sang their chanteys as they pulled on the ropes, the children of Israel in their exile were comforted by singing the songs of Zion. AS Lodges and individuals we need this inspiration. “Without a song the road will never end.” It is a pity to neglect this inspirational force. Singing in our Lodges, singing in our hearts, will help us individually and collectively over hard spots. 🙏

Movies – Science Fiction

Submitted by Barbara Ashwill

Find and circle all of the Science Fiction movies that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the title of an additional Science Fiction movie.

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JUNE CALENDAR

(Closed on Mondays)

LBSR CATHEDRAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 1st — ONE DAY REUNION CLASS
6:30 A.M.— REGISTRATION/BREAKFAST
7:30 A.M.— CLASSROOM LECTURE
8:45 A.M.— 4°
9:30 A.M.— 14°
10:30 A.M.— 18°
11:30 A.M.— LUNCH
12:30 P.M.— 30°
1:30 P.M.— 32°
2:30 P.M.— CLOSE

LBSR EVENT CENTER

SUNDAY, JUNE 2nd
4:00 P.M.-8 P.M. — POLY HIGH SCHOOL/
BANQUET & AWARDS

TUESDAY, JUNE 4th
8:00 A.M.-12 P.M. — LB PTA BREAKFAST
MEETING

SATURDAY, JUNE 8th
9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. — RED CROSS MEETING &
LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, JUNE 8th
8:00 P.M. -12:00 A.M. — ESTRADA SWEET 15

TUESDAY-FRIDAY, JUNE 11th-14th
7:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M. — SOUTH COAST
CHORALE REHEARSALS

SATURDAY, JUNE 15th
8:00 P.M.-12:00 A.M. — SOUTH COAST
CHORALE SHOW

SUNDAY, JUNE 16th — MATINEE
2:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M. — SOUTH COAST CHORALE

LBSR CATHEDRAL

TUESDAY, JUNE 18th
7:00 P.M. — STATED MEETING

FRIDAY, JUNE 21st
5:30 P.M. — SOCIAL HOUR
6:30 P.M. — DINNER HONORING LBPD
7:30 P.M. — PRESENTATIONS &
ENTERTAINMENT

LBSR EVENT CENTER

SATURDAY, JUNE 22nd
8:00 P.M.-12:00 A.M. — SOUTH COAST
CHORALE SHOW

SUNDAY, JUNE 23rd
2:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M. — SOUTH COAST
CHORALE SHOW

JUNE CALENDAR (Cont.)

(Closed on Mondays)

THURSDAY, JUNE 27th
EN POINTED DANCE SHOW —
TIME UNDETERMINED

SATURDAY, JUNE 29th — “ROCK FOR VETS”
CONCERT
12:00 P.M.-2:00 P.M. — FOOD/SILENT AUCTION
2:00 P.M.-5:00 P.M. — SHOW

JULY CALENDAR

(Closed on Mondays)

LBSR CATHEDRAL

OFFICE CLOSED FOR 4th JULY WEEKEND
REOPEN ON TUESDAY, JULY 9th

LBSR EVENT CENTER

SATURDAY, JULY 13th
5:30 P.M.-11:30 P.M. — AQUAYO SWEET 15

SATURDAY, JULY 20th
5:00 P.M.-12:00 A.M. — CHAVEZ SWEET 15

AUGUST CALENDAR

(Closed on Mondays)

LBSR EVENT CENTER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3rd
5:00 P.M.-12:00 A.M. — RAMIREZ SWEET 15

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7th
YMCA FILM FESTIVAL & BANQUET —
TIME UNDETERMINED

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10th
11:00 A.M.-8:00 P.M. — YMCA FILM FESTIVAL AND
BANQUET

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17th
5:00 P.M.-12 A.M. — MENDOZA WEDDING
RECEPTION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24th
CALIF. & CHAMBER OF COMMERCE —
TIME UNDETERMINED

SATURDAY-TUESDAY, AUGUST 24th-26th
2013 BIENNIAL SESSION —
WASHINGTON, DC (HONORS)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31st
11:00 A.M.-8:00 P.M. — YMCA FILM FESTIVAL
& BANQUET

WANT TO BECOME AN ACTIVE CONTRIBUTOR TO YOUR VALLEY?

I know we have many members whom have the skills or expertise to be active, on-stage, or behind the scenes in the several departments that follow, and here's how.

Hospitality Crew - includes our greeting staff, tilers, ushers offering a friendly welcome to all of our programs offered to our members.

Lighting Crew - Illuminate our degrees and events with your visual skills and offer your responsibility for the operation, placement and maintenance of lighting.

Make-up Crew - Have fun applying all types of cosmetics, along with beards, and mustaches to alter an actor's appearance for the variety of roles exemplified in the degrees.

Sound Crew - Your technical skills are important here, as the delicate electronics used in every aspect of degree presentation and special programs are needed for the Valley's sound system.

Stage Crew - Responsible for the resetting of scenes for degrees, special ceremonies and private events, and the props and drops used in our many presentations of historic proportions.

Robing Crew - Responsible for fitting actors with the proper costume appropriate for the degree, as well as storing and general care of our valuable costume inventory.

Opportunities are open in these departments important to the presentation of our degrees, and I am certain there are members fully qualified to assist us in these fun activities, which will introduce you to many members you heretofore never knew. You do not need experience to participate, just a desire to have fun and meet new people, and participate in your Valley.

You can offer your services by calling the Long Beach Scottish Rite @ (562) 436-3983 or (714) 633-1920 Tuesday – Friday 8:30-3:30 to let us know where you can help your Valley. 🇺🇸



\$3.00 per pin

The profit of \$1.00 goes to the Clinic.

Long Beach Scottish Rite Language Center

Give children the freedom to communicate. Support our center with a simple \$3.00 donation and receive the pin shown on the left. If you want it mailed to you, please add \$.50 per pin.

Send your money to: Long Beach Scottish Rite, Clinic donation. You will be mailed your pin in 5 to 7 days. On behalf of the children, THANK YOU!

OVER 80 LIFE MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION

Be it known that there has been a misunderstanding for those over 80 years of age concerning dues payments.

Therefore, as membership Chairman of the long Beach Scottish Rite, Valley of Long Beach, Orient of CA, I propose a special Life Membership for those who have attained the age of 80 years to be charged the fee of \$475.00 which will be payment in full for their Life Membership.

When you purchase the Life Membership for \$475.00, all past dues in arrears are forgiven. Without payment of the Life Membership, all past dues would be due and payable to retain current membership

 Ill. Lewis L. Main, Jr., 33° 
General Membership Chairman
Valley of Long Beach
Orient of California

Moved to Accept: Ill. James Scribner, 33°

2nd by: Florian Zukas, 32°

Passed Unanimously

Stated Meeting 06-05-12

Cash or charge the fees on your Visa or MasterCard; and please complete the following:

Charge \$ _____ to my _____ Number _____
Name of Credit Card

Print Name _____ Phone # _____

Signature: _____

Life Membership Program Long Beach Scottish Rite

- Under age 49, 21 times annual dues \$1995.00
- 50 to 54 Inclusive, 19 times annual dues \$1805.00
- 55 to 59 Inclusive, 17 times annual dues \$1616.00
- 60 to 64 Inclusive, 14 times annual dues \$1330.00
- 65 to 79 Inclusive, 11 times annual dues \$1045.00
- Over 80 \$ 475.00

Membership Chairman
ILL. LEWIS L. MAIN, JR., 33°
855 Elm Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90813-4491
Morning – (562) 436-3983
(714) 633-1920
Afternoon – (562) 598-6246 (H)
(562) 500-6246 (Cell)

 Ill. Lewis L. Main, Jr., 33° 
General Membership Chairman
Valley of Long Beach
Orient of California

An Article on Masonry

Submitted by Keith Renner, 32°

I have been coaching new masons at my lodge for a few years and watching them start in their search for more light in masonry. This reminded me of something I read years ago of a conversation between a father and his son who was a young master mason.

He was talking to his father a couple of years after becoming a master mason; he asked his father this question, “You always told me how Masons help one another, help support a fellow mason who is having trouble. All I have seen us do is have meetings to pay bills and talk about raising money for something that those of us that still work cannot attend. Dad, I just do not understand.”

His father, who had been a Master Mason for twenty-five years, took him aside to a place where they could talk. He asked him, “What effort have you made son to get to know any of the brothers? Son, I have watched you after meetings. You pat yourself on the back for not missing a meeting and then it’s how fast I can get home.”

He said “Well, I have never heard anyone say anything in the meeting about anyone who needed any kind of help.”

The father said, “That’s just it. Even a brother will find it hard to ask for help. Do you remember last year when you broke your leg, and you needed someone to help drive you to your appointments. What if I was not there? What would you have done or who would you have asked?”

The son had no quick answer.

“Here are some things that have happened since our last meeting. A brother of our lodge, who has not attended lodge for a couple of years, because he works night shift, was in an auto accident. His wife is in the hospital. A couple of brothers asked their wife’s to help look after his children until he was able to make arrangements. Another Brother was working two jobs and trying to get a small business started. Well, he was laid off from one of his jobs and the other cut his hours back to less than part time. Some of the Brothers who are respected businessmen in our town have started referring him to people for work, with their guarantee that he is reliable and does quality work. No one had to ask the lodge, it was not necessary. Other Brothers are helping to find him another job. Lastly, son, one of the brother’s young sons, a few years ago, was hanging around with a bad crowd. The police picked up the boy. One of the officers was a brother. The boy’s parents were out of town, so they called his uncle. The uncle came and got the boy. He talked to his nephew and told him if he would spend the summer on his farm helping him, he would talk to the boy’s father for him. They agreed and the boy not only spent that summer, but several summers on the farm. Does that mean anything to you?”

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An Article on Masonry

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Yes, I remember Uncle Bill. He told me a lot of the same things you've told me."

The sons Father said, "I know, Bill kept informed about what had happened from the beginning. You listened to my brother, because it is easier sometimes for a young person to listen to others, other than their parents." Also the brothers in our town help always by keeping a fatherly watch on the young people.

The son then said, "I didn't know. I mean, how did you know that those Brothers were in need of help? No one said anything in lodge. How was I to know?"

The Father then said in that voice that the son knew so well, "Son, you want brothers to show an interest in your needs, and then you need to have interest in their needs." Brothers, people and even acquaintances are not going to come to you so that can make a list. You must have interest in their needs in the lodge as well as in the outside world there are the give-me's and let-me's. The give-me's are those who want things done for them. The let-me's just do the things that need to be done and look for more. Again, in the lodge as in the world there are people who have and those who need. It is the duty of those who have to help those in need. I know you have enough money to pay for what you need and want for your family Some Brothers are in need of an attentive ear to listen to their troubles, some Brothers may need an instructive tongue to give them a word of advice to influence them to make a good decision or a helping hand. "Masonic Lodges are not places where members expect to get things. That would make that Masonic Lodge a huge failure. Masonic Lodges should be places where most true Masons look for chances to do something for other Brothers who needs help or encouragement."

The son said to my father "Dad, I don't think Masonry is a failure it's just that some of us just need an instructive tongue from older Master Masons like you and Uncle Bill to keep us on track. I promise to listen more and not be the first to leave the Lodge."

After thinking about the conversation that I had overheard I decided to make more of an effort to help involve the new Masons and help them become more involved in the lodge, also helping them to know more about their brothers in Masonry because there are always brothers who need a little help or a lot. 🇺🇸

We Need Books

Hey Brother, can you spare a book or two? We need books to satisfy the minds of bright young Masons. **(Please, books on Masonry only.)** Thank you.



We Sell Books

Over the years we have collected multiple copies of books. When we sell these books, we raise money to purchase books we don't have. Contact Bro. Matt Marfield, 32°, K.C.C.H., at the L.B.Scottish Rite.

The Fourteenth Degree Ring

By Chuck Schubert, 32°

Since a ring is given to be worn by some person, any attempt to understand the meaning of the Fourteenth Degree Ring must take into consideration three elements: the ring itself, the person receiving it and the giver. The mere ring itself is, of course, only a piece of metal, which could, with very little effort, be obtained by almost anyone. In this sense it becomes a mere decoration. To the true Mason, the ring as an ornament is valueless. It follows that it is not the ring nor even its symbolism that was intended as a gift, but rather what the ring and symbol represent. The outer or exoteric symbols of Masonry always signify inner or esoteric knowledge. Knowing this, we can only conclude that the ring signifies a gift of concealed esoteric knowledge. It even throws some light on the giver, for esoteric knowledge means, "known only to the few."

The Fourteenth Degree Ring is a gift of concealed knowledge from a few Brethren who have themselves acquired that which is concealed, for if one were not in possession of esoteric knowledge, he would in no way be able to devise the symbol. Why is such knowledge concealed? We all know that we have a tendency to place very little value on anything that comes without struggle and effort, consequently; only one capable of unveiling the symbol is ready for and worthy of the knowledge existing behind it. On the other hand, if one were not in possession of the symbol, he would in all likelihood never discover the truth at all. For this reason it can be truly said that the ring is a gift. In addition it is a gift of very great value, since the interpretation thereof constitutes a form of mastership and to withhold it from the Brethren would be wholly inconsistent with the basic aims and teachings of the art.

What we have said so far is that exoteric knowledge is only a gateway to the esoteric and that advancement comes only by degrees. Its end is mastership, and this is amply exemplified and personified in the Master Hiram Abiff, for we must remember that his death was the result of refusing or being unable to reveal esoteric knowledge to the unworthy. In fact, it makes us realize that the ignorance, superstition and fear personified in the three ruffians are still with us today even as it was in the time of Solomon. So it is, that mastership of any kind comes only as a result of an enormous amount of study, work and practice. The truth is that mastership in any field of endeavor cannot be given or revealed and is known only to him who has attained it. Looking at the ring in still another way, one could say that it is a symbol of what the wearer is inwardly and what he may become. The Mason should wear it then, not vainly as a decoration but with a justified spiritual pride and gladness in being so fortunate as to possess it. The ring symbolizes his membership in one of the noblest fraternities on earth, and it assures him that active participation in some form of the work will bring untold opportunities for advancement in the noble

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