

District 7 News



Editor: WB John Gebhart
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April 15, 2017

Finding the Joy in Ritual

On Saint Patrick's Day, my wife and I were at a friend's house to enjoy a traditional Irish dinner. You know the fare ... corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, and soda bread. To kick off the evening, I offered to make some Black and Tans.

If you're not familiar with the recipe it's really quite simple. You need Guinness Stout and a lager. The objective is to create two distinct layers with the lager on the bottom and the Guinness on the top. First pour a glass half full of the lager. Next, using an inverted teaspoon positioned over the glass pour the Guinness very slowly over the spoon so it softly falls into the glass, rises up, and doesn't mix with the lager. It literally floats to the top of the glass, thus creating the layers – a light colored layer on the bottom and dark on top.

I noticed that the guests suddenly stopped talking and focused on me as I poured Guinness over the spoon, mesmerized by the deliberateness of the slow pour and the beautiful swirling and rising of the Guinness to the top of the glass. What I originally took for another mundane bartender task, I suddenly realized was an audience performance. As I repeated the ritual several times, the audience stayed rapt in attention and clapped at the conclusion and passing of each glass.

How does this story relate to Masonry? Two questions come to mind. Why do we take our ritual for granted? What keeps us from enjoying the opening and closing of lodge like a good Black and Tan, and not seeing it as a dry rehash of words and steps from long ago?

I submit that it is both mindset and performance. From a mindset perspective, we should look forward to experiencing the ritual and attentively listen and engage in the words and actions that beautifully surround it. From a performance perspective, delivering the words and floor work should be like a performance before a

live theatre audience. Pull the audience into the oratory, keep their attention, and lift their spirits! Just like the simple task of a Black and Tan production delivers enjoyment.

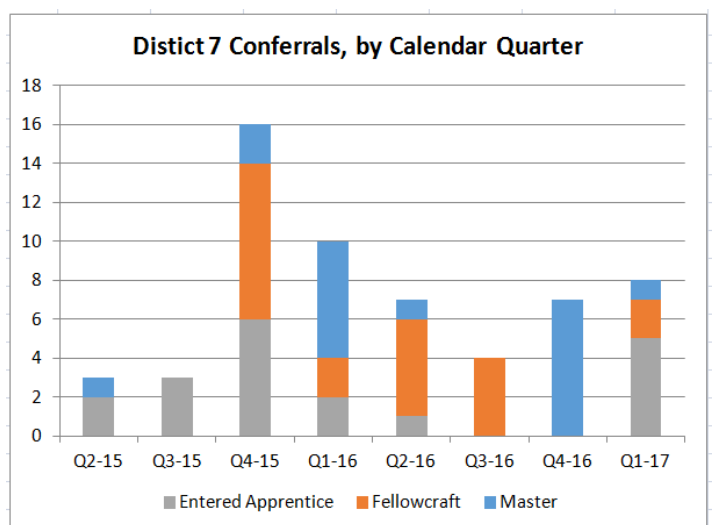
Reflect on this. Practice your ritual to engage your audience and lift their spirits! Make a personal commitment to perform your best. To borrow from MWGM Jim Mendoza's motto ... at each stated meeting you have the opportunity to make a difference.

WB Dan Taylor

District 7 Month-at-a-Glance

April 20	Thursday	Myrtle #108	Stated
April 24	Monday	Renaissance #312	Stated
April 24	Monday	Lakeside #258	EA Degree
May 3	Wednesday	Unity #198	Stated
May 4	Thursday	Mercer Island #297	Stated
May 8	Monday	Lakeside #258	Stated
May 11	Thursday	Kirkland #150	Stated
May 13	Saturday	Falls City #66	Stated
May 15	Monday	West Gate #128	Stated

District 7's EA Drought Ends



Lakeside Lodge #258

Lakeside Lodge we will be conferring the EA degree on April 24th at 7:30 p.m. for one candidate. Bro Phu Huynh will be conferring the degree. Contact Bro Huynh regarding courtesy degrees availability and degree team needs reasoning.mind@gmail.com. **RSVP for dinner at mikecampbell_759@hotmail.com.**

Mercer Island Lodge #297

Thursday, May 4th, the Brothers of Mercer Island Lodge will celebrate Ladies' Night with a table lodge. All Masons are encouraged to bring their lady. The Lodge will also host its Masonic widows.

Happy hour starts at 6:00 p.m. with a catered dinner served at 6:45 p.m. Suggested donation for dinner is \$20/pp, **RSVP to Dan Taylor at dantaylor@msn.com.**

Kirkland Lodge #150

By WM Bill Reynar

At its March Stated Communication Kirkland Lodge welcomed WB Terry Giles, PADGC (Past Assistant Director of Grand Ceremonies) from Charles Nicholl Lodge #7318 in England. In addition to giving a talk on the Square and Compasses, WB Terry, presented WM Bill Reynar with a Masonic Firing Glass from the United Grand Lodge of England and in exchange WM Reynar presented WB Terry with a MWGM Jim Mendoza Coin.



WB Terry Giles with WM Reynar

At a Special Communication on Thursday, March 30th, Brian Clubb, Senior Warden conferred the 2nd degree for Brothers Jorge Coronel and Patrick Hevesi both of Kirkland Lodge.

WB Dan Chadrow did another outstanding job delivering the lecture and Brother Steve Preston was Senior Deacon.



Brothers Hevesi and Coronel to WM Reynar's right

Falls City #66 Chili Cookoff

Brother Coats' Steak Ends!

By WM David Hisel

Hey, it's just Chili with some brothers, and a stated meeting afterward, no big deal, right? For the last few years, we struggled abit with attendance, after all, we've won bragging rights for the last 4 years! Don't get me wrong, we've had a lot of fun, and there was some tough competition!

I remember my first Chili cookoff from back in 2012, the main hall was practically full of brothers, family and friends. It was an exciting day, and I had to give a performance for the stated, but more on that later. The following year, I was the Chili committee chair, and I had no idea what I was doing. Lucky for me, I had great help from Unity #198, after all, we co-sponsor this event with them. That was the beginning of our 4-year run of bragging rights.

Over the next few years, I learned a little bit more, and a little bit more, meeting new brothers and visiting other lodges, all the while advancing in the chairs and learning about the respective responsibilities of each. Introductions, how to run meetings, hidden mysteries,

etc., these were the tools and the skills I would need to build relationships throughout the district and beyond.

So, there I was, at my first Chili cookoff, much Chili was savored, and we all went upstairs for our usual stated meeting, it was my time to prove up as a Fellowcraft. After opening, etc. it was my turn to get up in front of everyone and give the posting lecture, of course, I was nervous, but, I was ready for it. I remember looking at everyone sitting on the side watching, quietly, with solemn anticipation as I stood there and gave it my all. That was probably the first time when I realized that these are my brothers and they want me to succeed, despite my slightly shaking knees. Upon reflection, everyone got something out of the meeting, be it a reminder of the Fellowcraft posting lecture, a new-found brother, or an overall feeling of fraternalism. This was definitely a stated meeting that did more than just business.

Well, the following years weren't quite as dramatic in our attempts to drum up more competition, until this year. This year, we turned up the heat and spread the word far and wide that we had the best Chili in the land, and we challenged everyone to bring their best...their best Chili, family, and friends! The call was answered, and many brothers, family and friends came and they brought their best Chili. It is with much joy that I announce that this year's winner is...



Congratulations to this years winner, Brother Enzo Sainato of Lakeside Lodge, holding the Ladel (sic). Brother Coats to his right, finally passing the baton(er uhh, I mean Ladel), and WMs Hisel and Roalkvam to his left

Following the event, many brothers came upstairs to attend our stated, where WB Smiley gave us a presentation about an old Freemasonic cipher. And, after we closed, I felt the same as I did just a few years ago, where my brothers were pleased, and we did more than just business.

So, this year, my brothers I come full circle, and I continue my journey ... it's just Chili with some brothers, and not-just-a stated meeting afterward.

Helen Keller said "walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light." For me, I am grateful that I get to walk in the light with my brothers, their families and friends.



2017 Chili Cookoff Entrants, beholding how good and pleasant it is.

Special thank you all my brothers at Unity #198 and Falls City #66 for continuing the Chili tradition. And thank you to all the lodges who came and represented, we had 6 lodges, namely, Unity #198, Lakeside #258, Westgate #128, Mercer Island #297, Myrtle #108 and Falls City #66, with every lodge's Worshipful Master in attendance.

Unity Lodge #198

By WB Jonathan Seaton

At Unity Lodge #198 we have a new program called Laptops for Students in which one of our brothers gets laptops that have no family, scours them (electronically) and puts back the essentials. He then goes to the local schools to find students who don't have the resources to have their own home computers. He had intended them to be for young students (5 grade?), but it turns out that even high school juniors are in need. The cost

to us is \$75 per tablet. He has, so far, given out 13 and has requests for another 13. The contacts/requests come through the school counseling offices (or principal's office if that is appropriate).

Students without home computers are at a huge disadvantage compared to their peers. This low cost opportunity allows us to narrow that gap. As Masons we have always been supportive of education. Here is another way Masons can help our local students get an equal shot at a good education in our increasingly technical world.

If other Lodges want to start their own or participate....please do. Our deep thanks to Brother David Bach for inventing and spearheading this program.

Rainbow Textile Drive

Spring Cleaning Time!!

The Bellevue Assembly of Rainbow Girls is collecting: Clothing, Shoes, Accessories, Hats, Towels, Bedding, Purses, Stuffed Animals, Small Kitchen Appliances, CDs, DVDs, and Books. (No Pet Bedding, Pet Supplies or Pet Accessories). Hard-goods and soft textiles should be in separate bags.



Funds raised will help the Bellevue Assembly cover costs for the Grand Assembly (State Conference).

Please contact your Rainbow Girl, or Jean Dankberg jean@dankberg.com for donation collection during March and April.

York Rite Degree Days

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Washington has scheduled a second degree day on Saturday, April 29th. Petitioners will have the

opportunity to receive all four Royal Arch degrees in this special ceremony.

Master Masons interested in the Royal Arch can contact REC John Smiley, Grand King at smiley195@gmail.com.

Royal Arch Masons who are interesting in continuing their journey in the Council of Royal and Select Masters are invited to a Grand Council degree day on Saturday, May 27th. For information contact Grand Recorder, RPC Bryan Bechler at bry.kat@frontier.com.

Both degree days will be held in Tacoma Puget Sound Ave. There is ample parking in the lot across the street and this is a single-story building for ease of access.

Off To Work, Part 1

A short story submitted by WB Chad Reece

A man stirs as the rays of the morning sun impale his fleshy vestibule. Blinking away the sleep the salubrious part of his brain pulls the rest from its repose. Sitting up the previous day's conditionings present themselves quickly, hindering to the best they are able his movements. He stands and makes his way to the carafe of water to sate his thirst and ready for the efforts of the day. He picks up the bread resting adjacent the carafe and nourishes his hunger before donning his work clothes and leaving his humble abode. Outside the horizon is a golden red rippling as the heating blows glance off the ground. "It's going to be a hot day" our man thinks to himself as he begins his journey to work. Walking is doing his body well the movement lubricating his joints and washing slowly away the soreness in his muscles. A slight breeze licks his left side and a bird overhead sings a welcome to the day; its shadow playing an elongated game of hide and seek with the trees and other natural structures. The man's own shadow carefully traverses the shift from existence to nonexistence and back again. Over the hill the destination comes into view and he sees his fellow coworkers making their way to the entrance of their second home. Entering the area they all gather as their names are called to take role and the tasks assigned for the day. The delineated classes of workmen are assigned the task they have all been working toward, the mining of stone. Their labors of clearing the site have rewarded them with working their passion this

day. Our man, new to the craft, is following his mentor to receive their tools for the day and make their way to the station and prepare for the laborious day ahead.

The Nefarious Ways English Freemasonry Is Celebrating Its 300th Birthday

By Urbanski (Reprinted from Break.com)

The United Grand Lodge of England, the oldest Masonic national organization in the world, [turns 300](#) this year. Note that Freemasonry is older than that, but it was only 300 years ago (1717) that four London lodges got together at the "Goose & Gridiron" pub and formed the first "Grand Lodge," an organization to supervise lodges. That was the birth of the modern worldwide Grand Lodge system. There are about 200 *regular* (i.e. recognized by the English) Grand Lodges in countries, states, and provinces worldwide.

Over the last three centuries, Freemasons have been accused of being a sinister secret society that controls the world, for nefarious purposes. One reason for this is that some very successful people have been Freemasons, both before and after becoming successful. Another is because Masons tend to keep very quiet about what they do.

So are they up to something? You can judge for yourself: our investigative reporting uncovered a few of the nefarious things that English Freemasonry has been up to for their 300th Birthday!

1. THEY HAVE A SECRET HELICOPTER PROGRAM!!



Conspiracy theorists noted that at the recent and tragic [Islamist terrorist attacks](#) at London's Parliament, a mysterious helicopter was spotted with the Masonic square and compass logo on it!!

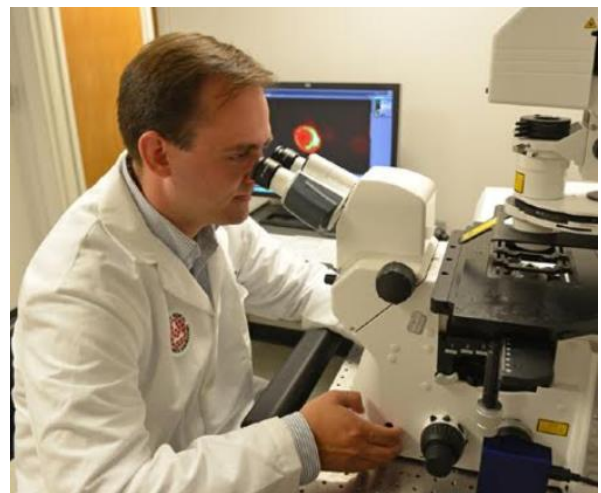
Why was it there? What are they up to?? What's their

connection to the terrorist attack???

Here's the truth: over the last few years, the Freemasons have been quietly involved in a secret program of spending literally millions of dollars (at least 4 million pounds, from what I could gather) on buying helicopters. They've bought two helicopters in the London area, and contributed to similar programs throughout England and Wales.

The purpose of these vehicles? They're *air ambulances*. That's right. Freemasonry has been using its massive wealth to buy emergency air-ambulance vehicles, to contribute to human overpopulation by saving lives. The fiends! They've also bought a bunch of regular ambulances. Is there no end to their sinister goings-on?!

2. THEY HAVE A BIOLOGICAL WARFARE DIVISION!



Freemasons have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on research. For what dark purpose? War!

This year, they've been engaging in a war on Macular Degeneration, donating huge sums for research to fight this disease that leaves millions of people blind each year. They've done similar sinister research to try to destroy Parkinson's and [heart disease](#). They even funded a special project that invented a blood test for early detection of Alzheimer's.

Their helicopter fleet and bio-warfare division are just one part of a larger front-organization known by the *creepy* acronym MCF, which they claim stands for [Masonic Charitable Foundation](#). But who knows, right? The Masons are so dedicated to making us believe them, they went and *donated 3 million pounds* to a whole

panorama of UK charities this year alone!

3. THEY'RE TAKING OVER THE MEDIA!!

Yes, the Masons have a dark plot to influence us all via television. For their 300th, they collaborated with the Sky 1 Network to produce a documentary, coming out April 17th, called "[Inside the Freemasons](#)". This super-secret society will spend five one-hour episodes showing the public exactly what it does and where, answering all kinds of questions.

OK, so you might say none of those things really sound all that nefarious. And that's pretty true. The real fact about [Freemasonry](#) is that, mostly, Masons are goody-goodies.

But what about the all that "ruling the world" stuff?! I mean, maybe Masons do give away millions and millions to charity every single year, and rescue people with helicopters, and fund medical research, and offer scholarships, and support all sorts of other good causes.... but that could all *still* be a front for secretly ruling over us all, right?!

If you still think that, consider this: For their 300th Anniversary, the masons made themselves a special commemorative jewel for sale to members as a souvenir. It's quite fancy.



It's also currently *out of stock*. The Freemasons, the organization allegedly so powerful and so well-organized as to secretly rule the entire planet, can't get organized enough to make sure they don't run out of their own commemorative medal on their 300th Anniversary!

Unfortunately, some very silly prejudices continue to persist about Freemasonry. So much so that in the UK today, there are demands placed on Masons that you don't see for anyone else.

A would-be UK policeman or a judge isn't asked to make a statement saying they're not supporters of, say, the Islamic State or Al-Qaeda; but policemen ARE asked to disclose if they are Freemasons. And until 2009 judges were required by law to disclose Masonic affiliation. Even though the Islamists were the ones murdering people this month in Westminster, while the Freemasons were the ones saving lives.

The alleged reason for this discrimination is the fear that Masons would give each other undue favoritism, even though such favoritism is expressly [forbidden in Masonry](#), and even though studies by the UK government found that there was [NO evidence of any such favoritism](#) ever having taken place in the police or judiciary.

As for "ruling the world," from my research, there hasn't even been a Masonic US President since 1976, or Canadian Prime Minister since 1963, or British Prime Minister since 1955!

People want to imagine some shadowy group (Freemasons or otherwise) ruling the world because it would mean there's someone to blame for *everything* bad that ever happens. And because even that's somehow less scary than the **real** truth: no one is running the world. *There's no one at the wheel*. Certainly not the guys who can't keep their own commemorative jewel in stock.

But the REAL work Masons do, and the real lesson to learn from them, is in fraternal care and charity. Evil isn't found in satanic conspiracies; evil is just what happens when people fail to stand up for values, and stand up for others.

Junior Grand Warden Candidate Forum

Daylight Loge #232 recently held a Junior Grand Warden Candidate Forum where all of the candidates for the Grand South were asked about their plans, should they be elected, for Grand Lodge. Recordings of the Forum are available at this link: [Junior Grand Warden Forum](#)

Letters to the Editor

Think About It (March 31, 2017)

John,

Well, with most of us we think way too much, not giving space to our hearts.

Love, hugs,

~Dad

Dad,

Thank you. You've given me something to think about as usual.

~Editor

Deadline

Submissions for the April 30 issue of the District 7 News are due on **Friday, April 28, 2017**. Early submission is encouraged.

Funny, But Only Because it's True Section



Square Meals

Myrtle #108 welcomes Masons and friends to breakfast at the Gas Lamp in Issaquah every Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

Goose and Gridiron, Nest 0 meets Mondays for lunch at the Longhorn restaurant in Auburn.

Falls City #66 Sticks & Stones meets on the last Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Lit Cigar Bar in Snoqualmie Casino. Consumption of solid food at this "meal" is not customary.

Fern Hill #80 Past Masters welcome Masons and friends in South King and Pierce counties to breakfast at Angleas Restaurant just south of E. 72nd St on S. Portland Avenue (behind Safeway), Saturdays, 8:00 a.m.

District 7 Stated Communications

<i>Lodge</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Meeting Times</i>	<i>Contacts</i>
Falls City #66	4304 337th Place Southeast Fall City, WA 98024 www.fallcitylodge.com	2nd Saturday, 1st Saturday June; dark July & August. 7:30 p.m. except January, 7:00 p.m.	WM: David Hisel dlh.mason@yahoo.com Sec: Nick Michaud (contact WM Hisel)
Myrtle #108	<i>Street Address:</i> 57 West Sunset Way Issaquah, WA 98027 <i>Mailing Address:</i> PO Box 766 Issaquah, WA 98027 www.myrtlelodge108.org	3 rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. (The lights stay on in the Summer months)	WM: Chad Reece damnthings@gmail.com Sec: Jeff Swanson jeffswanson@platosnw.com
West Gate #128	8561 Willows Road NE Redmond, WA 98052 westgatelodge.org	3rd Monday except July, August. 7:30 p.m.	WM: Earl Lara earllara@westgatelodge.org Sec: Les Snively - lsna761057@aol.com
Kirkland #150	702 1/2 Market St. Kirkland, WA 98033 www.kirklandmasons.org	2nd Thursday (3rd Thursday June) except July, August. 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.	WM: Bill Reynar wireynar@gmail.com Sec: Topher White topher.white@comcast.net
Unity #198	119 North Bend Way North Bend, WA 98045 www.unity198.org	1st Wednesday. If Holiday, 2nd Wednesday except July, August. 7:30 p.m.	WM: Matt Roalkvam webmattr@hotmail.com Sec : Jonathan Seaton jonathanrseaton@gmail.com
Lakeside #258	8561 Willows Road NE Redmond, WA 98052 www.lakeside258.org	2nd Monday, except July & August. 7:30 p.m.	WM: Mike Campbell mikecampbell_759@hotmail.com Sec: Dean Markley wdeanm@gmail.com
Mercer Island #297	1836 72nd Avenue Southeast Mercer Island, WA 98040 www.mercerislandmasons.org	1st Thursday; 2nd Thursday if Holiday or Grand Lodge, dark July & August Open bar 6:00 p.m., catered dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m. RSVP for dinner, \$20.	WM: Dan Taylor dantaylor@msn.com Sec: Scott Anderson papabear120@hotmail.com
Renaissance #312	11440 Avondale Road Northeast Redmond, WA 98052 www.renaissance312.org	Last Monday of February, April, June, August, October and December; if holiday, next available Monday that is not a holiday. Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Table Lodge at 7:30 p.m. RSVP for dinner, \$25.	WM: Bill Werner bigwer1@hotmail.com Sec: Craig Wood cwood1234@hotmail.com

District 7 Officers

District Deputy of the Grand Master: VWB Gene Ulrich nsnwinc@gmail.com

	Falls City #66	Myrtle #108	West Gate #128	Kirkland #150	Unity #198	Lakeside #258	Mercer Island #297*	Renaissance #312**
WM	Br David Hisel	WB Chad Reece	WB Earl Lara	WB Bill Reynar	WB Matt Roalkvam	WB Mike Campbell	WB Dan Taylor	VWB Bill Werner
SW	Br Robert Coats	WB Geoff Joosten	WB Phil Nylin	Br Brian Clubb	WB Mark Goodwin	Br Vincenzo Sainato	WB Paul Hoeffler	WB Joe Oates, Jr.
JW	Br Joshua Bushman	WB Jeff Craig	Br Vance Hill	Br Bryan DeNosky	WB Ernest Jenner	Br Phu Huynh	WB Thomas Aquino	Br JN
Sec	WB Nick Michaud	WB Jeff Swanson	WB Les Snavely	WB Topher White	WB Jonathan Seaton	WB Dean Markley	WB Scott Anderson	WB Craig Wood
Treas	VWB Henry Fletcher	WB Mark Staveley	WB Les Snavely	WB Bob Wilson	WB Jonathan Seaton	VWB Gene Ulrich	WB Scott Anderson	WB Craig Wood
SD	Br Noah Phillips	VWB Bill Werner	Br Kurt Egts	Br Steve Preston		Br Kevin French	Br Carl Bronkema	WB Todd Pike
JD	Br Norris Daltman	Br Gerry O'Brien	Br Arjay Protacio	Br MG	Br David Bach	WB Jim Groves	Br Denis Osmanbegovic	Br Sheraz Malik
Chp	WB Matt Roalkvam	Br Thomas Monds	VWB Mark Williams	WB Dan Chadrow		Br Steve Banin	Br Dane Shaffer	WB Doug Stamper
Mrsh	Br Warren Oltmann	Br Shane White	WB Jim Nash	Br Gary Weber		Br Derk Benisch	VWB Roger Barnstead	Pending
Mu	Br Carlmer Sorensen		Br Bert Bertram			Br Praveen Sattaru	WB John Gebhart	
SS			Br Karl Egts			Br Pat Brennan	Br. Brent Fleckner	
JS			Br Ken Hill			Br Kevin Ward	Br. Stephen Burns	
T	WB Frank Schumacher	WB Brian Thomas	VWB Henry Fletcher	WB David Pearson		WB Josh Rice	WB Steve Paige	Br Jeff Guthrie

* VWB Dean Quigley is Mentor

** Br Andy Precious is Master of Ceremonies for the Festive Board