

District 7 News



Editor: WB John Gebhart

District7News@gmail.com

May 31, 2017

Thank You

I have been ~~ordered~~ asked by our WB Editor to share a few words and a thought or two as my time as your District Deputy comes to a close. It has been a great honor and pleasure to serve both MWB Don Munks and MWB Jim Mendoza as the Deputy of the Grand Master in District 7 the past two years. I hope I have served them well. This job is one you are likely to dread and love at the same time. Thankfully, I have loved serving as your Deputy the vast majority of the time. Even when we had to deal with difficult topics, we did it with respect and compassion.

As I have said many times, our District is an amazing amalgamation of Brothers and Lodges who care for and support each other. Each of the eight lodges in our District has a distinct personality. The personality of our District? A District is kind of like fake news. There isn't anything "official" about a District other than the Lodges being designated as such by the Grand Lodge. Our personality as a District is we love and support each other but we see no need to create another organization.

The downside to this is we miss the opportunity to get to know each other better, to share ideas, to discuss challenges. I encourage each of you to visit all of the lodges in our District. Get to know each other better. Who knows what might happen?

I have many great memories from the last two years. I have attended more than 100 meetings in our District and I can honestly say I have been warmly welcomed at every meeting. The fellowship and friendship I have experienced has been amazing. I thank you.

Together we put on two District meetings. And they were outstanding! We had fun. We honored Brothers for their service. We recognized the good works being done by each of our Lodges. We talked about how to make Masonry better.

Every Lodge in our District has gone above and beyond to support the charitable causes of our Grand Masters. AND the youth groups! It's really amazing. I thank you. I expect our District may well dominate the offerings for the silent and live auctions at the Fellowship Dinner at Grand Lodge. Again, I thank you. It's pretty amazing what we have done to support our youth groups.

Completely changing gears, six Brothers in our District have completed the Proficiency in Lodge Management program this year! For those of you who do not know what this program is, there is an online test and then each Brother gets to spend a few hours with the District Deputy going over the work and discussing seemingly random questions. I congratulate WB Bill Reynar, WB Earl Lara, WB Doug Stamper, WB Dean Markley, Bro Brain Clubb and Bro Phu Huynh for completing the program this year. When the WM and his officers are proficient and knowledgeable in the work we all benefit. Well done!

In closing, I again thank you for all of your support and for all that you do for Masonry.

BTW, just because I won't be the Deputy doesn't mean I won't be attending your meetings and being a PITA.

VWB Gene Ulrich

District 7 Month-at-a-Glance

June 1	Thursday	Mercer Island #297	Stated
June 3	Saturday	Falls City #66	Stated
June 7	Wednesday	Unity #198	Stated
June 8	Thursday	Kirkland #150	Stated
June 12	Monday	Lakeside #258	Stated
June 15	Thursday	Myrtle #108	Stated
June 19	Monday	West Gate #128	Stated
June 26	Monday	Renaissance #312	Stated

Renaissance Lodge #312

by WB Craig Wood

It truly is a pleasure to take wine with the members and visitors at our Festive Board on the last Monday of every even-numbered month. Please mark your calendars to remind you to attend our stated meeting on June 26th, August 28th, October 30th, and December 18th this year.

Ladies and guests will enjoy musical entertainment provided by John Gebhart during our brief stated on Ladies Night on June 26th. WB John has written beautiful songs inspired by events in his life. He performed a few of these original songs at our District meeting in January and delighted all in attendance. Plan to attend and bring guests. *It's never too early to RSVP* (cwood1234@hotmail.com or via the Lodge website, <http://www.redmondmasons.org/paypal>).

On the last Monday of odd-numbered months, R312 members gather at Azteca in Kirkland to socialize and plan upcoming meetings. This month, due to Memorial Day, we will meet on May 22nd at 6:30 p.m. We have several topics including: Ladies Night (shall we buy a basket at Grand Lodge for a free door prize in June?), sustaining memberships? (I'm in), future topics/speakers for Festive Boards? It's always a fun, informal get together at Azteca.

Lakeside Lodge #258

At a Special Communication on Monday, May 22nd the Lakeside Lodge welcomed Brother Stephan Ostertag to the Fraternity.



Brother Stephan Ostertag, center, with members of Lakeside Lodge
(Second row, right - Brother Phu Hyunh ... Southbound)

WM Campbell opened and closed, Brother Phu Hyunh conferred the degree and delivered the lecture, recently initiated Brother Max Box delivered the apron and presented the working tools, and WB Jim Groves gave the charge.

Eastside Scottish Rite Club

Submitted by WB Brian Thomas

The next meeting of the Eastside Scottish Rite Club will be Wednesday, May 31st at Myrtle Lodge #108 in Issaquah from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Myrtle Lodge is just east of the Issaquah Hatchery on West Sunset.

We will continue to emphasize Masonic Education. Remember, the question is more important than the answer, for if we don't have questions we will never even start on the journey to solutions. The goal of the ESRC is to entertain questions about Freemasonry and seek answers.

Last meeting we had a lively discussion about the Catholic Church and its ongoing criticism of Freemasonry. At our May 31st meeting we will discuss Kabbalah and its importance to Freemasonry.

Recall in the 4th degree we were told that the early Masonic ritualists borrowed heavily from Kabbalah and that, "...a complete understanding of Freemasonry is impossible without some familiarity with the (sic) Kabbalah". The passes and responses in the 32nd degree come directly from Kabbalah. They are meaningless unless you have some understanding of the 10 sepherot or node points of Kabbala's 'Tree of Life' and the 22 paths between them. Albert Pike writes extensively about the importance of Kabbalah. Wisdom, Strength and Beauty are key to both Kabbalah and Freemasonry. The whole point and substance of the Master Mason degree are entwined with the 'Tree of Life'. Perhaps, we should devote some of our energy to understanding the "WHY" of Masonry, not just the what, where and how.

There are several versions of Kabbalah; Jewish, Christian, Gnostic and Masonic, all very similar but each with a few unique twists and turns. I have attached several 'Tree of Life' forms for your perusal - of which the 'Tree of Life 4' has a Masonic context. It would be helpful if those of you

that plan to attend would take a few minutes to do some research on the 'Tree of Life' before our meeting Wednesday, May 31st. Kabbalah is spelled several different ways, Quballah, Qubbalah, Cabbalah, etc., but it's all the same concept.

Any Master Mason is invited to join us but the discussion may delve deeply into Scottish Rite ritual and non Scottish Rite visitors may be asked to temporarily excuse themselves if understanding requires the revealing of any of the secrets of Scottish Rite. Feel free to invite you Masonic Master Mason friends.

After the meeting we will retire to the Issaquah Brew House, a Myrtle Lodge tenant, for a brew and further discussion.

I have the notion of having a picnic at my house in Renton for Eastside Scottish Rite participants, their guests and family, on August 30th. We will either affirm or abandon that notion at our May 31st meeytongg. November 29th, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., will be our next regular meeting and it will be at the Eastside Masonic Center in Redmond

To be on the correspondence list for the Eastside Scottish Rite Club please contact me at 425-226-0463 or email me at bjt19@comcast.net.

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](#)

The Moral Feast

Submitted by Brother Ken Bean

The Table Lodges in the 18th Century Doubled as Schools of Morals and Manners

In recent years, students of Masonic history have been intrigued by table lodges and festive boards in Freemasonry, sparking a revival of interest. We know that most lodges in the earliest days of speculative Freemasonry held their lodge meetings around the dinner table. Eating and drinking were mixed in with the more serious business of conferring Masonic degrees in a unique fashion. Early minute books place great emphasis

on procuring food and drink for the brethren, and some of the earliest lodge officers were stewards who saw to brothers' comfort by keeping their cups full of liquid refreshments and making sure that each brother had as much food as he could comfortably manage. What is less known, however, is the social etiquette that these "lodges at the dinner table" taught their members.

The number *seven* is prominent in our Masonic ceremonies. Today we are familiar with the seven virtues and principles (four cardinal virtues and three principal tenets), and the seven liberal arts and sciences. Prominent in the minds of our 18th century brethren were also the seven deadly sins: lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy and pride. Many Masonic rituals refer to Freemasonry as a place to "erect temples for virtue and dig dungeons for vices". So if a Mason were to "dig dungeons for vices" what would be imprisoned therein? The answer is the list of the seven deadly sins. Each vice is a negative of a positive virtue. Lust is the opposite of love; gluttony is the opposite of moderate eating and drinking; greed is the opposite of careful shepherding of our resources; sloth is the opposite of energetic activity; wrath is the opposite of concerned engagement; envy is the opposite of appreciation of the good fortune of others; and pride is the opposite of humility. And, what better place to practice virtues and imprison vices than the dinner table?

In the beginning, Freemasonry blended convivial and ethical societies, with teachings intended to shape members' behavior. The sociable atmosphere of the festive board, and its cousin, the table lodge, offered an ideal place to practice the virtues that a Mason was expected to imitate. Brothers learned that there were proper times to eat and drink, to conduct ritual, and to listen to lectures on the symbolism of Freemasonry. Masonic customs arose in response to this need, and they are still a part of our ritual and customs today.

The two most prominent items on the table at Masonic banquets in the 18th century were the wardens' columns. When the senior warden's column was upright, the brethren were symbolically informed that the lodge was at labor and that eating and drinking must cease. When that column was lowered, and the junior warden's column raised, it `needs and wishes of others, when the junior

warden was installed in his office, he was reminded:

To you is committed the superintendence of the craft during the hours of refreshment; it is necessary therefore that you should practice moderation and discretion in the indulgence of your own inclinations, and that you carefully observe that the means of refreshment are no converted to improper or excessive use.

We still tell the junior warden this when he is installed in his office today. Additionally, every Entered Apprentice is told:

Temperance is that due restraint upon the affections and appsitons which renders the body tame and governable, and frees the mind from the allurements of vice. This virtue should be your constant practice.

It is well to remember that in the 18th century; when an Entered Apprentice heard these words, he would have been in the lodge's banquet room, with feasting and drinking going on all around him. It is probable that this explanation to the candidate was also intended to remind the Masons present that they; too, should exercise "that due restraint upon the affections and passions" that was being impressed upon the new Mason before them.



"Night" by Bro. James Hogarth, created in the 18th Century to serve as a warning to those who may indulge in the seven deadly sins.

Lodge minute books from the 18th century frequently refer to fines levied on brethren who "forgot themselves," and engaged in behavior around the table that was not befitting of a Mason. Many of these fines relate to the abuse of Masonic courtesy toward others, and to behaviors that are clearly associated with eating and drinking too much. Lodges frowned upon those Masons who did not understand that they were supposed to be "digging dungeons for vices" rather than parading them around the lodge room.

Of course not all Masons, and all lodges, consistently understood this. One of the most famous engravings of the 18th century was created by Bro. James Hogarth, a member of the Hand and Apple Tree Lodge in Little Queen Street, London, and a grand steward for the Grand Lodge of England in 1735. This engraving, "Night," tells a story about one lodge, its worshipful master, and its tyler. I will leave it to you to study the engraving shown here and to figure out whether this lodge, and these Masons, understood the seven deadly sins that all Masons want to avoid.

Reprinted from California Freemason Magazine

Letters to the Editor

You Pay the Tax (May 15, 2017)

WB Editor,

I'm surprised that there were no responses to the question in your editorial from the last issue. I personally couldn't think of a Masonic angle but figured that among your 220+ subscribers that somebody would come up with something.

~WB John Gebhart

WB Gebhart,

I'm surprised too. I enjoy responses more than I enjoy pictures (and people love pictures). But to your point, could it mean that there isn't Masonic significance in everything?

~ Editor

Deadline

Submissions for the June 30 issue of the **District 7 News** are due on **Sunday, June 25, 2017**.
Early submission is encouraged.

Targeted Marketing 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 Snavely - 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 wjreynar@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	WB 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 Snavelly	WB Topher White	WB Jonathan Seaton	WB Dean Markley	WB Scott Anderson	WB Craig Wood
Treas	VWB Henry Fletcher	WB Mark Staveley	WB Les Snavelly	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