

MIZPAH BULLETIN

June 2019





Mizpah Lodge #302
A.F. & A.M.
Omaha, Nebraska

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 Mizpah Lodge #302

Instituted November 12th, 1918
Chartered June 4th, 1919

Stated communication on the first
Wednesday of every month

Mizpah Benediction

“May the Lord watch between me and
thee when we are absent one from an-
other”

-Genesis 31:29-

May the Lord Watch
MIZPAH
302
Between Me and Thee

From the South

Brethren,

With May coming to a close, Mizpah is looking forward to another summer full of possibilities for fellowship and growth. This year Nebraska Masonry has seen a few major changes that have stressed brethren throughout both the lodge and the entirety of the state. Mizpah officers continue to be dedicated to the idea of using challenge as an opportunity to refine the symbolic ashlar of our brotherhood.

June 2nd will be the rededication ceremony for our lodge. This is a significant achievement and shows on an intimate level that brotherly love can indeed prevail, as it already has through 100 years of social changes, economic hardships, and brothers participating in international conflicts.

Recently, Worshipful Brother Mike Stuhr uncovered volumes of monthly meeting minutes from throughout the decades, dating back to the beginning, 1919. It is incredible to see more of our heritage uncovered and preserved. I am proud to say that I am a member of an organization that can, and cares enough to, trace its lineage to such a degree. In the same vein, our Templecraft and Centennial committees continue to look for and develop ways that we can continue to show pride in what we have and what we can be.

As mentioned in the past, lodge officers are continuing to work on ensuring that the lodge once again passes proficiency examination and continues decades of tradition. We are blessed with having passionate men that care about this lodge and are willing to work for its betterment. I would like to thank you all for that commitment.

While the focus for the year has been on maintaining current membership and increasing fellowship, it is always important to keep an eye out for potential candidates. It is our duty to provide the opportunity to as many worthy men as possible. Not only is this important for the expansion of brotherly love, but it is vital for the future of our great institution, as we have seen a sharp decline in membership that is not sustainable. The membership committee has been diligently working on methods and resources to help brothers introduce good men to masonry.

If you have not attended lodge for a while, you are encouraged to come to the June business meeting and reconnect with the masonic family that you have never lost. Business meetings are the first Wednesday of the month with a potluck at 6:30 and a gavel drop at 7:00. We look forward to reconnecting with you.

Once again, I would like to sincerely thank all the brothers who are so passionate about this lodge and its future. Although we don't always agree on every decision, we can all agree that we want what is best and are willing to put in whatever effort we can to make our visions a reality.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Jeremiah D. Jones
Junior Warden



FROM THE STONE MASON TO THE FREE MASON
by a Brotherhood of Freemasons
Guy Chassagnard

Sunday June 2

Mizpah Lodge Rededication

Ceremony 3 PM

Reception to Follow

Despite all the efforts of research and analysis which have long been made in the past, by a variety of learned historians and Masonic specialists, no one can, even today, attempt to draw up a complete and undeniable history of universal Freemasonry. No one can yet say, without a strong risk of error, that the stonecutters, masons and builders of gothic cathedrals, castles and various buildings were once Free (Stone) Masons rather than Masons... free of birth, body and serfdom.

Wednesday June 5

Potluck Dinner 6:30pm

Business Meeting 7:00pm

What is possible to accept, because it is relatively easy to determine, is the medieval era, so conducive to the construction of great religious and seigniorial buildings, saw the birth and development of various and numerous companies, guilds, associations or brotherhoods; motivated by social or corporate obligations, which brought together lords, masters, fellows and apprentices on whom they imposed the principles of virtue, integrity and ethical behavior, both secular and religious.

Wednesday June 12

EA Practice 6:30pm

JW Jeremiah Jones in charge

Current officers required

There is apparently no historical and societal connection between the Bolognese Masters of the Wall, living in the thirteenth century; the Scottish operative masons working, under the authority of William Schaw, in the late sixteenth; and the early members of the Ancient and Right Worshipful Fraternity of Free-Masons, who celebrated the St. John the Baptist's Day in London, in the year 1717.

Wednesday June 19

FC Practice 6:30pm

SW Tom Gibbs in charge

Current officers required

It seems, however, that all these men – devoted to the material or moral construction of human Society – were animated by the same determination, the same faith and the same desire to achieve the same spiritual Truth. The important thing for today's Freemason is not so much to know for sure where he comes from, but to discover and understand the motivations of the Masters of thought and action who have long since disappeared, but who used during their lives – in one way or another –, the same tools, and the same symbols as those which continue to offer lessons in the present Masonic rites and rituals.

Wednesday June 26

Fellowship

Archery and Axe Games

11106 Q Street

7:00 PM

Spouses Welcome (no kids)

2019 Officers

- W Jeffrey Coleman (Brenda) Worshipful Master
2327 Hanscom Blvd.
Omaha, NE 68144 Cell (402) 290-7243
- Thomas Gibbs Senior Warden
1145 Park Avenue
Omaha NE 68105 Cell (402) 680-6678
- Jeremiah Jones (Kimberly) Junior Warden
2804 Jackson St.
Bellevue NE 68005 Cell (402) 507-7190
- W Adam Lowder (Mollie) Treasurer
10925 Weber St.
Omaha NE 68142 Cell (402) 850-6001
- W Ben Zaayer (Stacy) Secretary
5604 N. 162nd St. Res (402) 933-4668
Omaha NE 68116 Cell (402) 880-3028
- W Michael Tomaszewicz Chaplain
1404 P St.
Tekamah NE 68061 Cell (402) 838-9977
- Dalton Kock Senior Deacon
6757 S. 90th St
Lincoln NE 68526 Cell (402) 719-0942
- James Schmidt (Elizabeth) Junior Deacon
3021 S 72nd Ave
Omaha NE 68124 Cell (402) 916-0262
- T.J Brumfield (Sarah) Senior Steward
1210 S. 25th Ave
Omaha NE 68105 Cell (402) 880-7823
- Charles Davis Junior Steward
9336 Berry Plz. Apt. 192 Res (402) 331-6342
Omaha NE 68127 Cell (402) 980-5394
- W Tyler Goodman Tyler
8702 S. 17th St.
Bellevue NE 68147 Res (402) 292-2801

This is the reason that led us to conduct a thorough reading of the available texts relating to Masonry written by medieval societies, building and corporative fraternities. We deliver in this book, the most significant part of them, in the evident incapacity to reproduce all in their entirety.

Our begins with Bologna's Statutes of the Wall Masters, dated 1248 and ends with the first book revealing the practice of the three symbolic degrees of modern Freemasonry: Masonry Dissected, by Samuel Prichard (1730). We found it necessary to include in our work the full text of James Anderson's Constitutions (1723), still considered a fundamental Charter by Freemasons of all countries.

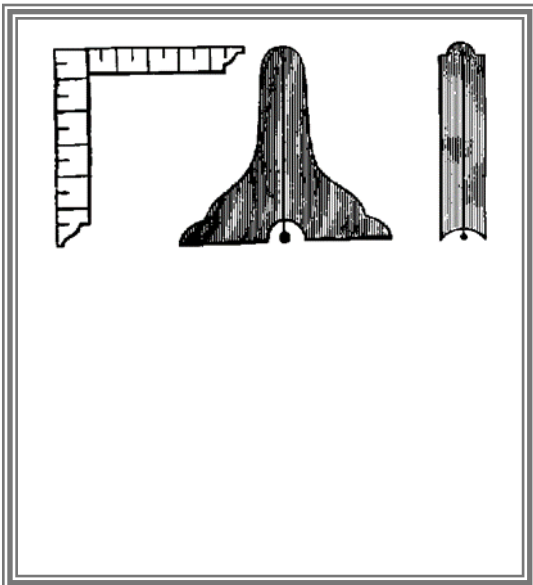
In our translations and transcriptions (many of them unpublished until now) we have tried to be faithful to the original text, while making use (with as much simplicity as possible) of contemporary language; allowing readers to determine freely and draw their own conclusions about the real origins of Freemasonry, as we know and practice it today.

N.B. - There have been endless debates between Masonic Researchers about the origin of the term Free-Mason. Two theories have been commonly expressed:

1. - In the medieval times, continental Masons were gathered in a Franc-Mestier (Free-Craft), with special charges and rights; in 1315, King Louis X, "The Stubborn," banned serfdom all over the French royal lands: so all his subjects became Francs (free of serfdom) men.

2 - In the same period, in Britain, only qualified Masons were authorized to cutter and carve the free stone, a stone without any grain, proper to carving.

Another clue may be found in this book: according to the Old Charges, in the old times, a Mason had to be free of birth and free of service; so he was, undoubtedly, a... Freemason.



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From the Secretary's Table

Brethren,

As part of our communications, I am emailing this Newsletter monthly and generally send weekly updates about the goings on at Mizpah. If you'd like to be included in these emails, please let me know.

As the JW mentioned in his piece, our lodge rededication is coming up June 2. This is our 100th year chartered as Mizpah Lodge #302 A.F. & A.M. If you are in the area, I hope you can find the time to stop by.

Fraternally,
Ben Zaayer
Secretary