

MIZPAH BULLETIN

January 2020





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 31:49-

May the Lord Watch
MIZPAH
302
Between Me and Thee

From the East

I am writing this trestle on Christmas Day surrounded by the love of my family both here at home and by yours as you celebrate the day however you each see fit. Our family has prepared a nice dinner and I can begin this year as your Worshipful Master at peace knowing that we will support each other throughout the following year cemented by our brotherly love and affection.

On Saturday December 14th we had the annual lodge maintenance where we began preparing the lodge for the end of the year festivities. While it is a simple thing to sweep and tidy a space, knowing that we were beginning a new year together brought a more solemn gravity to a traditionally simple task.

On Wednesday December 18th we had our final officer meeting of 2019 wherein we went over the agenda of events we plan to have for 2020, the enthusiastic participation of various officers/committee chairmen and our dutiful secretary and treasurer was quite helpful in setting out the plan for the year.

Saturday December 21st was when we received payment as Master Masons for the work that we do. The lodge Christmas party for the various families and children involved always brings a special joy to all of us, and demonstrates to me, as I hope it does for you as well, the real wages we receive for our earnest labors as Master Masons. The warmth and joy we create for others, especially those young ones that have yet to plumb the depths of life's mysteries, is the greatest currency that we should save and cherish.

On January 4th I will be installed as Worshipful Master for Mizpah 302 A.F. & A.M., the ceremony will begin at 3pm. If you are an officer then you need to show up by 1pm with a dark suit, let's make ourselves look good for our new ceremonial aprons and jewels brethren.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Tom Gibbs

Worshipful Master-elect



Calendar

Wednesday January 1

Dark! Happy New Year!

Saturday January 4

Installation of Officers 3pm

Wednesday January 8

Potluck Dinner 6:30pm

Business Meeting 7:00pm

Education: What Makes a Mason?

Jim Schmidt

Wednesday January 15

Fellowcraft Practice

SW Jeremiah Jones in charge

Wednesday January 22

Officer / Committee Meeting

Meeting with our advisor on our

Investments

Wednesday February 5

Potluck Dinner 6:30pm

Business Meeting 7:00pm

Education: Topic TBD

T.J. Brumfield

A Mason

By Jim Schmidt

Recently, there has been more of a debate on what makes a Mason. This month we will explore this topic further before examining each of the three primary degrees of Masonry in the coming year.

We all know what it takes to be a Mason, which is to complete the proficiency of the three primary degrees of Masonry; Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason. However, the question has been raised, does completing the three degrees make you a Mason? The simple answer is yes, once a male who has been elected to join a lodge by his own decision, and he has shown the proficiency of all three primary degrees with the approval of the worshipful master, he is a Mason.

To understand what a Mason is, we must look deeper within Masonry and ourselves. First, we must examine the purpose of Masonry: the universally defined purpose of Masonry is to help good men be better.

Let us examine "What is a Mason?" through the lens of the purpose of Masonry. Masonry carries out its purpose by keeping men exposed to moral and ethical teachings and by consistently asking them to consider important character-building issues. We often do this through our degree lectures and masonic education to foster one's introspection but is the Blue Lodge the only place one can receive the means of introspection? Some say the Blue Lodge is the only way, but others say embracing all of Masonry can accomplish the same goal. If we look at both of those viewpoints, one could say both views alienate our brothers who are not very active. Is there a possibility that all the following are ways to be a Mason: being solely active in one's Blue Lodge, being active in the various aspects of Masonry, or not being active/limited activity within Masonry? Simply yes, especially if we look at various aspects of the degrees.

In the three degrees, it is said that Masonry is a progressive science. It is said that each of the degrees is similar to a progression through life, such as Enter Apprentice is a representation of childhood, Fellow Craft is the representation of adolescence/early adulthood, and Master Mason is the representation of middle/late adulthood. We all mature & develop at different rates within life and more specifically the development of us as a person. This can be true of one as a Mason, as every brother develops an understanding of the purpose of Masonry within their own time.

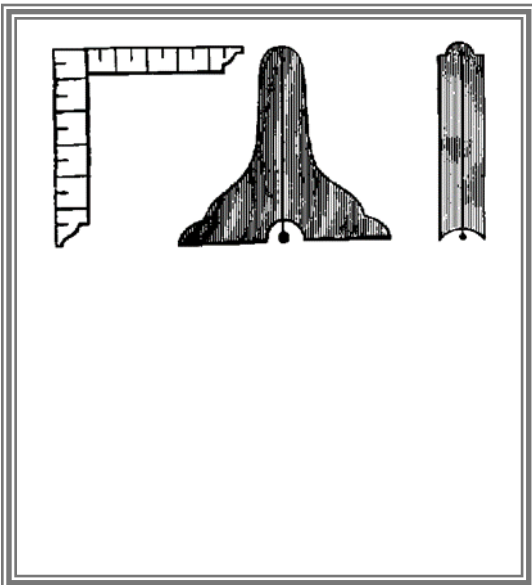
Let us examine being a Mason in relationship to development, as our lectures reference. As infants and toddlers, we are seeking approval & acceptance of our caregiver. In addition, we have the curiosity of a child that follows us throughout childhood. As children, we are flooded with information just like our new brothers as they complete and show proficiency. Adults expect children to absorb the information that is given to them and react to the world appropriately.

2020 Officers

- Thomas Gibbs Worshipful Master
55269 Fallow Rd
Pacific Junction IA 51561 Cell (402) 680-6678
- Jeremiah Jones (Kimberly)..... Senior Warden
2804 Jackson St.
Bellevue NE 68005 Cell (402) 507-7190
- Dalton Kock (Bri) Junior Warden
5201 London Rd
Lincoln NE 68516..... Cell (402) 719-0942
- W Adam Lowder (Mollie) Treasurer
10925 Weber St.
Omaha NE 68142 Cell (402) 850-6001
- W Ben Zaayer (Stacy)..... Secretary
5604 N. 162nd St.
Omaha NE 68116 Cell (402) 880-3028
- Kyle Barchus Chaplain
1521 S. 94th St
Omaha NE 68124 Cell (402) 203-3068
- James Schmidt (Elizabeth)..... Senior Deacon
3021 S 72nd Ave
Omaha NE 68124 Cell (402) 916-0262
- T.J Brumfield (Sarah) Junior Deacon
1210 S. 25th Ave
Omaha NE 68105 Cell (402) 880-7823
- Charles Davis..... Senior Steward
9336 Berry Plz. Apt. 192
Omaha NE 68127 Cell (402) 980-5394
- Terry Winter Junior Steward
601 S. 16th St Apt 309
Omaha NE 68102 Cell (402) 649-7524
- W Darren Malott (Paula)..... Tyler
505 Cornhusker Rd Ste 105-138
Bellevue NE 68005 Res (402) 216-3455

In adolescence and early adulthood, we expect one to explore and start applying one’s acquired knowledge. Middle to late adulthood most people develop an understanding of life in some form. As Masons, we progress through Masonry similar to how we progress through life. One’s desire to seek admission to Masonry and the approval of the lodge is similar to the stage of infancy and toddlerhood. The Enter Apprentice degree is similar to early childhood or the preschool ages when we have our first exposure to academia. The Fellow Craft degree is similar to middle childhood or the ages 6 – 11 when we are fully exposed to academia. Master Mason Degree is similar to adolescence when we are in high school finishing up our general education. The Masonic Appendant Bodies are similar to colleges when we are in early adulthood and we are exploring ourselves, in addition to expanding our knowledge base. Middle to late adulthood is when someone has fully lived life, which is similar to a Mason who has experienced what Masonry can offer them. They have achieved the purpose of Masonry and they have fully experienced the introspection that Masonry offers. In addition, they can speak about Masonry in regards to the various levels it has to offer to someone, and they understand the primary values of Masonry that outlined in the mission statement of Grand Lodge of Nebraska, which reads: “Freemasonry is the premier Fraternal Organization in Nebraska promoting the universally acknowledged values of Friendship, Morality, and Brotherly Love.”

When we ask, “What is a Mason?” or “What makes a Mason a Mason?” It is simply a man who has sought Masonry and is anywhere within the development of a Mason; but especially a Master Mason, as they are at a similar level as someone entering adulthood. As we enter adulthood, we do not always understand the knowledge that we have but we go forth with our journey in life and eventually come to understand the various things that have taken place in our lives, just as a Mason does in their Masonic journey. Is one’s Masonic journey going to be different than another Mason? Certainly! However, does that make their Masonic journey less important than another? We must look at how our degree work outlines that Masonry is like human development or the development of any other being. Just as a journey through life makes us a better person, our Masonic journey makes us better men.



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From the Secretary's Table

Brethren,

It is dues season again! How exciting is that? Everyone should have received a dues notice by now. If you have not, please email me so I can get one out the door to you. Dues for 2020 are payable no later than 1 January 2020. You can send a check, pay by PayPal or drop off cash to me in person. However you choose to pay your 2020 dues, we appreciate them on time as these funds go towards maintaining our operations.

If you have any questions, please call, email, or text and I will be happy to help.

Thanks!

Fraternally,
Ben Zaayer
Secretary