

# Unity Lodge #58, A.F. & A.M. Thorndike, Maine



## Greetings Brother:

Minutes of the last meeting are enclosed, please notify me of any needed corrections.

Since our last meeting 10 members of Unity Lodge attended Central Lodge in China and captured the 12th district traveling gavel. We can expect a number of visitors attempting to take it away from us at our May 18 Stated Communication.

## Upcoming Events:

May 18, 2016: Our stated communication. 6:30 Supper, 7:30 Meeting. Planning for a possible 78th annual Strawberry Festival, another rifle raffle, barbecue and/or other activities.

May 19: FC degree at Liberty Lodge. 7:30 pm.

May 25th, the District 12 Master's and Warden's Association will be meeting at 6:30 pm at Star In The West Lodge #85 in Unity. Refreshments will be served. All area Masons are welcome to attend, you do not have to be a sitting or Past Master or Warden. Come help guide the direction of the 12th District!

June 15: Our Stated Communication.

Newly elected Grand Lodge officers: Most Worshipful Grand Master: Thomas E. Pulkkinen

Deputy Grand Master: R.W. Mark Rustin; Grand Secretary: R.W. Dan Bartlett

Grand Treasurer: R.W. Scott Whytock

Newly appointed District 12 officers:

District Deputy Grand Master: R.W. Kevin Maroon

District Education Rep: V.W. Travis Wood

District Ritual Instructor: R.W. Steve "Bucky" Bucknam

If you do not have a dues card with the year 2016 on it you probably owe dues which with assessment for Grand Lodge per capita tax are \$55 per year. Those whose primary membership is in another Maine lodge only owe \$40.00 to Unity Lodge. Money can be sent to the prior secretary Mayo Cookson, to the current secretary or better yet attend a meeting and enjoy fellowship with other members –and pay in person.

I hope to see you soon.

Fraternally,

Bruce, Secretary

Stated meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 with a 6:30 supper

<http://unitylodge.hutchinsbrothers.com/>

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I do use computers regularly and would like to be able to send out notices via email to save cost and time while letting you know what is happening. If you would like to receive email please send me a message to the address above and also let me know if there is any interest in having a Lodge Facebook group to help stay in touch. Other suggestions are also welcome.

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The following was posted to <https://www.reddit.com/r/freemasonry>:

Having a uniform to distinguish when someone serves in office is near universal, from the lowest tribe of bush savages' chief wearing a feather in his hair to the Pope's vestments. In fact, our word for taking office, investiture, comes from the Latin 'vestis' for 'robe'.

When a judge puts on their black robe to serve in office, is that LARPing? No, that's the real uniform of their office. The military are endless about stipulating uniform requirements. Hospital staff, emergency responders, pilots and stewardesses, meter readers, and many, many other jobs have uniform requirements. Why? An airline pilot may fly just as well in cargo pants and a t-shirt... but people probably would not be willing to spend thousands of dollars per ticket to fly with him. His uniform elevates the dignity of the flight and shows the professionalism of his office. Despite security issues, airlines still find it important to keep the cockpit door open during boarding so the passengers are reassured of their pilots competence. How are they reassured? It's not like any of them actually can tell if the pilot is able to read the flight report correctly. It's seeing the pilot in proper uniform.

Likewise our uniforms elevate the dignity of our ceremonies and imbues confidence in our rituals.

"Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence in society." --Mark Twain

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#### The Rite of Circumambulation

from [http://www.themasonictrowel.com/books/the\\_square\\_and\\_compasses\\_falconer/files/chapter\\_12.htm](http://www.themasonictrowel.com/books/the_square_and_compasses_falconer/files/chapter_12.htm)

To circumambulate means to walk round about, which is derived from the Latin words circum meaning around and ambulare/ambulatum meaning to walk. In its original sense it referred to that portion of the religious rites in the ancient ceremonies of initiation, wherein the candidate was conducted in a formal procession around the altar or some other holy and consecrated object. To perambulate, in which the Latin word circum is replaced by the Latin word per which means through, originally meant to walk through, up and down or over for the purpose of surveying the land or patrolling a beat. Nowadays perambulate is often used in a general sense, meaning to walk about or around. In lodges of operative freemasonry and also in the formative period of modern speculative freemasonry, the clear distinction between circumambulation and perambulation was always maintained in the ceremonials.

The rite of circumambulation obviously relates to the circle, which is a symbol of the all-embracing principle of Divine manifestation that is without beginning or ending, being complete and absolute. Attributes of the Divine manifestation are illustrated in the Wisdom of Solomon, which is an important part of that compendium of moral and spiritual instruction known as the Book of Proverbs, much of which repeats earlier Egyptian exhortations almost word for word. In Proverbs 8:27-29 we read:

“When he set the heavens in their place I was there,  
when he girdled the ocean with the horizon,  
when he fixed the canopy of the clouds overhead  
and set the springs of ocean firm in their place,  
when he prescribed its limits for the sea  
and knit together earth's foundations.”

The rite of circumambulation is also related to the circle of existence, which is a symbol of the passage of the spiritual self through the cycle of life, whence darkness is dispelled and the long upward course of purification is begun, leading towards that perfection which can only be achieved in the life hereafter. This circle is symbolical of and can only be completed by a rebirth, as described in the words of Jesus when he cleansed the temple, which is recorded in the following words of John 3:7-8:

“You ought not to be astonished, then, when I tell you that you must be born over again. The wind blows where it wills; you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from, or where it is going. So with everyone who is born from spirit.”

Originally, circumambulation was only performed in the lodge in relation to the specific preparation and examination of the candidate prior to his obligation, to ensure that he was properly prepared and a fit and proper person to participate in the ensuing ceremony. This procedure reflected the combined symbolisms of the circle and the circle of existence, which was intended to remind the candidate that his upward course of purification was beginning. All other movements in the lodge were made by the most direct and convenient route, which clearly distinguished the rite of circumambulation from routine movements and emphasised the importance of the rite. This visible distinction is still maintained in lodges ... of speculative freemasons that follow either the Emulation working or some of the old Scottish workings. Nowadays the word circumambulation has almost disappeared from use in speculative craft freemasonry and perambulation is usually used to describe all movements on the floor of the lodge.

In the eighteenth century the development of the rituals of speculative craft freemasonry was at its peak. At that time the masonic scholars who prepared the rituals gave clear and conventional explanations of the ceremonials, which left no doubt of their intention that the rite of circumambulation should represent the “toilsome progress of humanity”, advancing from barbarism to civilisation and from ignorance to enlightenment. This advancement will ultimately lead us from this profane earthly existence to a state of perfection in that grand lodge above, eternal in the heavens. Although they are not identical with the rituals now worked, some of the very old catechisms and lectures clearly indicate that the early ritualists visualised the progression of candidates through the three degrees of speculative craft freemasonry as a symbolic journey from the profane world to a spiritual paradise, typified by the progress of the priests through the several compartments of King Solomon’s temple.

This progression still has a place in speculative craft freemasonry. The first degree symbolises rebirth ... The second degree symbolises life, education and work, which is represented emblematically by the priest entering the temple proper and making ritual offerings in the hekhal, the holy place set aside for the celebration of divine service by the priests. The third degree symbolises a victorious completion of this earthly existence, culminating in the perfection that can only be achieved by passing through that mystic veil which cannot be penetrated by human eyes, which is emblematically represented by the High Priest entering the debir or holy of holies at the western end of the temple. The debir was in the form of a perfect cube and was considered to be the seat of the Shekinah, the dwelling place of God in the midst of his people.

By the second half of the nineteenth century circumambulation was no longer regarded as a purely religious or mystical practice, having acquired a new and more general usage, simply meaning to walk around or about. During the same period perambulation had also lost its specific meaning, because it was being used more and more frequently when circumambulation previously would have been used to describe the movement more accurately. Over-enthusiastic ritualists then introduced the squaring of the lodge room for all movements on the floor, so that the original purpose of circumambulation ceased to be understood, or at the very least it was subjugated to the extent of becoming a mere routine, seriously detracting from the symbolism of the ceremonials.