

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



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November 16, 2018

Greetings Brother:

<<Raised this month wording>>

On Oct 18th 5 of our members attended Central Lodge and brought the 12th district traeling gavel back to Thorndike so we can expect to have more than the usual number of visitors at our pot luck supper and meeting on Nov. 21st. We may be voting on another candidate that night. Also we should be planning for who will be elected to office for next year at our annual meeting in December.

I regret to report that our oldest member, Ithamar Murch Bellows, passed away on October 27, 2018 at the age of 101 years. He was raised in Unity Lodge on June 26, 1947.

Coming events:

November 20, Annual Inspection at Messalonskee Lodge in Oakland. 6:30pm supper 7:30pm meeting.

November 27, Annual Inspection at Star in the West Lodge in Unity. EA degree 6:00 pm (Supper?).

November 28, FC degree at Central Lodge in China. 6:30pm supper 7:30pm meeting.

November 29, EA degree at Siloam Lodge in Fairfield, 6:30pm supper 7:30pm meeting.

December 3, Special meeting for all those who expect to be Masters or Wardens next year at Central Lodge 6:00 pm.

Dec. 13, Special meeting for all those who expect to be Deacons or Stewards next year at Central Lodge. 6:00 pm.

We have some new ways to keep in touch now: Bro. Craig Jones has started a Facebook group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1998256393798057/>

Grand Lodge has started "Our Lodge Page TM": <https://58-me.ourlodgepage.com/>

Please notify the secretary if your address changes.

Thank you to those who have paid their dues.

Stated meeting are on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 with a 6:30 supper
Bruce Hutchins, Secretary, 1053 Halldale Rd, Montville ME 04941. tel/fax 382-6226, email bruce@hutchinsbrothers.com
District Calendar <http://east.our.calendars.net/glme/glmedist12>
<http://unitylodge.hutchinsbrothers.com/>

Some Incomplete Thoughts, Completely Worth Sharing

Written by J. Mitchell

<http://www.arslatomorum.com/some-incomplete-thoughts-completely-worth-sharing/>

I start with Masonry being an Initiatic and orthopraxic tradition. As such the rituals aren't for the candidate. The rituals are for the initiates. Lodges exist as a community, whereby the members arrange for a shared experience, a visceral encounter with the virtues – and in case of the MM degree the iniquities – built into the Degrees.

Lodges do this repeatedly, because Lodges know we are like children (in fact in the Webb work tells us to adopt a childlike attitude), and that we need to be told and reminded, time and time and time again. Even after the repetition has sunk into our subconscious, and even flowered into our mind and actions, we continue to re-immers ourselves because discipline is how we overcome apathy, and discipline is how we train our hearts and minds to find something new in each encounter and cherish it.

Too many approach masonry orthodoxically. They want a lecture, or a sermon, or some other tidy bit of information that can be processed, or disposed of. They want that information to conform to their pre-existing conceptions of religion (what, non-christians can be masons), morality (what, gay men can be masons), politics (what, left/right people can be masons), esotericism/occultism (what, the the french post-napoleon school isn't all there is), and so forth.

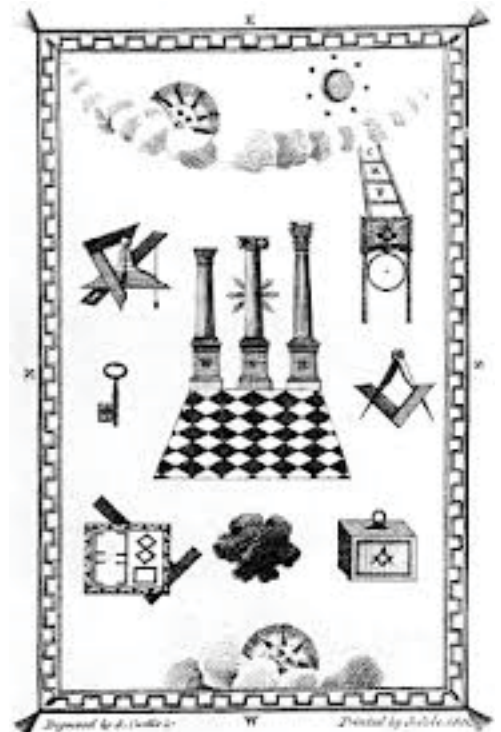
In short, many come to Masonry because they think Illumination is equivalent with becoming informed. Masonry works like an old school initiatic tradition, fake it until you make it. Or as Patton put it: if they start dressing and acting like soldiers, maybe they'll start feeling like soldiers, and by god maybe they'll even become soldiers.

This isn't to say there isn't information in Masonry. But it tends to be of a much more primal nature, somewhere at the point where our neo-cortex and parasympathetic nervous systems are well differentiated.

The Three Pillars

The universe is the temple of the Deity whom we serve: Wisdom, Strength and Beauty are around his throne, as pillars of his works; for his wisdom is infinite, his strength is omnipotent, and his beauty shines forth through all his creation. ... Every lodge must be supported by three grand shafts, or pillars—Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty. Wisdom constructs the building, Beauty adorns, and Strength supports it; also, Wisdom is ordained to discover, Beauty to ornament, and Strength to bear. He who is wise as a perfect Master, will not be easily injured by his own actions. Hath a person the strength which a Senior Warden represents, he will bear and overcome every obstacle in life. And he who is adorned, like the Junior Warden, with humility of spirit, approaches nearer to the similitude of God than another. But the three pillars must be built upon a rock, and that rock is called Truth and Justice.—Gadicke

[Robert Macoy, General History, Cyclopedia and Dictionary of Freemasonry. (New York: Masonic Publishing Co., 1872), 325, 615–616.]



Friendship: It's what's for dinner
<https://masonictao.com/page/4/>

A guy stopped by my work who happens to be a brother in a small, struggling lodge. For the last two years, this brother has been a Steward, and has gone out of his way to make sure that there is dinner & refreshment for every meeting. He started small, and his efforts were rewarded by guys who started coming back to lodge to have a meal and hang out with old friends. They charged half price for the meal, making up the difference with some lodge funds in order to get the word out. The lodge looked like it was climbing out of the membership hole.

But the new WM this year decided that he didn't want to spend more lodge money on dinners, and didn't want the hassle of dinners at every meeting. So his "will and pleasure" was that there would only be dinners for degree nights, brothers must make reservations ahead of time, and they would be charged the full price \$10 to \$15.

Within 2 months, attendance had dropped off.

Now, dinners are not Masonic instruction. They aren't even spiritual instruction. But they are a reason for members to come down: the pre-meeting dinners are a time to renew old friendships, to catch up with what old friends are doing, and to make acquaintances with the new members of the lodge.

You have new members of your lodge, don't you?

There's a lesson here, someplace. We need to give both the old members and the new members a reason to come down. It's certainly not to hear the minutes, or to complain about the latest Grand Lodge requirement, or even to listen to some bit of Masonic history that they could easily have gotten from The History Channel.

What reason does your lodge have that makes it worth your time to come down?

Poem by:
Bro. Walter K. Belt

"The 6:30 Degree"

You may have a skillful Master
Who presides with practiced ease,
Who arranges clever programs
That will entertain and please,
One who calls in witty speakers;
Who knows his way about;
But a lavish Junior Warden
Is the boy who brings them out!

You may have a good degree team
Where each member knows his part.
Drilled to function as a unit
With especial skill and art,
With the finest of equipment,
Jewelled crown and sumptuous shroud;
But a groaning banquet table
Is the bait that draws the crowd!

Did I say I was different?
If the truth must be confessed,
Much as I like work and speeches,
I'm as hungry as the rest;
And the ones they put in pudding
Are my favorite kind of "Plumb";
When the cry is "Come and get it!"
Gangway, slowpokes! Here I come.

And A J Disbrow had this to say about the Fork and Knife Degree

I do not attend the meetings
For I've not the time to spare
But every time they have a feast
You will surely find me there;
I cannot help with the degrees
For I do not know the work,
But I can applaud the speakers
And handle a knife and fork.
I'm so rusty in the ritual,
That is seems like Greek to me,
But practice has made me perfect
in the Knife and Fork Degree.