

TRESTLEBOARD

Clearwater Lodge No. 127 F&AM

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705 South Hercules Avenue—across from Clearwater High School—(727) 447-5161
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From the East



Brethren,

This is a terrific time to be a Freemason. We are standing at the base of the mountain called Challenge. New offi-

cers are in place, our energy level has been greatly expanded, our enthusiasm is high and it is time to make our ascent. All of our appointed Officers are young Masons. Most are recently Raised. To a 30 year Mason it makes me proud to be a part of this recent resurgence of growth and participation in our time honored Fraternity.

Freemasonry, as we know it today, is very much a product of the "Age of Enlightenment," which has, over the centuries, developed into a fraternity from at least the time of the stone workers guild of ancient Europe. We are a Fraternity emphasizing personal study, self improvement, and social betterment. Worldwide, there are 3.5 million members of our Fraternity who continually help men face the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century by building bridges of Brotherhood, performing good works in our communities, and upholding the ideals of a better tomorrow.

You might ask yourself how can I, as an individual ascend that mountain. As an individual it would be difficult to climb alone. But when you have your Brothers by your side you can overcome any challenge. Our Lodge should be your strength in time of need, your comfort in time of sorrow. Clearwater Lodge No. 127 has 287 members, although some of you do not live in the area many of you still live in Clearwater. Most of our meetings have 30 or so members who attend regularly. On every petition we ask if elected will you attend meetings. On every petition all candidates answered yes. Our new Officers and Brothers need mentors they have a thirst for Masonic knowledge and ritual.

Clearwater Lodge is in a unique position the changing of the guard is already taking place. At the end of this year the mantel will be passed to our younger members. Without the knowledge and mentoring of our senior members the ritual of Freemasonry could be lost. Our average age has changed from 80 to 34 years old. Ask yourself will you be a part of this great expedition up the mountain of challenge.

On The Square,
W.: James Eubanks P.M.
Worshipful Master

From the West



Brethren,

To be able to write an article and talk with each one of you each month is a privilege. It is also a privilege to be an officer of this Lodge and a member of the Fraternity.

Another privilege that I was able to experience yesterday was to be proud to be a Mason, be recognized as a Mason and to act as a Mason and give information to others less informed about our Great Masonic Fraternity.

Marita, my wife, and I were at Ft. Desoto working on the final preparations for Saturday, March 31, 2007. Our Lodge is going to have a "Masonic Night at the Fort", starting at 4:00 pm eating at 5:00 Pm, and staying after dark until 8:00 Pm (Please see flyer form last months Trestleboard) Jim a park Ranger was asking me about the Masons. His Great Grand Father was a Mason and he wanted to have information about our Fraternity and an application for membership.

A Mason never knows who is listening or watching our every word or deed. On our way home with Bro. Warwick Taylor, we stopped to say hi to Betty a resident of our Point West Park. Betty was doing her walking with Fancy her companion dog. Betty said she had a question for us two Masons. She had heard that only Presbyterians could be Masons and wondered if that was true?

Of course Warwick and I both explained that neither of us were Presbyterians and that any man who believed in a "Supreme Being" had a right to ask for membership in our Fraternity regardless of Religion. Betty said "Well you really opened my eyes and I can see the Masons in a different light. I'll see both of you guys tomorrow." Betty has been visually impaired for years.

She took the time to see with her heart.

With Love for the Fraternity
W.: Jon P. Vonderau, P.M.
Senior Warden

From the South



Brethren,

I would like to share with you some comments from Poverty Creek: Chronological Eras and the Masonic Calendar

The Masonic calendar forms , at its base, the time of King Solomon. To an outsider, the Masonic method of calculating time might appear strange. However, the principle of measuring time, commencing with a specific event, is not unusual. Throughout history different groups, cultures, religions and nations have selected measurements of time frames similar to that used by the Craft. Additionally chronological eras, which have significant and compelling historical basis, also have a bearing on our Fraternity.

The Holy Bible, whose presence is in every Masonic Lodge, contains instructions from the Divine institution on the time employed by the Creator in the creation of the earth. Specific directions for days of labor are defined. The Lord designated the seventh day as Holy, to be set aside as rest. Thus the designation of a "day" was of Divine origin, leaving the division of months and years to man's invention. Masons rely heavily upon revelations from the Bible.

It is written there is a time to plant and a time to sow. Every man, in order to survive, had to make a determination as to when to gather and store food for the coming cold weather. Earthly cycles forced man to be aware of pending weather changes.

By simple observation, the phases of the moon were determined to be every twenty eight days. Naturally this discovery led to the division of the months. Expanding on the lunar sequences, man concluded that the apparent rotation of the earth covered a period of slightly more than 365 days for its annual cycle. This conclusion led to the definition of a year to be 365 days in length.

The present day Jewish calendar, based on a lunar month, is adjusted to the solar year seven times in a 19 year cycle. This calendar places the "creation" at 3760 years B.C.E. Based on the Gregorian calculations, the year 5768 of the Jewish era begins at sunset October 1, 2007. Masons rely upon the Jewish calculations to determine the dates of King Solomon's era. That is the complicated way to explain why Masons use of 6007 as there official date. It comes from the era of the building of King Solomon's Temple. A basic fundamental tenet of Freemasonry. Remember your 3 degree's?

Respective of how you measure the calendar, the use of time is important. As Masons, we are taught to use our time wisely.

With my Brotherly Love to all of you,

Bro. Joseph Gondos
Junior Warden

OFFICERS	
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COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN	
BREAKFAST Marlin Marsh 441-2543	LODGE MENTOR/PHOTOGRAPHER Paul L. Smith 799-2182
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	VIGILANCE Joe Gondos 656-7231

PAST MASTERS OF CLEARWATER LODGE NO. 127		
1892 * W.F. WHITE	1937 * WILL C. RODGERS P.D.D.G.M.	1982 WAYNE PELLEY
1893 * C.F. THOMPSON	1938 * HERBERT GRICE	1983 THOMAS C. LITTLE
1894 * JOSEPH ELDRIDGE	1939 * W. PAUL HARRIS	1984 BRYANT S. DAVIS
1895 * J.M. MATCHETT	1940 * J. MERLE KELLOG	1985 RONALD LOHR
1896 * JOHN H. WARLICK	1941 * JAMES C. ROBERTS	1986 MARTIN A. RYAN
1897 * H.L. SNYDER	1942 * FORREST SCARLOTT	1987 * ARDEN F. FLEISHER
1898 * W.Y. WILSON	1943 * GRADY SULLIVAN	1988 JAMES H. DIEPHUIS P.D.D.G.M.
1899 * H.L. SNYDER	1944 * WATSON RICKS	1989 GRANVILLE T. LEMAY
1900 * W.Y. WILSON	1945 * KENNETH LIPPINCOTT	1990 LUDVIG C. CHRISTENSEN
1901 * JOSEPH J. ELDRIDGE	1946 * WILLIAM L. RANDOLPH	1991 RICHARD J. CORNWELL
1902 * JOSEPH J. ELDRIDGE	1947 * OTIS MCFARLAND	1992 * RICHARD CORYELL
1903 * W.D. KIMBALL	1948 * FRANCIS MIDDLETON	1993 JACK STABLER P.D.D.G.M.
1904 * W.D. KIMBALL	1949 * L. LESTER SELLERS P.D.D.G.M.	1994 MICHAEL LAFOLLETTE
1905 * W.E. KIMBALL	1950 * GLENN ALLAN	1995 GEORGE D. BENHAM P.D.D.G.M.
1906 * LEROY BRANDON P.G.M.	1951 * J. COHEN HARDY	1996 LEE HAMILTON
1907 * LEROY BRANDON P.G.M.	1952 * LESTER PLUMB P.D.D.G.M.	1997 RONALD G. LORH
1908 * R.H. PADGETT	1953 * LEWIS SCRUGGS	1998 ROY W. BAKER
1909 * R.H. PADGETT	1954 * HAROLD WALLACE	1999 LARRY BOWLING
1910 * R.W. HINES	1955 * PAUL CASSEL	2000 PAUL NEWMAN
1911 * LEROY BRANDON P.G.M.	1956 * REGINALD MILLER P.D.D.G.M.	2001 SAM LAMPSON P.D.D.G.M.
1912 * LEROY BRANDON P.G.M.	1957 * MARVIN DYAL	2002 MEL HINKLEY
1913 * S.N. DILLARD	1958 * ROY H. JAMES	2003 FRANK VERDERAME
1914 * S.N. DILLARD	1959 * EDWARD C. CALVIN	2004 JOSEPH W. DUHAMEL
1915 * J.P. EMERSON	1960 * GERALD L. WHITE	2005 MARK BIRENBAUM
1916 * LEROY BRANDON P.G.M.	1961 RICHARD E. DUPUY	2006 SAM LAMPSON, P.D.D.G.M.
1917 * E.E. COPELAND	1962 * KNUTE A. ODEN	2006 ART BARKER
1918 * H.W. BIVENS	1963 * WILLIAM F. SHURTLIFF	
1919 * H.W. BIVENS	1964 * FRED J. HASLINGER	
1920 * LOUIS FRANK	1965 * FRANK R. COLVIN	
1921 * S.T. WICKENS	1966 * JAMES J. ALMONY	
1922 * JOSEPH A. WRIGHT	1967 * LELAND BEEBE	
1923 * L.E. JOHNSON	1968 * HAROLD A. RODENBERG	
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1925 * CHARLES SHAW	1970 * ARDEN F. FLEISHER	
1926 * S.T. WICKENS	1971 * STEINER M. HUMERICK	
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1928 * CHARLES F. MASON	1973 * N. FISHER GROVES	
1929 * D.W. CULP	1974 * JAMES H. DIEPHUIS P.D.D.G.M.	
1930 * NILS A. ANDERSON	1975 * JAMES T. OGLE	
1931 * JOHN M. GORE	1976 * DAVID A. MARTIN	
1932 * EVAN H. JONES	1977 * ROBERT L. TROGLEN	
1933 * WILLIAM A. MOREE	1978 * TRAVIS MCLEMORE	
1934 * B.T. GRIFFIN	1979 * WILLIAM KURTZ	
1935 * JOHN C. POLHILL P.D.D.G.M.	1980 * JERRY PATTERSON	
1936 * ARTHUR C. GRISELMAN	1981 * JERRY COLE	

IN MEMORIUM

BROTHER FREDERICK E. MILLER 10/28/1923-02/17/2007

From the Secretary Desk

Brethren,



Recently I was asked about a Lodge of Sorrows. Being uninformed and not having a ready answer I researched The Lodge of Sorrows. This is the definition in the Florida Masonic Monitor

In the performance of the ceremonies of a Lodge of Sorrow, it should be understood that the ritual, although necessarily of a funeral character, differs essentially from those for the burial of the dead.

In the latter case, we are in the actual presence of the deceased, and engaged in the last rites of affection and respect for one who has been our companion in life, and whose mortal remains we are about to consign to the last resting place, amid the tears of surviving friends, and under the peculiar influences which attach to the rites of sepulture and the final earthly farewell to one who, but a few hours previously could respond to questions; and exchange with us the signs of living. We are then called to consider the "mattock, the space, the coffin and the melancholy grave," in all their gloomy reality, and to reflect that the hour must soon be tolled "when we, too shall be clothed in the habiliments of death, and deposited in the voiceless tomb.

The Lodge of Sorrows, on the contrary, is intended to celebrate the memory of our departed Brethren; and while we thus recall to our recollection their virtues, and temper anew our resolutions so to live that when we shall have passed the silent portals our memories may be cherished with grateful remembrance, we learn to look upon death from a more elevated point of view; to see in it the wise and necessary transition from the trials and imperfections of this world, to the perfect life for which our transient journey here has been the school and the preparation. We thus learn "that the soul is the whole of man; that for it to be born, is really to die, that earth is but its place of exile, and heaven its native land.

In the preparation of the ritual, it has been sought to typify the inevitable necessity of death; the gloom and sorrow that attend the "last of earth," and surround "the narrow house appointed for all living," and the consoling fact of the immortality of the soul and the resurrection to a new and true life, where sorrow and tears have no place.

Finally there is no good reason for any attempt at secrecy in the ceremonies of Sorrow Lodges; but that, on the other hand, they might held in churches or public halls, or in the presence of friends at the Lodge, with benefit to all concerned. This however, will necessarily be subject to the wishes of the Brethren themselves. In the words of R.: W.: Sam Lampson "Now you know."

In Peace and Harmony
Russell LeMar
Secretary

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

BRO. MICHAEL S.	PACE	2
BRO. BERNARD F.	RUBRECHT	4
BRO. WENDELL A.	MASON	5
BRO. LARRY D.	WYMORE	6
BRO. RUSSELL H.	SITTLOH	9
BRO. HARVEY	BAILIN	13
W.: ROBERT L.	TROGLEN	17
W.: MARK	LEMACHER	18
BRO. ARLEN R.	STAR	18
BRO. WILLIAM C.	STEWART	20
BRO. CHARLES G.	PAUL	26
BRO. RICHARD S.	HASSEL	27
BRO. DONALD L.	NAJA	28

Bill Rollender
 Realtor / Real Estate Consultant

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A QUICK TOUR OF OUR LODGE

Above-top a view from the West to East.

Directly above is the Lodge viewed from Hercules Ave.

To the right is the kitchen attached to our Fellowship hall. The hot place to be on a Saturday morning. We are always looking for help.

Below right is our Gift Shop. Bro Paul has many fine items for you to purchase.

Thanks Bro Craig Knight



RECYCLING CANS AND NEWSPAPER

Clearwater Lodge is pleased to support a program of collecting Aluminum cans. The Lodge turned in 65 lbs, and the owner donated extra funds to help our Lodge. Please rinse cans prior to bringing them to the Lodge and place them outside the back door of the Kitchen for collections. Remember also to bring your newspapers and leave them in the bright RED container in the parking lot. Funds collected from Aluminum cans and Newspapers help pay for repairs to parking lot.

BREAKFAST FUND RAISING REPORT

Brethren,

I would like to share a novella from our Brother Rudyard Kipling:

When I was a King and a Mason
 A master proved and skilled,
 I cleared me ground for a palace
 Such as a King should build,
 I decreed and cut down to my levels,
 Presently, under the silt,
 I came on the wreck of a palace
 Such as a King had built.

Fraternally,
 Bro. Marlin Marsh
 Kitchen Manager



GIFT STORE:
 Come see Additional new selection of new items available in our Gift Shop to buy. If you have not had the opportunity to stop by the Gift Counter recently, please do so and see the larger selection of Masonic and Eastern Star merchandise that can be purchased. Gift Shop Hours when Lodge is open. *Brother Paul Smith*



Clearwater Lodge No. 127
Free & Accepted Masons
 705 South Hercules Avenue
 Clearwater, Florida 33764-6317
 www.clearwater127.org

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APRIL 2007 EVENTS

1 Palm Sunday	2	3 Passover Officers Practice 7:30	4	5	6 Good Friday	7 Fellowship Breakfast 7-10AM OES Fashion Show 12pm—3pm
8 Easter	9	10 Stated Meeting 7:30 Dinner 6:30	11 OES 7:30 PM	12	13	14 Fellowship Breakfast 7-10AM White Shine 7:30 PM
15 Masonic Home Board Meeting 11am	16	17 Officers Practice 7:30	18	19 Brothers and La- dies Night Out at Stacy's 6 PM	20	21 Fellowship Breakfast 7-10AM
22	23	24 Stated Meeting 7:30 Dinner 6:30	25 OES 7:30 PM	26	27 Fish Fry 5:30PM	28 Fellowship Breakfast 7-10AM
29	30 FC Practice 7:30					