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Occidental Lodge #72, F&AM Trestleboard ~ June, 2004

Serving Ballard for 113 Years

Ballard Masonic Center ~ 2006 NW Market St. ~ Seattle, WA 98107 206-782-8289
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FROM OUR WORSHIPFUL MASTER:

Greetings Brethren:

What a month Occidental Lodge # 72 had in May. Here is a list of activities accomplished:

- a **visitation** to Greenwood # 253,
- a Job's Daughter's Bethel # 28 **installation**,
- a **District # 4 Scholarship Awards program** at the Ballard Masonic Center,
- a joint Occidental # 72 - W.F. Meier # 281 **fellowship night** with dinner and movie (which was a double feature consisting of a very entertaining and interesting documentary about the history of the Knights Templar, and an action packed movie starring Sean Connery);
- a **golf tournament** at Raspberry Ridge course near Ferndale featuring golfers representing Mt. Lebanon Lodge # 72 from Vancouver, B.C. versus our own golfers representing Occidental # 72 (Mt. Lebanon won as usual);
- a **food handlers class** of instruction conducted by Brother Vincent DiGuilio;
- the annual Norwegian Day Parade which included our **1st Place float** which was a hit with the kids watching on the sidelines;
- the **dinner** our Brothers prepared and served to Occidental Chapter # 28, Order of the Eastern Star;
- **our stated meeting** on the 20th where we heard a most entertaining story of the “Armitage Affair” presented by Very Worshipful Companion Richard Kovac featuring the address of John Quincy Adams to the U.S. Supreme Court, and an informed description of the proposed resolutions Grand Lodge will consider for adoption next month presented by Most Worshipful Ken Robinson;
- a **fellowcraft degree** performed for Brother Jonathan Riley Forsling;
- a **Table Lodge** at Greenwood # 253 and

- the last **Family Night** before going dark for the summer.

May has been a very busy month. June will be somewhat subdued by comparison.

Occidental # 72 will **visit Hercules Lodge # 17** on their **Wednesday, June 2nd** stated meeting, which begins at 8:00pm.

Grand Lodge will convene in Wenatchee on **June 10th, 11th, and 12th**.

Our **Stated Meeting** will be **Thursday, June 17th**, and a **Master Mason Degree** for Brother Forsling will be presented on **Friday, June 18th**.

Occidental's June will conclude with a **visitation to W.F. Meier # 218** on their stated meeting **Thursday, June 24th**.

I'm looking forward to visiting with you in June and at various Masonic functions throughout the summer. Some structural revisions will be made to Occidental's building during the summer while our facility and Lodge are "dark" in July and August, but there are still some events we can all enjoy together.

There will be a **District #4 picnic** at the Nile Country Club on **July 17th** and a **District # 4 golf tournament** on **Saturday, July 24th**.

The **Open Air 3rd degree at Granite Falls** is open to all Master Masons on **Saturday, August 7th**, and our own Family Campout will take place at the Granite Falls Masonic Park from **Friday, August 20, through Sunday, August 22nd**. That is a full week later than usual, because the whole park has been reserved for a youth group outing that weekend.

Fraternally,

Carl Edelman, Worshipful Master

FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN:

Brethren and Friends:

A few weeks ago I received a letter from a Brother Mason, Ed Collinge, who was dealing with some health problems. As we all get older, health problems are inevitable. I was so touched by this letter that I asked Ed if I could publish it in the June Trestleboard where all the Brothers could read it. Ed Collinge is an enthusiastic member of Occidental Lodge who eagerly assists in any way he can. He is known by many as the "Steak Man" because of the wonderful and delicious preparation of steaks at our Granite Falls campout. To others he is known as the "Wayfaring and Seafaring Man". His letter is as follows:

Brothers,

Since the day the doctor told me I have cancer my whole life has changed, and believe me some of it has been for the better. Due to all the years I spent working as a paramedic, ones emotions get shut off – it's the mind's way of dealing with all the horrid things you have to deal with on a daily basis. A person could loose his mind if he were to think about what he is dealing with and the pain of what the patient and family are going through. Well this time I am seeing things from the other side of the fence, the role of the patient.

As a result, a lot of things in my life have changed both physically and mentally. It has really shown me who my true friends are, and those relationships are full of unconditional love. I can never say thank you enough for all the support you have all given me over the past few months, it has been overwhelming.

I honestly think that the way a person deals with cancer has a lot to do with a positive outlook. Without a support network it would be very difficult to look at positives. I am very blessed with having so many things in my life that I want to keep living for. A lot of little things that we take for granted everyday suddenly become very important. It has made me realize a lot of things I was too busy to look at before. Life is great! Well I saw the doctor yesterday and started my last round of chemo, with 13 more radiation treatments left and then I should be cured. That's the plan. After the radiation they say it should take about 3 to 4 weeks to heal from the radiation burns both inside and out. Then I don't have to see a doctor for 8 weeks. I won't know what to do with all my time. At that time they will see if there is any cancer left, and surgically remove any tumor that is remaining. I should be cancer-free, but they are hoping that the radiation and chemo will destroy 70 or 80% of the tumor.

It's nice to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Again thank you from the bottom of my heart,
Bro. Ed Collinge

PS

Anyone who has not had their colon checked please take the time to get this done. I will be the first to tell you it is not the most dignified procedure to go through. If done properly it is painless, and if caught in the early stages colon cancer can be successfully treated.

So go get checked out. Anyone over forty needs to do this.

WB Al Mungin
Senior Warden

FROM OUR JUNIOR WARDEN:

I had the challenge of filling the Senior Deacon's part in the Second Degree for Jonathan Riley Forsling on Thursday, May 21st, and it was both stressful and also very rewarding. My impression from that experience is that it is vitally important for new Masons to study and memorize much of our ritual in order to make Masonry a rule and guide in their lives. Most of us live by those rules anyway but the words give depth and recognizable meaning to what we hopefully practice on a daily basis. For example, part of the ritual for the second degree reads: ***"And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing."*** The passage (from 1 Cor. 13) is a powerful admonition that even with saint-like powers, if we do not aid and assist those in need we are "nothing."

My appointment to the Charity Committee will give me the opportunity to help our Lodge brothers meet that obligation to assist those in distress, more especially Masons, their widows and orphans. I will propose creation of a Masonic Assistance Fund to be administered by the Charity Committee for that purpose, - which, to be effective, will require the commitment of significant financial resources to the Committee. I do anticipate there will be some opposition to such a plan so I urge my Brethren to recall the obligations taken at the altar and support such an important undertaking.

Br. Errol G. Scott
Junior Warden

PASSAGES:

The following Brothers were Memorialized at the May, 2004 Stated Communication.
Their names will be inscribed on a leaf for our perpetual Tree of Life at the Ballard Masonic Center.

B John L. Scoll

April 16, 1921 ~ November 21, 2003

57 Year Mason

17 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

B Robert Alfred Richardson

August 11, 1922 ~ January 11, 2004

48 Year Mason

8 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

B Karl Alfred Wallin

January 4, 1936 ~ March 11, 2004

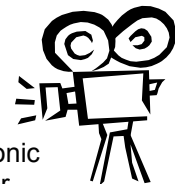
37 Year Mason

7 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

Note: Sometimes we receive very late notice of a member's passing. Please make sure your family and/or the Executor of your estate know your wishes now, and add this task to a list of instructions your survivors will have access to.

FAMILY NIGHT AND MOVIES:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)



As you have probably already read, we won't be having Family Night at the Ballard Masonic Center in June, July, or August. The reason is simple – because facility will be closed (or “dark”) so renovations can be made and facility changes made complete.

Don't worry, we will start them up again in September. **Mark down Saturday, September 25th as the next time we will meet.**

For those of you who came to the May event, I owe you a great big “sorry”. The meal was delicious as usual, but the projector failed to produce light. After applying power to it, an ominous orange “lamp” LED started flashing on the control panel instead of the projection light we were expecting. Questions and suggestions abounded, but in the end,... no replacement lamp was at hand, and no movie was shown.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported and come to these events so far. It has been fun to entertain you. Thanks also to Errol Scott, our Junior Warden, and Harry Ginther for their menu planning and meal service. Please come again in the Fall.

I'll publish what movie we will watch in September. New movies come out so fast, I'd like to see what is available then. **If you have suggestions or requests, please call or send me a message.**

OTHER HAPPENINGS:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)

Food Handlers Class. WB Vinnie DiGiulio of Ashler Lodge in Bothell put on a food handling class at the Ballard Masonic Center on Sunday, May 16th. Six Occidental Brothers attended and passed the class. State certifications to each are on their way. Those who attended were: Phil Aamodt, Ed Collinge, Henry Fletcher, Brian Hardy, Andy King, and Al Mungin. We were expecting Travis Coleman, but missed him.

Table Lodge. The Table Lodge Occidental put on at the Greenwood Masonic Center on Thursday, May 22nd was excellent, and well attended! Most importantly, it was fun! MWB Ken Robinson gave an inspiring message, and there were many friendly toasts given, in addition to the standard ones. The Stewards were hopping, and barely had time to sit, for even a moment!

TRESTLEBOARD REMINDER:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)

This is the last issue of your Occidental Trestleboard until September. I'd like to remind any members that it is one of **your** communication tools you have available with your Lodge, and that you are more than welcome to submit any article, message, news, or notice you think in relevant to our readership. This more or less extends to others as well. Make your voice or opinions known. Share your wisdom or knowledge with other Masons.

POLITICAL HUMOR:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)

In a presidential election year, you can definitely expect to see or hear political humor as well as mud slinging and jabbing. The following have been two different versions of political jokes I've seen on the Internet lately. I hope you take them in the right light, and enjoy them. It's good to laugh at yourself. Besides, "I'm the publisher, and I approve of these messages".

Democratic Convention Schedule	Republican Convention Schedule
6:00pm - Opening flag burning ceremony. 6:30pm - Anti-war rally #1. 6:40pm - Ted Kennedy proposes a toast. 7:00pm - Tribute theme to France. 7:10pm - Collect offerings for al-Zawahri defense fund. 7:20pm - Ted Kennedy proposes a toast. 7:25pm - Tribute theme to Spain. 7:45pm - Anti-war rally #2. (Moderated by Michael Moore) 8:00pm - John Kerry presents one side of the issues. 8:25pm - Ted Kennedy proposes a toast. 8:30pm - Terrorist appeasement workshop. 9:00pm - Gay marriage ceremony. 9:30pm - * Intermission * 10:00pm - Flag burning ceremony #2. 10:15pm - Re-enactment of Kerry's fake medal toss. 10:30pm - Cameo by Howard Dean "Yeeeahrrrrrg!" 10:40pm - Ted Kennedy proposes a toast. 10:50pm - Pledge of allegiance to the UN. 11:00pm - Double gay marriage ceremony. 11:15pm - Maximizing Welfare workshop. 11:20pm - John Kerry presents the other side of the issues. 11:30pm - 'Free Saddam' pep rally. 11:59pm - Ted Kennedy proposes a toast. 12:00am - Nomination of Democrat candidate. 12:30am - Ted Kennedy drives everyone home.	6:00 PM Opening Prayer led by the Reverend Jerry Fallwell 6:30 PM Pledge of Allegiance 6:35 PM Burning of Bill of Rights (excluding 2nd amendment) 6:45 PM Salute to the "Coalition of the Willing" 6:46 PM Seminar #1: Getting your kid a military deferment 7:30 PM First Presidential Beer Bong 7:35 PM Serve Freedom Fries 7:40 PM EPA Address #1: Mercury, it's what's for dinner. 8:00 PM Vote on which country to invade next 8:10 PM Call EMTs to revive Rush Limbaugh 8:15 PM John Ashcroft Lecture: The Homos are after your children 8:30 PM Round table discussion on reproductive rights (MEN only) 8:50 PM Seminar #2: Corporations: The government of the future 9:00 PM Condi Rice sings "Can't Help Lovin' that Man" 9:05 PM Second Presidential Beer Bong 9:10 PM EPA Address #2: Trees: The real cause of forest fires 9:30 PM Break for secret meetings 10:00 PM Second prayer led by Cal Thomas 10:15 PM Lecture by Karl Rove: Doublespeak made easy 10:30 PM Rumsfeld demonstration of how to squint and talk macho 10:35 PM Bush demonstration of trademark "deer in headlights" stare 10:40 PM John Ashcroft demonstrates new mandatory kevlar chastity belt 10:45 PM Clarence Thomas reads list of black Republicans 10:46 PM Third Presidential Beer Bong 10:50 PM Seminar #3: Education: a drain on our nation's economy. 11:10 PM Hilary Clinton Piqata 11:20 PM Second Lecture by John Ashcroft: Evolutionists: The dangerous new cult 11:30 PM Call EMTs to revive Rush Limbaugh again. 11:35 PM Blame Clinton 11:40 PM Laura serves milk and cookies 11:50 PM Closing Prayer led by Jesus Himself 12:00AM Nomination of George W. Bush as Holy Supreme Planetary Overlord

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TEMPLE BOARD NEWS:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)

As I reported last month, the Temple Association Trustees have reviewed plans to expand and modernize the men's room in the facility this summer, and also to provide a better dressing area for the Brethren, who need a place to change their clothes.

Prior to our TB meeting in May, we were considering splitting the lady's lounge to make room for a men's changing area, but WB Richard Castleberry came to that meeting with a plan and a bid to expand the current men's room to the north and to the west to accommodate both. The Temple Association approved his plan and bid. The Jobie locker at the end of the "cloak" room would be consumed in the project, as well as much of the coat hanging area. We would gain a couple of **regular** sized toilets that even handicapped men could utilize, individual urinals, and improved washing surfaces. And,... a small but functional dressing room will be provided with hanging space in what is now the coat hanging area.

Another project previously mentioned is conversion of the current office space outside the elevators into a "library" area, complete with new shelving.

Before proceeding with these changes, I will make a presentation to the Lodge at our June Stated Communication on Thursday, June 17th, and ask the Lodge for their approval.

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