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Occidental Lodge #72, F&AM

Trestleboard ~ April, 2005

**Serving Ballard for 114 Years**

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## FROM OUR WORSHIPFUL MASTER:

By WB [Al Mungin](#)

### Greetings from the East!

Our stated communication for March began with dinner at 6:30PM. Our Junior Warden, Ed Collinge and WB Harry Ginther prepared a fantastic traditional meal that was fit for a king to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. An entourage of eight brothers from Perfection Lodge No. 75 in New Westminster, BC honored us at Occidental Lodge No. 72 with an unscheduled visitation at this meeting. Lodge began at 7:30PM where two Canadians presented me with a beautiful engraved gavel and carrying case. We are to return this gavel to Perfection Lodge when we make a visitation to them. I believe this is the start of a new tradition or era in our relationship with the Canadians.

WB Orrin Niles who has entertained us at Occidental Lodge for so many years with his delightful harmony announced that he cannot continue because of poor health. I felt compelled to raise the Lodge and give this wonderful man the Public Grand Honors.

We were fortunate enough to find a guest organist, Charles "Chuck" Berry, who performed magnificently. I believe Brother Berry has found a new home at Occidental Lodge No. 72.

A reminder for you to mark your calendars for the upcoming **District 4 Meeting and Reception of our Grand Master, MWB Sat Tashiro**. The event will take place **at Greenwood Lodge No. 253**, 7910 Greenwood Ave N, on **Saturday, March 26th**. **Dinner will be served at 6:30PM and the meeting will begin at 7:30PM**. There will be a program for the ladies hosted by Heather Stewart. The Pillars of Progress and the Grand Master's Achievement Awards will be presented during the dinner. **Dinner will be served on a no-host basis at \$10.00 per person**. Please come

out and support our Grand Master, MWB Sat Tashiro and send your checks to VWB Greg Stewart, 13316 3rd Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125.

April activities will begin with **Table Lodge**, a very rich Masonic heritage which is scheduled for **Thursday, April 7th at Occidental Lodge No. 72**. I am told that Senior Warden Errol Scott and WB Harry Ginther have made plans for a delicious halibut dinner which will start at **6:30PM**. Our guest speaker will be Worshipful Brother George Lofthus. Be sure to mark your calendar especially if you have not been to Lodge in a while. This is a great time to renew old friendships and have a great time.

The next **Occidental Officers Meeting & Ritual Practice** is scheduled for **Thursday, April 14th at 7:00PM**. I would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to any Occidental members to come and join us.

**April Stated Communication** will start with **dinner at 6:30PM** and not at 6:00PM as printed in the program. Lodge will start at 7:30PM. Those of you who have not been to Lodge in a while, we have streamlined Lodge a bit. Last Stated Meeting we closed Lodge at 9:07PM. Not Bad! However, I believe we can do better. I also believe our Grand Master MWB Sat Tashiro would be pleased at many of our Brothers.

On **Friday, April 29th at 7:00PM**, we will have **bowling with the youth groups**. Come out and support our young people.

**Saturday, April 30th will be Family Night** with a movie and a light dinner **starting at 6:00PM**. The name of the movie has not been announced. We take great care in choosing our movies. We try to make sure it is entertaining and acceptable.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to Linda Collinge and family for all the work they do at Lodge to make our meeting successful.

*Fraternally,*

*WB Al Mungin – Worshipful Master*

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## FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN:

By Bro. [Errol Scott](#)

### Greeting Brethren:

Several things come to mind – especially about membership. It was wonderful to see Daylight Lodge No. 232 pass six young Masons to their Fellowcraft Degree this weekend – our Worshipful Master was present and delivered his usual enthusiastic second degree lecture. Daylight also has one new petition for membership and we will certainly talk to them about their successes on that score. There was also a very strong emphasis on building membership at the Warden's Conference recently attended by myself and my wife Kazi, and the Junior Warden and Senior Deacon at Wenatchee earlier this month. The Grand Lodge team has squarely faced the concern of dwindling membership and taken the strongest steps to educate and inspire the upcoming leaders of the craft to dramatically increase our members.

It was the largest Warden's Conference every conducted by Grand Lodge - with 189 Masons and 106 Ladies registered for the weekend event. Kazi was impressed with the organization, materials and presentations that were made for the ladies. The Masons who attended enjoyed a varied format of instruction: the general sessions ranged from reviving failing Lodges to installation and event planning. They were followed by 8 to 10 person table lodges trying to implement the objectives set out in the general sessions and in between were 5 or 6 various lectures on event planning and decision making, among others.

We have a Table Lodge ourselves on April 7th, dinner at 6:30pm – its great fun to “charge your cannons” and knock down toasts in ritualistic form to our country and “To All Freemasons Wheresoever Dispersed.” Hope you plan to be there and at our Stated Meeting on April 21st, 6:30pm dinner.

**Fraternally,**  
**Errol G. Scott, Senior Warden**

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## PASSAGES:

The following Brother was Memorialized at the March, 2005 Stated Communication.  
His name will be inscribed on a leaf for our perpetual Tree of Life at the Ballard Masonic Center.

### **B Stanley Norman Anderson**

February 8, 1916 ~ February 10, 2005

56 Year Mason

8 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

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## FAMILY NIGHT AND MOVIES:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)



### **The Incredibles (2004)**

**Starring:** [Holly Hunter](#), [Samuel L. Jackson](#)

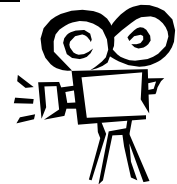
**Director:** [Brad Bird](#)

**Synopsis:** Animated comedy adventure about a dysfunctional family of undercover super heroes who struggle to live a quiet suburban life, while forced into action to save the world.

**Runtime:** 105 Minutes

**MPAA Rating:** PG for action violence.

**Genre:** Kids, [Comedy](#), Animation, [Family](#)



The next scheduled Family Night and Movie will be on Saturday, April 30th. *National Treasure*, the movie with a strong Masonic theme, won't be available for purchase or rental until May, so you will have to wait. I have selected the animated movie *The Incredibles* for April because of its appeal to kids and adults alike, a funny story line, and excellent reviews. Hope you come.

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## ALL THAT JAZZ:

Courtesy of [Cinosam](#)

**Louis Armstrong** was a member of Lodge Montgomery No. 18, Prince Hall Affiliation, New York. He also recorded "You Made Me Love You", also recorded by another Mason, Al Jolson.

**William "Count" Basie** was a member of both a Craft Lodge and Shriner Temple under the Prince Hall Affiliation, New York.

**Irving Berlin** was a member of Munn Lodge No.190, New York City, the Scottish Rite Valley of New York City, and Mecca Shrine Temple. He wrote the song "God Bless America" for his 1918 musical "Yip, Yip, Yaphank." The song today is regarded by many as America's second national anthem and is regularly sung at Masonic Lodge functions.

**George Cohan** was a Life member of Pacific Lodge No. 233, New York City, being raised there November 16, 1905. He received his 32° AASR (NJ) on February 3, 1906. He was also a life Member of Mecca Shrine Temple, New York City.

**Nat "King" Cole** was initiated in Thomas Waller Lodge No. 49, Los Angeles, Prince Hall Affiliation.

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**Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington** was initiated in Social Lodge No. 1 Washington D.C., Prince Hall Affiliation. His impressions of initiation were recorded in his song “I’m beginning to see the light”, which was also sung by Louis Armstrong.

**Al Jolson** was a member of St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, New York City.

**Antoine Joseph Sax** was initiated in Lodge Les Vrais Amis de l’Union in 1842.

**Paul Whitman** was a member of St. Cecile Lodge #569 in New York.

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## RESOLUTION 86-6:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)

The following is an excerpt from a paper written by **VWB Jim Mendoza**, the current Deputy of the Grand Master in District 13. It was intended to be printed in the Washington Masonic Tribune, but never was. Jim lead the Warden’s Seminar in Wenatchee this year, and near the end of the conference, he showed a slide that contained the highlighted text in the piece below. I asked Jim for a copy of the slide. In response, he sent me his paper, and gave permission to print it. I hope you not only enjoy the message, but act on it as well. Why aren’t you asking good men to consider becoming Freemason’s. It may be easier than you think.

It’s a tired refrain, but our membership numbers continue to decline despite our best efforts for change. At its peak in 1958, more than 69, 000 men claimed membership as Washington Freemasons. When the books closed in 2002, that number had dwindled to 21, 931 – a near 70% decline. In that same time frame, the population in Washington state grew from 2,853,214 to 6,068,966 – an increase of 213%.

We live in a time when today’s man is engaging in a myriad of activities not previously available. With so many distractions, it is unreasonable to assume that we can sit back expecting men to come clamoring to our doors.

Sadly, we find ourselves wondering how many qualified men in our respective communities would be among our brotherhood if only they had been invited to join, or for that matter knew what steps to take to join.

Every Mason should be proud to share the fraternity. Instead, Masons have been reduced to silence and circumspection. Silence when opportunities for new members are lost; and circumspection and constraint when Masonic discussions are raised. I believe that this stems from a lack of understanding “limitations,” fear of overstepping these imaginary “limitations,” and unwritten constraints that promote false thinking. What has been created is a Mason tentative and reluctant to seize opportunities when presented to him to bring a new brother into the Craft.

In looking for a way to address this issue, I was led to **Resolution 86-3**. Passed at the 1986 Annual Communication, Resolution 86-3 allows that *Masons under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Washington may properly inquire of a worthy, qualified person "if he had ever considered petitioning for membership in Freemasonry?" This, or a similarly phrased question, is a proper question to determine intent; this in addition to advising said person that "he must petition of his own initiative - that he will not be asked to petition." Further, "that enlightening Masonic literature is available and may be furnished upon request."*

Resolution 86-3 was crafted to ease the "no solicitation" question and required that a new section be placed in the addendum of the Monitor. However, for some reason, it was omitted from the later publications of the Washington Monitor. While it would be easy to lament this near two decades old omission, I would prefer to focus on the positive.net effect of the inclusion of Resolution 86-3 in the soon to be updated Monitor. In Masonic jurisdictions all over these United States, legislation like Resolution 86-3 has allowed Grand Lodges to implement major changes to how they obtain new members.

The Grand Lodge of Texas produced a tape entitled "Between Friends." They sent a letter to all their members noting that an audiotape is available and explains why a good man should be interested in becoming a Mason. The first part of the tape describes Masonry from a historical point of view, the second part explains Masonry today and what it does for the community, and the third part deals with how to complete a petition for membership. On the back of the letter is a petition; the members are encouraged to put it into use. How simple!

In Arizona, Masons are authorized to give a man a petition with a letter stating the reasons why he is being asked to consider joining the fraternity (well known, good character, moral upbringing, good family man, etc), and also an audiotape on which is a message from the Grand Master and a well-known Mason. They talk about the fraternity, its aims, goals, history, and generally paint an upbeat picture of the fraternity. The letter also says the "giver" of all this data will pick up the package in a week. If the "candidate" chooses to ignore the "solicitation," then the matter is dropped and the information provided is recovered from the candidate.

From the proceedings of the 1996 Florida Grand Lodge we find that "It is not unlawful for a Mason to ask a non-Mason if he would like to apply to become a Mason and offer to furnish a non-Mason information about Freemasonry including the procedures to be followed to become a Mason and offer assistance in the event the non-Mason should desire to become a member of the fraternity, nor will it be unlawful for the Mason to remind the non-Mason of the offer, but if no favorable response is made to the offer or reminder, no further offer shall be made to the non-Mason."

In preparation of the record setting 2002 One Day Conferral performed by the Grand Lodge of Ohio (more than 7750 new Masons), a series of news releases were sent to newspapers across the state and advertisements appeared on the screens in movie theaters. A subsequent One Day Conferral was recently held using the same recruitment methods that resulted in an additional 3100 new brethren.

The Grand Lodge of New York employed the same strategy used by the Grand Lodge of Ohio, and also sent direct mailings to businessmen. Their One Day Conferral netted over 2100 new Masons.

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Despite the misplacement of Resolution 86-3, the petitions that are used in Washington were quietly changed. The old Petitions, prior to Feb. 2001, had the following statement:

"The undersigned (Print name in full) \_\_\_\_\_ unbiased, **without the solicitation of friend**, and uninfluenced by mercenary or improper motives....."

However, in the 02/01 Issue of Petitions, the highlighted section was removed.

Having Resolution 86-3 as a part of our daily lives will eliminate any fear of overstepping imaginary boundaries. We can now stop using cute turns of phrase to cajole our friends, neighbors, and relatives into asking about our great fraternity. We now will have the ability to simply say what we mean and mean what we say.

I realize that those opposed to solicitation will tell me "You're violating the concept of 'free will & accord.'" My answer is simply this: A man of his own free will & accord can tell me "no" just as easily as he can tell me "yes." Thanks to resolution 86-3, I can now give him that opportunity without having to be coy about it.

I may also hear: "Just have your wife ask for you." My wife is a lovely woman who loves the fact that I am a Mason, and supports my Masonic endeavors. That said it is not the responsibility of my wife, or any other brother's wife, to build this fraternity. That responsibility rests with the Freemasons of Washington – no one else. While I'm on the subject, how is the concept of "free will & accord" not violated just because it is my wife proposing the question?

Resolution 86-3 was and is not a break with the past, but a much needed step into the future. The implementation of Resolution 86-3 will let loose the most positive catalyst for change in Washington Masonry – the Freemasons of Washington. The time is now for every Washington Mason to embrace unencumbered the responsibility that we all must share, to bring two new members into our Craft – one to grow and one to replace. If just 10% of the Masons in this jurisdiction did simply that, we would experience a 20% growth – that's more than 4000 new members.

Albert Einstein said it best: "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again hoping for different results." Let's now take advantage of Resolution 86-3 and start asking good Masonic prospects to join and let's tell anyone who will listen about the good in Masonry.

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## THE 15TH MASONIC PRESIDENT:

Courtesy of [Cinosam](#)

In the courthouse of Plattsburg, Missouri, there is a statute of Brother Atchison bearing the inscription "**David Rice Atchison** 1807-1886, President of the United States for One Day. The circumstances were the transition from President James Polk to Zachary Taylor. According to the law at that time, President Polk stepped down as President on Sunday, March 4, 1849. Zachary Taylor was a deeply religious man and refused to be inaugurated on a Sunday. Thus, according to ascension laws, the office falls to the Vice-President George M. Dallas, however his term also ended on noon on March 4. Thus the Presidential line then falls to the President Pro Tem of the Senate - who was David Rice Atchison. The problem was debated in the Congress for several hours and agreed by them that Brother Atchison, although never inaugurated, was legally and by the Constitution, President of the United States from noon on March 4, 1849 until noon on March 5, 1849. Brother Atchison was a member of Platte Lodge No. 56 in Platte City, Missouri.

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## IS SPELLING IMPORTANT?:

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid. Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh? Yaeh, and I awlyas thought slpeling was ipmorantt.

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