



February 2012

SPECIAL REMINDERS

- Next two Stated Meeting Dates / Menu

Dates & Menu	Time
14 Feb	07:30
Southern Style BBQ	06:30
13 Mar	07:30
Menu not Submitted	06:30
- Completed & **Scheduled** Degrees
(7:30pm except 3rd degrees' @ 7:00pm)

Name	Degree	Date
Daniel Stakely	EA	27 Jun 2010
Jim Reed	EA	20 Jul 2010
Jeff Bulger	EA	21 Sep 2010
Dean Permen	EA	15 Mar
	FC	25 Oct
Nolan Permen	EA	15 Mar
	FC	25 Oct
Devin Stephens	EA	26 Apr
Charles Riddle	EA	26 Apr
Lloyd Smethers	EA	20 Sep
Brian Rhodenbaugh	EA	15 Nov
Kyle Bush	EA	15 Nov
Brian Rhodenbaugh	FC	21 Feb
Ritual Practice	Any	28 Feb
Ritual Practice	Any	20 Mar
Ritual Practice	Any	27 Mar

MASONIC BROTHERS

- MM Anniversaries (20+ years):

Name		Date	Yrs
Don	Marshall	23 Feb	61
William	Wentz	26 Feb	27
Sherwin	Beaman	28 Feb	34
Robert	Charters	2 Mar	33
James	Hoyle	8 Mar	52
John	Riddlemoser	9 Mar	52
Glenn	Gearhard	10 Mar	59
Glen	Ketchum	16 Mar	62
Roger, Jr	Muzzy	22 Mar	40
Howard	Jenkins	24 Mar	52
Dennis	Walker	25 Mar	26
John	Teegarden	29 Mar	44

- Brother Birthdays:

Name		Date
Kemet	Pitman	13 Feb
Clyde	Blessinger	15 Feb
Tommy	Hinrichs	19 Feb
Vernon	Kuellmer	21 Feb
Kenneth	Ramage	21 Feb
Roger, Jr	Muzzy	23 Feb
Richard	Swift	25 Feb
Sean	Fuller	20 Mar
Eugene	Viertel	22 Mar
Gregory	Viertel	22 Mar
Donald	Barrett	23 Mar
Donald	Girard	23 Mar
Lowell	Bennett	30 Mar
Joseph	Ross	31 Mar

Master's Word — From the East

Let's keep this going!

January has come and gone without a hitch! This has been a pretty successful month for Meridian 47! We had a great first stated communication and were visited by two Illustrious District Deputy Grand Masters, Brother Sherm Burger who is in charge of District #8 and Brother Jessie Laduke, District #7. Was great to have them both there and I hope to see more of them in the future.

The week following, we held an informal practice night for the EA degree, so that we could make sure the new officers knew their parts. We followed that with the Initiation of Brother Pulito, our newest Entered Apprentice Mason. Welcome to our lodge. This we did with aid of brothers visiting our lodge to fill the chairs as needed and friendship and comradeship prevailed as we admitted him to see the Light by which Masons work!

Please, Brothers of our Lodge, we need you when you can be there to help us initiate and raise our candidates. I know life gets busy, but if there is a way to be there for our practices and meetings, we will all benefit greatly and have some fun doing it.

In February, we are having a ladies night! Brother Junior Warden Shawn

Gibbons is planning a meal that will be a pleasure to share with our Brethren and our Ladies. Please invite them to attend! My wife Stacy is going to host a Bunko game for the women while we slip upstairs and have a quick meeting. I will do whatever I can to streamline the business so that it can be short.

We have several EA Brothers that should be finishing up on their proficiency and ready to be passed to the Fellow Craft Degree. Get with me or any of the Brothers who may be able to help you learn what you need to. Since this is the beginning of the year, when we hear that one is ready to go, we will circle up like we did for the first degree and do a practice, with the actual degree performed the week following or possibly a Saturday morning.

I had the pleasure of sitting in as Senior Warden for a Saturday morning EA degree at Mount Moriah #39 where they had a breakfast before, prepared and served by the Job's Daughters. I may follow their lead and invite Bethel #6 or the new Rainbow Girls chapter to do the same.

Things are looking good. I expect us to have a great year! See you and your Ladies at the Valentine's Day Meeting!

Fraternally,
Robert Mahar, W.M.

Senior Warden — From the West

Please mark March 17th on your calendars now for this year's corned beef and cabbage scholarship dinner. We will need all available hands to make this a success.

I am again asking (pleading) for assistance in publicizing this event. Internet and social media is replacing the local newspaper in people's lives. If any brethren have special interest or skills in marketing and would like to assist me in promoting our dinner

in the community, please let me know quickly as this event will soon be upon us. {See promotion flyers on Page 6.}

If anyone knows a deserving graduating senior in the Meridian or Kuna school districts, or member of DeMolay or Job's Daughters (and now, Rainbow), please direct them to the scholarship web site: meridian47.idahoaf.am/scholarship. Full instructions and application form are available there.

Mark Smith, S.W.

MASONIC QUOTES

"That sacred and invisible bond that unites men of the most discordant opinions into one band of brothers, which gives one language to men of all nations and one altar to men of all religions, is properly, from the mysterious influence it exerts, denominated the mystic tie; and Freemasons because they alone are under its influence, or enjoy its benefits, are called brethren of the mystic tie."

Albert Mackey [33rd degree Mason and Secretary General of the Supreme Council of the thirty third degree Scottish Rite], 'Encyclopedia of Freemasonry'. vol 2, pg 778

"Masonry is regarded as the direct descendant, or as a survival of the mysteries...of Isis and Osiris in Egypt."

Robert Freke Gould, History of Freemasonry 1:13

"In Crete, Jupiter Ammon or the Sun in Aries, painted with the attributes of that equinoctial sign, the Ram or Lamb; - that Ammon who, Martianus Copella says, is the same as Osiris, Adoni, Adonis, Atys, and the other Sun-Gods - had also a tomb, and a religious initiation; one of the principal ceremonies of which consisted in clothing the Initiate with the skin of a white lamb and in this case we see the origin of the apron of white sheepskin, used in Freemasonry."

Albert Pike, Morals and Dogma, pg 407

"Be still - and know - that I am God..." "THAT I AM GOD" - is the final recognition of the All in All, the unity of self with the Cosmos - the cognition of the Divinity OF THE SELF!"

George H. Steinmetz, 'The Lost Word: Its hidden meaning' pgs 241-242

"The signs, symbols, and inscriptions date from...the Sumerian Civilizations, Chaldea [Babylon], Assyria, Greece, Rome, and even in Mexico and the Yucatan. Some rites of the Scottish rite of Freemasonry of our Mother Jurisdiction have been in existence from time immemorial. For we teach the same grand truths, the same sublime philosophies...as those adepts of the ancient mysteries taught in their esoteric rites."

Henry C. Clausen, 'Messages for a Mission' [the Supreme Council 33rd degree, A & ARFM, Mother Jurisdiction of the World, 1971] pgs 5-7

"Freemasonry is the survivor of the ancient mysteries - nay, we may go further and call it the guardian of the mysteries."

Bro. J.S.M.Ward. 'Freemasonry and the ancient gods.' pg 347

"The Second Landmark is the Volume of Sacred Law, which is open in the Lodge. But the Bible is not, in freemasonry, more than one of the Great Lights, and never has been, for the reason that Masons are not required to believe its teachings only. The stern fact is that we are constantly admitting Hindu's, Chinese, Mohammedans, Parsees, and Jews, not one of whom believes in the Bible, and this forces the conclusion that Masonry regards the Bible only as a symbol."

Masonic Record, June 1926 in an article by Bro. T.H.R. entitled "What are our Landmarks?"

Jr. Warden — From the South

Editor's Filler From:

<http://www.masonicworld.com/education/files/artoct02/wardens.htm>

In the first edition of "Anderson's Constitution," published in 1723, under the "Manner of Constituting a New Lodge, as practiced by his Grace the Duke of Wharfton, the then Right Worshipful Grand Master, according to the ancient usages of Masons," we read: "The new Master and Wardens being yet among the Fellow Craft." After the newly elected Master is installed he calls forth "two Fellow Craft, presents them to the Grand Master for his approbation," and when that is secured they are duly installed as Wardens. At that early date a Deputy Grand Master could be chosen from the ranks of the Fellows. The 17th Regulation states: "If the Deputy Grand Master be sick, or necessarily absent, the Grand Master may choose any Fellow Craft he pleases to be his Deputy "pro tempore." In 1738, when the Book of Constitutions was published, the Wardens, Tyler, Assistant Treasurer and Secretary had to be Master Masons. Perhaps no ancient usage and custom of the Fraternity is more universal than the government of lodges by a Master and two Wardens. Mackey lists this requirement as his Tenth Landmark, and whether they have adopted Mackey's twenty-five Landmarks or not, all Grand Lodges recognize the Wardens as essential in the formation, opening, and governing of a lodge.

Secretary Sez

Investigating Committee:

For every petition accepted at the Masonic Lodge Hall, there is an appointed committee to determine, what kind of man are we to accept into the fraternity. Why do we want to know about personal life of a potential candidate? It is building a foundation for the future on the finest traditions of the past. Is there any revealing information that this man will make the world a better place working for charity, relief and truth, and that he will be a better man?

Masonry is the oldest Fraternal Organization in the world made up of over 5 million brothers from many backgrounds. Masonry celebrates many countries, sects, and opinions. An Investigating Committee is obligated to interview him and the family to obtain a feeling of marital agreement, if married. Determine a moral life style and if there are any unlawful

The three principal officers of a lodge are universally recognized in the ritual as the essential elements of which a lodge must consist. Only the uninstructed Mason regards the stations of the Senior and Junior Wardens as but stepping stones to the East; necessary waiting posts to which the ambitious must stand hitched for a year before proceeding on his triumphal journey to the *Oriental Chair*! Not only are the wardens essential to every Entered Apprentices', Fellow Crafts' or Master Masons' Lodge, but they have certain inherent powers, duties, and responsibilities. Mackey sets these forth substantially as follows:

The government of a Masonic lodge is essentially tripartite, although lodges may be legally opened, set to labor, and closed by the Master in the absence of the installed Wardens, the chairs are still filled by temporary appointees. The Senior Warden presides in the absence of the Master, and the Junior Warden in the absence of both the Master and Senior Warden.

No other brethren in the lodge have this power, privilege, or responsibility. The Warden who presides in the absence of his superior officer may, if he desires, call a Past Master to the Chair to preside for him; but, no Past Master, in the absence of the Master, may legally congregate the lodge. That must be done by the Master, the Senior Warden in the Absence of the Master, or the Junior Warden in the absence of both.

Shawn Gibbons, JW did not submit.

acts that would bring disparaging remarks or acts toward our brotherhood.

We know there are cardinal values of our order. Our obligation "In the presents of Almighty God" and "I promise and swear" to the application of Masonic moral values and the practice of benevolence, intellectual development, and mutual respect.

Is the applicant married? Why is this important? Some 50 years ago, it was 76% of men were married. Today, the marriage of a man to a woman is 52%, according to statistical census. Can this information effect our investigating information? Masonry unites men of different beliefs into a harmonious and productive community of fellows, who have values that are compatible with the virtues required of a 'good man'.

We say that we first prepare ourselves to be made a Mason in our hearts.

Special Interest—Feature Article

FREEMASONRY IN SOCIETY

By: Michael W. Walker

Bro. Michael Walker is the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ireland. This article was taken from: "Freemasonry in Society-Today and Tomorrow," which appeared in ARS QUATUOR CORONATORUM Vol. 110 (1997). The original article has been condensed. - Editor

On his initiation, the Brethren are assured that the candidate is 'living in good repute amongst his friends and neighbors.' He is therefore, or should be, a peaceable and law-abiding citizen who gets on well with others. A little later on, the candidate affirms that he comes 'with a preconceived notion of the excellence of the Order, a desire for knowledge and wishing to make himself more extensively useful amongst his fellow men.' Later again, on being charged, he is told that the foundation of Freemasonry is 'the practice of every social and moral virtue.' He is exhorted to learn how to discharge his duty to his God, his neighbor and himself, to be an exemplary citizen and that, as an individual, he should practice every domestic as well as public virtue and maintain those truly Masonic characteristics, benevolence, and brotherly love.

Following his second degree, he is told that he should 'not only ascend to the principles of the Craft, but steadily persevere in their practice.' Finally, following his third degree, he is told that 'his own behavior should afford the best example for the conduct of others.'

Later still, at the peak of his Craft career, on being installed in the Master's Chair of his Lodge, he consents to a comprehensive list of instructions as to his attitude and behavior. All in all, the entire underlying principle is that by entering Freemasonry and by his acceptance and practice of its tenets and precepts, he should become a credit to himself and an example to, and benefactor of, others.

It is expected and hoped that Freemasonry will bring about this state of affairs but that, in his daily life, a Freemason will interact with others as an individual and not in his capacity as a Freemason. Freemasonry is therefore an intellectual and philosophic exercise designed and intended to make an individual's contribution to society, and the development of self, greater than they might otherwise have been had he not had the opportunity of extending his capacities and capabilities through membership of the Order.

What Does Freemasonry Provide?

Election to membership of a Lodge and initiation into that Lodge are an overt indication and confirmation of one's worth or value; and recognition of such, by the Brethren. In itself, this should increase self-esteem and hopefully generate a conscious or sub-conscious desire to prove worthy of others' confidence and trust. Subsequent promotions through the second **and third** degrees are symbolic of the Brethren demonstrating their satisfaction

that their original choice and decisions were correct and that the candidate was worthy, innately and by virtue of his zeal, interest, and proficiency in the symbolic Craft for such promotions. These additional and consequent marks of esteem, should engender in the candidate further personal satisfaction and self-confidence.

The Lodge teaches many skills, often untaught, or not experienced, elsewhere. A Brother must speak in public, think on his feet, make decisions, vote on issues, and chair meetings. These are invaluable assets in all other aspects of his life and for many this may well be the only opportunity of learning, practicing, and perfecting these skills and techniques.

Is Freemasonry a Charity?

Freemasonry is not a Charity, but as in any fraternal setting, the need of a Brother or his dependents, will receive the sympathy and support of his Brethren, not always or necessarily, financial. Charity is a natural offshoot of Brotherly Love and is promoted explicitly in the Masonic ethos, but it is not the 'raison d'etre' of the Order.

The Purpose of Freemasonry

The purpose of Masonry is 'self-improvement' - not in the material sense, but in the intellectual, moral, and philosophic sense of developing the whole persona and psyche so as, in the beautiful and emotive language of the ritual, 'to fit ourselves to take our places, as living stones, in that spiritual building, not made by hands, eternal in the Heavens.' Such a complete person must, in his journey through life, and in his interaction with others, make a more extensive contribution to society in general, thus realizing and fulfilling his expressed wish on initiation, to become 'more extensively useful amongst his fellow-men.' Such are the lofty, lawful, and laudable aspirations of the Order.

Society Today

As world changes happen faster, and in more complex and unpredictable ways, our natural needs for security, control, certainty, and predictability - are being undermined. This type of environment is a breeding ground for what is now termed the 'Achilles Syndrome' where more and more people who are, in fact, high-achievers, suffer from a serious lack of self esteem. This was gleaned from an article on the work of Petruska Clarkson, a consultant chartered counselor and clinical psychologist.

Dr. Donal Murray, former Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin and now Bishop of Limerick, identifies 'a hunger which is not being satisfied. People need to feel they belong; they need to feel they can be fully committed to something. The prevailing mood, in Ireland and elsewhere, is one of disillusionment and cynicism. We have come to see ourselves as living in a world of institutions and structures - we think of ourselves as belonging not to a country but to an economy; we think of our national life

and resources in terms of statistics and of the machinery of Government, rather than of people and culture.'

Dr. Murray goes on to say, 'it is increasingly presumed that the ideal citizen possesses no strong religious or moral beliefs, or at least has the decency not to intrude them into the public arena. Strong moral beliefs are, we are told, divisive; religious belief is, at best, embarrassing. In other words, 'he continues, 'one is not meant to participate in national life with one's whole-self, with one's religious beliefs and moral convictions. These are private matters. We are in danger of trying to build a culture which regards as irrelevant the very realities which make people tick. Divisiveness results only when religion and morality are misunderstood. The individual conscience is worthy of respect because it seeks the truth, as every human being is obliged to do.'

Freemasons will hardly fail to notice these references to ethics, morality and truth the very foundation of Masonic teaching and endeavor. But these cultural jewels-without-price are coming under increasingly powerful destructive forces which are eroding the foundation and base on which they rest.

What is needed, in all this, is some form of mental sheet – anchor - a sort of fixed navigational point like the pole-star which, when the clouds pass, can be seen and provides the traveler with the means to identify his exact position and thereby the knowledge to return to the true path.

Freemasonry - A Part of, or Apart from, Society

Every individual, on occasion, is forced to be a little introspective and ask himself, 'who am I and where am I? Even an organization such as the Masonic Order must also occasionally ask itself, 'what are we and where are we'? What we are has, to some extent already been dealt with. We are a fraternal organization, the aims of which are brotherly love, the relief of our distressed Brethren and their dependents, and the search after 'Truth' which we may express as, and expand into, public and private morality, the knowledge and fear of God and, following on from that, respect for, and love of our neighbor. This respect includes toleration of his personal viewpoint, his religious beliefs and his political opinions. If we pursue the aims of the Order, our search should widen, yet focus our vision, while ever making us more deeply aware of, and closer to, the Great Architect of the Universe, heightening our spirituality and deepening our insight into that which we may never hope fully to understand - and something like the search after the mystic Grail as sought for, and fought for, by our possible, even probable operative forebears, the Knights Templar who followed on, in their own way, from the mythical Knights of the Grail Romances and Arthurian Legend. There is so much more to Freemasonry than the shallow depth of today's assessment and its scant inspection by today's society, obsessed as society is with material success for the individual rather than his contribution to society.

Into the Next Millennium

I have endeavored to identify who we are, what we are, and where we are - now it is time to speculate on where we go from here. We are an unfashionable group whose numbers are falling - not perhaps in developing countries, but in the developed world we are viewed as an anachronism with an ethos which may represent an embarrassment to many of today's moral lepers.

As those who joined Freemasonry in great numbers after the Second World War, because they found it the closest alternative or substitute for the fellowship and support they found within the Forces, now pass on to their reward, there is no surge of candidates to replace them. So recruitment becomes a necessity, though the means and emphasis must be very carefully gauged.

We must try to correct the false perception of us by, in particular, the media and Churches for they are the agencies who can and do formulate and direct public opinion; and both are highly suspicious and/or antagonistic.

What I am trying to emphasize is that as we move into the next millennium we must be steadfast in our adherence to the Aims and Principles and not attempt to obtain public acceptance through promoting or pursuing non-masonic activities which can only, in the long term, prove our undoing.

Conclusion

As the American writer, Henry Adams saw it, 'The Indian Summer of Life should be a little sunny and a little sad, and infinite in wealth, and depth of tone just like the season.'

I think this pretty closely describes Freemasonry today - a little sunny and infinite in wealth and depth of tone - we all can sympathize with that. A little sad too with memories of past greatness; and quieter more settled times, when bogeymen were not found everywhere and Freemasonry was a recognized, accepted, and fashionable part of society. Will our time come again? I think it will - not perhaps an exact replica of the past, for we cannot turn back the clock, but a slimmer, trimmer version with new vigor, and enthusiasm ready to meet the new millennium.

But remember, Brethren, as we enter and endure, 'in the Winter of our discontent' we must maintain our standards and our dignity. There can be no compromise with quality in any facet of our Institution. One of Ireland's greatest actors and one of its best-known characters, Michael Mac Liammoir, was once accused by a critic of being, square. 'Yes' said Mac Liammoir, 'perhaps you are right, but so much better to be square than shapeless.' How appropriate for Freemasonry at this time - let us hold firm to the symbolism of the square and the compasses and let them be the means of restoring order out of mental and moral chaos--as we strive to re-adjust emotionally to the crushing pressures and stresses of modern life.

Almost the entire Masonic ethos can be found in those few words - so easy to remember, yet so difficult to put into practice.

Meridian Lodge #47

- Accomplishments for 2011 -

While the Trestleboard's organization has remained the same as that used the previous year its features have gone through a facelift (cosmetic) so that all will recognize the new format for the new year 2011. The format changed again for 2012.

A new lodge logo was created as a "Service Mark" in the state of Idaho for Meridian Lodge #47's identification feature. The logo is intended to be added to the top left corner of all lodge correspondence as its location standard for all Lodge associated correspondence.

Created an invitation postcard for all local brother distribution which highlights applicable events and dates for scheduled activities planned for the lodge. These items include: stated communications, degree work, other meetings, funerals, or balloting. Wives, expected speakers, or Grand Lodge visitors can also be noted when applicable. A mail merge option in Publisher is used to announcements for all those not otherwise notified by the Secretary's e-mail notice.

Lodge business cards for the top five lodge officers for 2011 were made so that these individuals, when conducting lodge business, could identify themselves as representing Meridian lodge #47. Name, position, address, phone, and e-mail along with other lodge information is shown.

The unique features of these card are:

- Ψ Showing the lodge's logo.
- Ψ A picture of the specific tool associated with the individual's office.
- Ψ The position and year or years in their respective positions.
- Ψ Past master label and symbol after their name, if applicable.
- Ψ A different masonic quote or message.

The quote or message on the back of each card is different so not only is the individual's information provided to the recipient of the business card, but a Freemasonry message is also passed on. With each card having a different message, when more than one card is given out at the same time, card messages can be compared and, therefore, is a way of re-emphasizing and remembering the event which resulted in the card being given out in the first place.

Also made up a business card sized document with the 2012 lodge meeting dates highlighted that was included in the 2012 lodge directory mailing. On the back was the new 2012 elected and appointed lodge officers. The front also included the web-site link to the lodge schedule and the lodge's new logo at the upper left corner (which the standard location of the logo).

2011 Scholarship dinner tickets which were almost the same as 2010 except a Scholarship Notice message was printed on the back of each ticket advertizing the Lodge #47 scholarship program along with some other organizational details. The scholarship program documents included: Bulletin Board Notice, Application Word Template, Eligibility and Application Procedure instructions, Valley Times news-

paper article, individually numbered tickets, Kuna and Meridian high school addresses and point of contact for each, and finally an example of the Scholarship Award Winner notice letter.

Only two \$500 scholarships were paid out in September because only two applications were submitted, even though the announcement said there were four available.

Sent to the Idaho Grand Lodge an Excel document for a new proposed "Idaho Lodge of Excellence Program". The new document was only an idea of what the program's possibilities could be and could be used as a measure of how well a lodge had lived up to the expectations of what it had done for the previous year. Along this same line and following the Idaho Grand Lodge's "Ritual Performance" guideline, a program created with Excel could be used as a measure of a lodge's degree ritual performance efforts as a way of quantifying how well a lodge had conducted their degree work. This tool has been used in Meridian #47's ceremony work on several occasions to measure ritual performance efforts and as a way of assessing the lodge's improvement of degree work over time.

The Lodge Improvements Committee wrote a proposal for three major lodge improvement efforts. Repainting a portion of the lodge ceiling, adding a large projection screen in the center of the north wall along with a new projector, and replacing a large portion of the lodge room's carpet with black and white carpet tile squares and an indented tessellated border representing the re-creation of the ground floor of King Solomon's Temple as described in the first degree lecture.

The success of these three efforts should be seen in person, if possible, to get the full impact of the visual change to our lodge room.

Meridian Lodge #47 now has a written Widow's Program guide and a copy is available to anyone upon request, if interested.

The Lodge now has a handout for each degree available to candidates and their coaches. Table of Contents shows the level of effort included with each degree's body of work. They have been greatly appreciated by the new lodge brothers that have received them.

While not being lodge improvements, there has been a lot of work done to the lodge as a result of equipment failure. The larger of the two rooftop air conditioning units quit in July and it was replaced with a unit that had both gas heating and air conditioning. Therefore, a gas line was installed from the basement to the roof so its heating capacity could be utilized (it being more efficient than the basement boiler). A new thermostat was installed in the lodge room to control both heating and cooling of the lodge room.

While Dowdy HVAC was on the roof installing this new unit, the older unit on the west side of the roof was checked out and serviced. Its refrigerant was low, filters were clogged, duct connection seam deteriorated, and in general the unit showed neglect. Its condensate had been allowed to run directly onto the roof deck and then off the roof. This caused a large water stain on the roof's rolled roofing material and a potential roof leak even when the roof was not otherwise wet with rain water. A new condensate drain to the roof gutter was added to this

unit (a condensate drain was already included with the larger east unit's replacement).

Rooftop units' maintenance had been neglected because it was too much of an effort for a person to get onto the roof. With the new unit's installation needing a city inspection and the inspector needing access to the roof, a new roof access ladder and hatch was added in the candidate's preparation room area. This now provides easy, safe access to the roof, so that roof equipment can be regularly serviced and maintained.

With all the activity on the roof and looking at cracks in the mastic of all roof penetrations, it appeared a complete inspection of the roof's waterproofing features needed to be done, including edge flashing (missing at one location) and rain gutters which appeared not to be doing their intended job. There was at least a one inch gap between the flashing's edge down to the top of the rain gutter. This space had another piece of flat metal filling the gap but it did not serve the purpose of shedding water from the roof's edge flashing into the rain gutter. Its solution, a taller edge flashing was made and installed to accommodate the dimensions needed for our Lodge's existing condition of directing rain water runoff into gutters on both the north and south sides of the Lodge.

The lodge boiler in the basement's mechanical room was highly inefficient. It had a 470,000 BTU heating capacity when the lodge only has a 150,000 BTU requirement. With the winter heating month's gas bills averaging over three hundred dollars a month, a new appropriately sized boiler would pay for itself within three years. Therefore, the Temple Board approved funding for replacing and re-piping the boiler room's heating system with valves, unions, and drains where appropriate and needed.

A considerable effort was made on an application for the US Post Office to get reduced postage for a non-profit organization. So after completing the long application, collecting and organizing lodge finances for three years into the required format of the application, and copying all the attachment document required to be submitted along with the application it was found the trying to submit the package to the Meridian Post Office the entire effort was for naught.

Any reduced postage from the first class mailing rate of 44 cents has to have a minimum of 200 mailing units. The lodge never does have any single mailing that would approach this requirement.

In following form instructions in detail nothing ever stated this minimum mailing unit requirement.

The final financial impact for both upgrades, improvements, and repairs performed on the lodge during 2011 was over \$27 thousand dollars. While this appears to be a big number, it's because very little has been spent recently for maintaining the value of the Lodge. Note the history below of what has been spent on our facility in the past few years:

2011	\$ 27,923
2010	\$ 869
2009	\$ 1,395
2008	\$ 1,374
2007	\$ 729

While 2011 looks to be a big number, it includes newly in-

stalled elements in the lodge along with repairs, where as the other numbers are repairs only. Previous year facility expenses is in no way a reasonable budget amount that would be expected to maintain the real estate value of the building.



**CORNER BEEF
&
CABBAGE
SCHOLARSHIP DINNER**

**March 17, 2012
4:30 - 7:00PM**

**MERIDIAN MASONIC LODGE
800 EAST 2ND ST
(E. 2ND ST AND IDAHO ST.)**

**ADULTS \$10.00 BIG KIDS \$7.00
CHILDREN UNDER 8 - NO CHARGE**

**Join us March 17 for our annual scholarship dinner of
corned beef, cabbage and other winter vegetables.**

**All proceeds fund the Charles Monger Memorial
Scholarship benefitting Meridian and Kuna
graduating seniors, Job's Daughters, DeMolay and
Rainbow.**



Money for College

Charles Monger Memorial Scholarship

Sponsored by Meridian Lodge #47, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

Amount: \$500

**Eligibility: Graduating seniors residing in the
Meridian or Kuna School Districts, or, Idaho
members of Job's Daughters International or
Idaho DeMolay**

Deadline: March 31, 2012

**Applications and instructions available at:
<http://meridian47.idahoaf.am/scholarship>
or write to**

MongerScholarship@gmail.com



We prepared ourselves learning from our parents, schools, association, and friends the value of faith, fidelity, honesty, patriotism, and friendship; those things that make one a 'good man'. There are many 'good men' who desire and hunger for brotherly bonds that we enjoy within our fraternity.

It is paramount upon the Investigating Committee to gain information from their visit with the petitioner; is he bringing complimentary virtues to our fraternity, and is he able to keep his passions within due bounds toward all mankind? That is my prayer! So mote it be.....!

Sincerely Fraternally,
WesLee Hoalst, Sec, P.M.

Masonic Family Groups' News

Order of the Eastern Star Meridian #66

It is with pleasure that I report that Meridian #66 had their Official Visit with Sister Sandi Shoemaker, Worthy Grand Matron and Brother Bob Barclay, Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Idaho, Order of the Eastern Star and it was a smashing success! A good time was had by all. A few mistakes were made but those gave us something to laugh about and tease me about later.

The officers of Meridian Chapter did a excellent job. I am most proud of Sister Cynthia Mattson and Sister Patty McCulloch. This was their first OV and were nearly word perfect during their Initiation talk. Great job ladies, I appreciate all your hard work!

There was a mix up with the Lodge calendar and the DeMolay had their OV the same night so we tried to hurry so that they could get their paraphernalia set up. Thank you to the DeMolay for allowing our OV to happen and for rearranging their schedule for the dinner. I hope your meeting went as well as ours. Our next function for our spaghetti dinner, see Ad to follow.

The Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Sunday, 26 February from 2:00 to 7:00 pm. Cost: Adults - \$10, Children (5 -11) - \$8, Children under 5 - Free. You can purchase tickets from Chapter officers, members, or at the door. Have a Wonderful February!

Come let us do the cooking...we hope to see you there.

Star love, Kim Leverenz,
Worthy Matron

Let Meridian Chapter #66 do the cooking for you

 Sunday, February 26, 2012
2:00 PM to 7:00 PM

 Meridian Masonic Temple
800 East 2nd St., Meridian, Idaho

Featuring a Spaghetti Dinner
With trimmings

 Tickets are available in advance from members
or at the door:

\$10.00 for Adults
\$8.00 for children over 5 to 11
Children 5 and under free.

Questions or RSVP:
Diana Bush, (208) 590-4906,
sted4@yahoo.com
Or
Cyndie Bollar, (208) 375-4809,
cyndiebollar@centurylink.net

Job's Daughters Bethel #6

The Daughters of Bethel 6 would like to "Thank You" for all those who attended our Installation of Officers on December 17th and for your support of our Bethel. On January 14th we had a Scavenger Food Drive for the Idaho Food-bank. In two hours 10 girls collected 229 lbs of food.

We will be having our annual Sweethearts Ball at BSU on Saturday, February 11th at 8:00 pm. If you are interested in helping to chaperon please contact Diana Bush, Bethel Guardian at catoak75@yahoo.com or Shawn Gibbons. Please mark your calendars for the afternoon of March 24th and join us for our Grand Guardian's visit to our Bethel.

Jobie Love, Sierra Bush
Honored Queen

DeMolay Treasure Valley

A big "Thank You" to all those who attended our Installation of Officers on 7

LODGE LEADERSHIP

Worshipful Master Robert Mahar, WM	891-1753
Senior Warden Mark Smith	338-8936
Junior Warden Shawn Gibbons	888-3395
Treasurer Walter Leitch	377-1932
Secretary WesLee Hoalst, PM	888-1455
Senior Deacon Jim Duffy	258-9495
Junior Deacon Skylor Lenz	924-5470
Senior Steward Joe Grover, PM	546-9347
Junior Steward Roger Muzzy, Jr.	375-0179
Marshal Criss Cleveland	604-2904
Chaplin Keith Clark	968-8863
Tyler Art Easley	577-6734
Member at Large Hal Ford	887-3708

COMMITTEES

Financial Advisory Board

Hal Ford	Chairman
Robert Mahar, WM	Advisor
WesLee Hoalst, PM	
Mark Smith	
Shawn Gibbons	
Walter Leitch	
Jim Duffy	Fund Raiser

Scholarship Committee

Mark Smith	Chairman
Jim Duffy	
Keith Clark	

Temple Board Committee

Robert Mahar, WM	Chairman
Mark Smith	
Shawn Gibbons	
WesLee Hoalst, PM	
Walter Leitch	
Mark Smith	
Hal Ford	

Masonic Temple—Cleaning Crew

Treasure Valley DeMolay

Programs & Activities

Robert Mahar, WM	Chairman
Mark Smith	
Skylor Lenz	
Criss Cleveland	



Meridian Lodge #47, A.F. & A.M.
P.O. Box 484
Meridian, ID 83680

January and our official visit on 21 January. We had a great visit from our State Officers and initiated one new member - your own Robert Mahar, Worshipful Master's son, Zach.

Conclave is approaching quickly. This year Conclave will be held in Boise at the old Airport Holiday Inn, March 29 - 31. Please contact Brother Shawn Gibbons or Brother Kyle Bush on how you can help with Conclave or help our young men to attend. Thank you for all the support you give to Treasure Valley DeMolay.

Sincerely, Kyle Bush, Master Councilor

Int'l Order of Rainbow Girls

Name to be determined.

Did you know that Rainbow has Seven Bow stations exactly like the Seven Preceptors in DeMolay? Did you know that we have 5 elected line officers just like Jobies? Did you know that some of the lessons taught at our bow stations are very similar to the Star Points lectures in Eastern Star? Come to a meeting and learn for your self how closely related Rainbow is to all of the other Masonic Organizations.

We currently have 8 petitions out and are very excited because we are getting closer to being able to get our Letter's Temporary. This is a big step in the right direction for us and if this happens we will be having regular meetings before too much longer. We have almost decided on a

name for our new Assembly, it will be the Gems of Meridian Assembly or Meridian Gems Assembly.

Recently we have enjoyed growing closer to our Meridian Masonic Family. We attended a Job's Daughters Installation where we had the honor of seeing our future rainbow girl Miss Sierra Bush installed as Honored Queen. We served dinner at the Masons stated meeting in January where we got interest from one Mason, Randy Vanek - thank you, about possibly being on our board. Most recently we even had the pleasure of attending the Investiture of the Jewel for the new DeMolay State Junior Counselor, Connor Gibbons. The night also included the installation of the Sweetheart Court and their Advisors. We really enjoy getting to know our Meridian Masonic Family more and look forward to working with each group more in the future.

We are still looking for at least one more Mason and would welcome any Eastern Star members to join our board. So if any one has some free time and would like to help out the girls, please contact us. Also if you know of any girls between the ages of 11 and 20 that would be a great addition to our Assembly or if you are interested in learning more about Rainbow, please contact those below. We also left brochures in the lodge on the sign-in podium.

Please come see us, this is your invitation.

*Anna Votaw @ (208) 407-1452 or
Laura Mayes @ (208) 407-0945*