



The Masonic News



Letter From The President

John Hansen

November 13, 2023 at 5:30 PM, that was the date and that was the hour... This was the meeting the The Masonic News and there was no quorum for the meeting. The apathy thundered through the building as the few of us who gathered waited. As time passed we finally had the required number and could conduct the business of the paper.

After 102 years of publication and struggling and trying to remain a useful asset in the local Masonic community for the last several years, the last publication of the Masonic News will be December 2023.

I would like to extend my endless gratitude to our Editor, Adam Thayer, for his decade of love and

sacrifice to the paper. Also to Sister Sue Stroud for many years of love and sacrifice to the paper as our Business Manager. Brother Bob Tooker, thank you for doing what had to be done, I know it was difficult. You are a Master Mason and true to your obligations. Brother Monte, thank you for performing the final audit of the books.

For the last several months there has been a struggle to fill 4 pages. I'm asking all who are members of the paper to write articles so our last publication will have 8 full pages, just like the first.

Martha Washington Chapter #153

Betty Kirby

It's already November and our thoughts turn to the Thanksgiving holiday and the many blessings that we enjoy daily. As the events of the world swirl around us, let us not forget to give thanks for all of the small things that we take for granted on a daily basis. We have clean water, warm homes, loving families and friends and a myriad of other blessings that are too numerous to mention. Take time today and give thanks for those things.

members of our chapter attended the World's Fair in Chicago the previous month on the "O.E.S. Day of Celebration" I can only imagine what that day looked like at the World's Fair!

Sis. Sue Hedges, Grand Representative of California in Nebraska, reported on her visit to California Grand Chapter. She noted several interesting things about California's protocol and reported that Nebraska Star Dogs was mentioned as an outstanding program during that session.

We are grateful for the recoveries of P.G.M. Sis. Jeanine Bryceson from her heart surgery and P.M. Pam Lindholm on her recent surgery. Sis. Kelsey Larsen is recovering from another ACL surgery on her leg and Bro. Mike Buchardt will be having a complete shoulder replacement this month. Please keep them both in your prayers. The Chapter's sympathy is extended to Sis. Andy Stewart, Grand Conductress, on the passing of her husband. Congratulations to Sis. Cathy Wagner, Grand Secretary Emeritus, on her 80th birthday!

Officers elected for the

upcoming year are: Worthy Matron, Sis. Shellie Smith; Worthy Patron, Bro. David Hedges; Assoc. Matron, Sis. Sue Hedges; Assoc. Patron, Bro. Mark Poston; Secretary, Sis. Betty Kirby; Treasurer. Bro. Mike Buchardt; Conductress, Sis. Kelsey Larsen; Associate Conductress, Sis. Julie Fowler; Trustee, Bro. Andy Martin; Chapter Representatives for the Havelock Masonic Temple Board, Sis. Shellie Smith, Sue Hedges, Sharon Waters, and Bro. Gary Jorgensen. Thank you to all for accepting these positions.

In closing, I would like to share a prayer printed in the Thanksgiving Ideals from October, 1980, written by Dr. W. J. Thompson:

"Dear Lord, my thanks I offer Thee,
For priceless gifts bestowed in me!
I use them constantly, and yet,
the GIVER, I sometimes forget:
Thanks for my EYES, dear Lord--I see
The glories that encircle me.
While through my EARS come speech and songs--
The world of sound to

me belongs!
My HANDS, with their swift sense of touch,
Are daily blessings -- means so much!
My VOICE, too, is a gift from God--
A constant help along life's road.
My MIND, my HEART, my SOUL--all three
Are priceless treasures, Lord, from Thee.
For LIFE on this Thanksgiving Day,
Accept my gratitude, I Pray!

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If you would like to see your Masonic organization featured here, please reach out to us at businessmanager@masonicnews.org

We **Masons** are among the fortunate ones who are taught to meet together with others opposing or competitive ideas and yet **respect each other as Brothers.**

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Lancaster Lodge #54

John Hansen

Dues are due - you should have received your notice, if not, let Adam know.

All members of our lodge should have received a letter from our Secretary regarding new software, "Grand View", from our Grand Lodge. Please follow the directions on the letter and get signed up. The overall goal is to keep members better informed of upcoming events as well as increase communication by e-mail. Please get signed up. Two features have been added to for all members; one is access to the entire library of Short Talk Bulletins, and the second is a Grand Lodge Recognition tile for use when traveling to foreign jurisdictions.

Trestle Board:

November 17 - Dark
November 24 - Dark
December 1 - Business Meeting/Master Mason Proficiency practice.
December 8 - Master Mason proficiency practice.
January 5 - Business Meeting.
January 7 - Installation of new officers.

Brothers birthdays in November:

Roger Chamberlin, Raymond Dimick, Richard Gray, Keith Herbster, Graham House, Dwight Johns, Kory Johnson, Kenneth Koch, Mike Lagueux, Larry Lewis, Ronald Lubben, John Millington, Justin Schroeder, Eric Sunndsboe, Tyler White, Matt Zier.

Brothers birthdays in December:

Frederick Bliss, Mark Clinton, Phillip Gilson, Louis Hurst, Kent Millington, Glenn Morrison, Arlen Olmsted, Gary Steffens, Frederic Swihart, Philip Lehman, Jason Wood, Kris Luft, Michael Williams.

Elections:

Worshipful Master - Brother Gregory L Prosocki
Senior Warden - Brother Eric A Miller
Junior Warden - Brother John C. Hansen Jr.

Treasurer - W.B. Carl C. Plants
Secretary - W.B. Adam M. Thayer
Trustee - W.B. Michael Lagueux

October 27 Brother Terrance Savage was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason.

On November 10, we hosted our annual Tribute to American Veterans. The honored veteran this year is WB Mike Lageux. A brief presentation of his 40 plus years of service was given by the Master of Ceremonies PM Matt Zier.

The ceremony was followed by our annual awards dinner. The first presentation was made by B.Jimmy Ray to WB Matt Zier for his sharing of masonic teachings in his daily life and how his leading and living by example has affected so many people. WB Matt Zier, representing the Temple Board presented a beautiful wood serving tray to Electra for their members providing breakfast every Saturday work is being done at the Temple.

WB Matt, again on behalf of the Temple Board, presented a set of leather coasters to the Temple.

Worshipful Master David Bloomquist presented the following awards:

The Mike Lagueux Award for outstanding service to the building, went to PM Joe Husky.

The Joe Huskey Award for outstanding service to the Temple building was presented to Mike Lagueux.

Brother Mike Williams was awarded the Bee Hive Award, for being a new brother in the lodge, less than 2 years, who is working hard to make the lodge successful.

The Jodera Award went to brother Eric Bahm for his work with Masonic youth.

The coveted Aterberry Award went to WB Greg Prosocki

for his efforts in precise ritual work.

The Pillar of 54 Award is new this year. It is for providing service to the lodge. Recieptants this year were WB Matt Zier and WB Adam Thayer.

Another new award this year is The Steve Green Award and was presented to Joe Husky for all his efforts in teaching and coaching ritual work.

Brother Eric Miller was selected at the recipient of this years Mason of the Year.

This is the second year for the Past Masters Award, where a selected brother is selected for their work over the year and presented a challenge coin by one of the Past Masters. This year PM Adam Thayer presented his coin to brother Nick Furchert. PM Mike Lagueux presented his coin to Brother Steve DeVore.

I have written a few articles about a masonic lodge in Bimini, the Bahamas. I have always enjoyed how close knit the masonic community is there, and inclusive. I mean, they do look out me. In a good way I think.

My son Tim was on the island a few week ago for business. He and his associate Colin were up at the Hilton Hotel for dinner. Colin says, "Hey Tim I want you to meet this guy. Mario, let me introduce you to". Mario smiles and says "You're John's son! Your dad is my brother, it so good to meet you." Tim was confused since he thought he knew all his uncles and he was the only caucasian in the group. Then it dawned on him this was a masonic thing. It sure is, brotherly love and fellowship. Now if I could just get him to join.



Bethel #5

McKenna P

Bethel #5 had a very busy October and November.

Dairy Queen Fundraiser
On October 12, we held a dine-out fundraiser event at the Fallbrook Dairy Queen. We had a lot of friends and family members attend and ate lots of delicious food. Thank you to all who supported this event!



Bethel Meeting & Proficiency Examination

On October 14, we held a regular business meeting. During Good of the Bethel, five members completed the Proficiency Examination. Congratulations to Ella, Hailey, Sarah, Abigail and Kenzie on passing!



Highway Clean Up
In the afternoon on October 14th we gathered near West O street in Emerald to complete our twice a year highway cleanup service project. We split into four groups and completed the one mile clean up on both sides of the road in a little under an hour and a half. We found a lot of strange things while completing our clean up! After we were done we gathered together for lunch at the nearby Dairy Queen.



Go to Church Sunday
In the morning of October 15 we attended the church service at Heritage Presbyterian Church which our Honored Queen, Grace, chose for us to attend as a group. A large group of us attended and we were very warmly welcomed by the members of the church. Afterwards we enjoyed food and more fellowship at Ticos.



Job's Daughters Week
Bethel 5 members celebrated Job's Daughters week from

October 15th through the 21st. Sunday the 15th we gathered for a church service and lunch. Monday the 16th we wore Job's Daughters shirts. Tuesday the 17th we practiced our meeting ritual parts and shared them with one another. Wednesday the 18th we were challenged to invite someone to our upcoming prospect paint party. Thursday the 19th we shared our favorite Job's Daughter picture on social media. Friday October 20th we dressed as twins with another member of our Bethel. And finally on Saturday October 21st we called or faceted with a Jobie!



Bethel Meeting & Jobie to Bee Meeting
Our second business meeting of the month

was held on October 28th! During our business meeting our Jobie to Bee's held their monthly Bee meeting. In honor of Halloween being so close they made play-dough monsters and colored fun Halloween coloring pages. After the meeting we had pizza for lunch!

Painting Party
In the afternoon of October 28th we had a very fun and creative prospect painting party. Each member was given a blank canvas and told to paint whatever they wanted too. We sure have some very creative and talented young ladies!



Trick or Treat Booth
In the evening of October 30th many of our Bethel members participated in the Trick or Treat event at the Sesostri Shrine. We had so much fun interacting with all the kids that came through. We had a witch them for our booth this year! Thank you to our Associate Bethel Guardian for making the witch hat ring toss game!

Don & Millie's Fundraiser
On Thursday, November 9th we held another fun dine out fundraiser night. This time it

was at the South Don & Millies. We had such a great turn out that at several points there was not an empty table in the place! We loved all the support we received! Thank you to all who came out to support this awesome event!



Lodge 54 American Veteran Tribute Ceremony

In the evening of November 10th four of our members, four council members, and two additional family members attended Lodge 54's American Veteran Tribute. It was the first time seeing this ceremony for several of our members and it was such a beautiful and moving ceremony. Thank you Lodge 54 for inviting us to attend!

Mark Your Calendars
November 18 – 10:00am
Bethel Meeting and Friendship Meeting at the Masonic Temple (this is still a closed meeting - members, parents, grandparents, and guardians of Job's Daughters, and adults with proper Masonic relationships are welcome to attend).

November 18 – 1:00-3:00pm
– Join us to watch Ratatouille at the Joyo Theater! Cost \$5/ person. Concessions available.

November 25 – 2:00-5:00pm
– An Afternoon at Santa's Workshop. Join the members of our Bethel for a Saturday afternoon of decorating the Christmas tree, wrapping gift boxes, making cookie & pancake mix jars, and treat bags for Santa. Bring a homemade ornament to add to the Christmas tree!

December 9 – 10:00am
Bethel Meeting & Initiation Ceremony

December 9 – 3:00-5:00pm
stop by and support the members of Bethel 5 as we ring bells for the Salvation Army inside Gateway Mall near the JcPenney entrance.

December 16 – Join us for a delicious pancake breakfast for our Breakfast in Whoville featuring Santa and the Grinch (and other special guests) fundraiser from 8:30am-11:30am. \$10/Adults, \$5/ages 5-12, free/ages 2 & under



BETHEL #5 JOB'S DAUGHTERS INTERNATIONAL

AN AFTERNOON AT SANTA'S WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH
2:00-5:00pm

The Masonic Temple
1635 L Street
Lincoln

Activities include:

- Putting up & decorating the Christmas tree (please bring a DIY ornament to put on the tree)
- Gift wrapping boxes to go under the tree
- Putting together treat bags for Santa to hand out
- Making cookie mixes & pancake mixes in mason jars for a fundraiser

BETHEL #5 • JOB'S DAUGHTERS INTERNATIONAL

Breakfast in Whoville

featuring SANTA & the GRINCH!

DECEMBER 16 • 8:30-11:30AM

JOIN SANTA FOR A PANCAKE BREAKFAST! PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE, PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CAMERA!

Adults - \$10, Children 3-12 - \$5
Children 2 & Under - Free

1635 L Street - Lincoln, NE

For questions contact Dana- danasmie@hotmail.com

Electa Chapter #8

Mike Lagueux

On October 21st, a sunny & warm Saturday morning, Electa Chapter No 8 had the honor of initiating a new member, Sister Lana Brennan. The officers did their work splendidly and we welcomed Lana with great happiness.

After the Initiation Ceremony, Worthy Patron Don Frank presented to Sister Lana the Bible she held at the alter during her obligation.

Special thanks to those members from our area O.E.S. Chapters who assisted the Electa Chapter members as protem officers; Brother Greg Mason, and Sisters Melinda Brage, Jean Crary, Belle Kendle and Elizabeth Charbonneau.

Following the Initiation ceremony, a luncheon was provided by Worthy Matron Brenda and Worthy Patron Don.

At the Shrine Trunk or Treat, an event chaired by Sister Kathy & Brother Mike Berger, Electa Chapter No 8 had a booth to help celebrate the fun activities. WP Don Frank provided "security" as Darth Vader, WM Brenda Frank-Collins was a witch alongside Sister Dehnia Bullerdiek as "herself". It was an evening of fun for all who attended.

At our November 4th Business meeting elections were held and the following

were elected to serve Electa Chapter No 8.
Worthy Matron – Ilah Anderson
Worthy Patron – Donald Frank
Associate Matron – Kathy Berger
Associate Patron – Mike Lagueux
Secretary – Beth Benson
Treasurer – Barbara Tisdale
Conductress – Tiffany Westerholt
Associate Conductress – Brenda Frank-Collins
Trustee 2024 – Harry Storz one year term replacing Ilah Anderson who cannot serve, per Chapter Bylaws
Trustee 2024 to 2026 – Suzanne Stroud

Secretary Beth Benson would like to remind everyone that 2023 dues are due now, please make payment by the end of December. Also, the 2024 dues cards have been received please remit your 2024 dues.

Save the dates:
January 20th – 2:00 Open Installation of officers
March 16 - Electa Chapter No 8 - 150th Charter Day celebration
1:00 Catered meal - tickets available from Beth Benson, Chapter Secretary
2:30 Dessert reception - open to everyone (no cost)



Myrtle Chapter #94

Brenda Frank-Collins

November is here. A time to remember those we have lost, those who gave of themselves the ultimate selfless sacrifice to our Country, and those who have helped us get through another year to be thankful for. We give Thanks for our members, families, Veterans, and those friends without whom we could not make it. Thanksgiving is in the air.

This month, I am thankful for the assistance of our WP Tom Anderson, who has provided our article information.

Update on SaltDogs Fundraiser for the Service & Therapy dogs: \$1,013.71, after expenses. WOW!!

Lincoln Water has replaced the waterline that comes in to the building. The 100-yr old lead pipe was

replaced, and area work will continue until May 2024. We are not to use tap water for drinking/cooking. Lincoln Water has informed us that we must take precautions until all the outside work is completed. A water filtering pitcher has been provided for us by them. Please follow these instructions, or bring your own bottle of water to functions.

DUES are DUE for 2024, and you may pay 2023 dues, too, if you have not yet. \$20 each year. Please bring them to our next stated meeting, mail them to Secretary Emily, or you may also pay them through PayPal: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalmy/prof>

Here are our upcoming events. Mark your calendars, and plan to attend:
Nov 14, Tuesday,

Stated Meeting/ Elections of 2024 Officers at 7:30pm. Gather at 7:00pm Dec 12, Tuesday, Crock-Pot-Luck Dinner, 6:00pm prior to our 7:30pm Stated Meeting. Myrtle Club providing Christmas Cookies for fellowship time after the Meeting.

Let's celebrate our members' November & December birthdays and anniversaries:

- Nov 1 - Lorraine Voyles (102 yrs)
- Nov 11 – Marilyn Wallin
- Nov 13 – Harry Storz
- Nov 14 – Deb & Harry Storz Anniversary (42yrs)
- Nov 27 – Jamie Janovec
- Dec 9 - Jennifer Dierks
- Dec 13 – Carol McKibbin
- Dec 16 – Connie & Jim Weir Anniversary (56 yrs)
- Dec 23 – Bert Chatfield
- Dec 27 – Linda Livingston

- Dec 27 – Lisa Myers
- Dec 27 – Dan Chesnut
- Dec 28 – Bette & Bill Cummins (55yrs)

May all your days be Special Days!

Happy Thanksgivings!

Star Love,...until we meet again.....
If you have any updates or information changes, please contact Secretary Emily Schoenleber at: emilyschoenleber@gmail.com, or Worthy Matron Deb Kendle at: dmkendle@gmail.com

North Star Lodge #227

Bob Tooker

WB Steve Wetzel served his famous chili at the November festive board. It was all gone when I went back for another bowl as a testament to its "goodness." The monthly education consisted of Part 2 of the Landmarks of Masonry. Bro Jacob Scarp completed his proficiency exam in the Master's Degree and Bro Jeff Cochran completed his Fellow Craft exam also. Grand Lodge Bylaw Changes were discussed, and a vote was cast. Bills were paid and correspondence read. Elections were also held with the following results: WM, WB David Sierks, SW, WB Denny Mundt, JW, Bro

Nate Grimm. Elected to Treasurer, WB Harry Storz, and WB Steve Wetzel was reelected as Secretary, and WB Evan Hayden was reelected as Trustee.

EA DEGREE
A Special Communication was called November 8 for the purpose of conducting the EA Degree for Mr. Jason Bartholomew. Work was conducted as follows: In the East, WB Dennis Mundt, West, WM Adam English, In the South, Bro Nate Grimm. SD, WB Dan Chesnut, JD, Lenny Hernoud, SS, WB Keith Brocksmith, JS, Bro John Helter. WB Steven Flader was guard of the gate and WB Bob Tooker prayed

for his wretched soul.

Questions were asked by WB Evan Hayden, WB Bob Tooker gave his version of the answers. The second section lecture was presented by WB David Sierks. The third section lecture and the charge were delivered by WB Bruce Watkins.

MASTERS DEGREE
A Masters Degree is scheduled November 15 for Bro Jeff Cochran.

SOME THOUGHTS
"Beauty fades. Stupid is forever."
"To become old and wise you have to be young and stupid."
"When I was young, I was poor. Now after a

lifetime of backbreaking hard work, I am no longer young."
"I don't play charades, If you don't like the pronoun I use, I don't care."
"It's the Bill of Rights, not the bill of feelings."
"I believe in a better world where chickens can cross the road, and no one questions their motives."
"Haste makes waste but so does Metamucil."
"Four thirds of the population have trouble with fractions."
"I don't have a misplaced need to validate my existence through the use of social media."
"I offended you. What does it feel like to be so weak mere words

offend you?"
Don't eat too much on Thanksgiving Day! Till Next Month!

Edgar Allan Poe's Perverse Masonic Degree

Darin A. Lahners

In Edgar Allan Poe's Short story, "The Cask of Amontillado", published in 1846, revenge is the motive for a gruesome murder that takes place in an underground vault. There is no evidence that Poe was a Freemason. Many authors have gone out of their way to argue that the short story is an anti-Masonic work and that Poe had publicly mocked the Freemasons, especially in his essay: "The Unparalleled Adventure of One Hans Pfall" prior to his writing of: "The Cask of Amontillado". Compiling to this is an idea that Edgar's strained relationship with his wealthy foster Father, John Allan, was a Freemason, and this led Poe to cast him in the role of Fortunado. I find it difficult to fathom that Poe would have held onto a grudge 13 years after his Foster father's death.

In a column by E.J. Edwards in the "Washington (D.C.) Herald", published on December 2, 1913, entitled "Capt. Wagner's Recollections of Edgar Allan Poe", There is an odd recollection given by Capt. Fredrick C. Wagner. Capt. Wagner had an association with Sarah Helen Whitman, Poe's one-time fiance' whom Poe had met in 1845, so this would have been the earliest time when he may have met him. Wagner was also apparently a Freemason, although I could not confirm this.

"I presume that very few persons are now living who ever saw, certainly very few who ever talked with, Edgar A. Poe." said Capt. Frederick C. Wagner to me. "In his day he was a very prominent citizen of New York and was well known to the Masonic fraternity of the United States by his prominent identification with the establishment of the great Masonic home at Utica, N.Y. I am fortunate enough to be able to recall many meetings of Poe and several interesting conversations which I had with him at one time or another," he went on.

If Poe was anti-Masonic, why would he support the building of the Masonic home in Utica, New York?

Perhaps Capt. Wagner was confused, as he states: "My recollections of Edgar Allen [sic] Poe are among the most pleasant of any of those of my young manhood in New York City." I find it difficult to believe that Poe would have been able to give financially to the Masonic Home building fund. However, I do think that Poe not have had issues with individual Freemasons, but with the institution itself. In any case, there is enough evidence presented in: "The Cask of Amontillado" to state that Poe was familiar with Freemasonry. Many authors also state that Poe and others of that time would have had an idea of Freemasonry and its workings due to the Morgan Affair in 1826, however, I believe that Poe had knowledge of some of the higher degrees of Freemasonry, either through the various exposes that came forward at his time or through associations with Freemasons like Wagner.

In any case, an argument can and has been made for what occurs to the characters in "The Cask of Amontillado" as being a reenactment of a Masonic Degree, however, I want to postulate something different. It is my argument that if you view the masonic elements in reverse, they reenact the second section of the Fellowcraft degree. First, let's discuss the story and the Masonic elements contained therein.

The story begins with the protagonist, Montresor, confessing his dark deed to some unknown person. He regales the story of how he has suffered a thousand insults at the hand of his nemesis, Fortunato. He says that Fortunato has one weakness, which is that he is a connoisseur of wine. Montresor encounters his nemesis at Carnevale and informs him that he has a pipe (a measurement of cask sizes) of Amontillado in his possession, but he doubts it. Montresor, quite cleverly, states that he can engage another expert, Luchesi, to look at the cask, as he does not want to occupy Fortunato's time. Using Fortunato's ego

against him, because Fortunato doubts Luchesi's ability to correctly identify the wine, Montresor is able to convince Fortunato to look at this cask.

Montresor continues to try to persuade Fortunato to not come with him, telling him about the dampness of his vaults, and worrying about Fortunato's coughing, but nothing dissuades him from his mission. They continue into the vaults after grabbing two torches and descending a long winding staircase. Once in the vaults of the Montresor palazzo, Montresor plies Fortunato with alcohol, first a bottle of Medoc, followed by a flask of De Grave. At this point, Poe gives the following description:

"I broke and reached him a flagon of De Grave. He emptied it at a breath. His eyes flashed with a fierce light. He laughed and threw the bottle upwards with a gesticulation I did not understand. I looked at him in surprise. He repeated the movement—a grotesque one. "You do not comprehend?" he said. "Not I," I replied. "Then you are not of the brotherhood." "How?" "You are not of the masons." "Yes, yes," I said; "yes, yes." "You? Impossible! A mason?" "A mason," I replied. "A sign," he said, "a sign." "It is this," I answered, producing a trowel from beneath the folds of my roquelaire. "You jest," he exclaimed, recoiling a few paces. "But let us proceed to the Amontillado." "Be it so," I said, replacing the tool beneath the cloak and again offering him my arm. He leaned upon it heavily. We continued our route in search of the Amontillado. We passed through a range of low arches, descended, passed on, and descending again, arrived at a deep crypt, in which the foulness of the air caused our flambeaux rather to glow than flame."

At this point, they arrive at the Montresor family crypt, wherein there is discovered a recess that is four feet in depth, three feet in width, and six to seven feet in height in between two colossal supports for the roof of that

catacombs. Montresor exclaims that the cask is therein and when Fortunato investigates, the trap is sprung. Montresor chains Fortunato to the wall by wrapping the chain around his waist and padlocking it. Montresor then begins to lay bricks and walls up the recess entombing Fortunato alive.

Many authors have tried to describe the journey that Fortunato and Montresor take as being a Masonic Degree. They point to the description of the Winding Staircase, the dialogue above, and the description of the two colossal supports as evidence of this. The problem with this is that it makes no sense chronologically to what happens in the Fellowcraft degree, which is the only degree that features the winding staircase. However, when you reverse the chronological timing, a more complete picture comes into shape. The candidate at the end of the first section of the Fellowcraft degree is told the following: "In accordance with an ancient custom adopted in every regular and well-governed lodge, it will be necessary that you make a regular advance through a porch, by a flight of winding stairs consisting of three, five and seven steps to a place representing the Middle Chamber of King Solomon's Temple, where you will find the Worshipful Master who will give you instruction relative to the wages and jewels of a Fellowcraft."

What happens in the second section? Allow me to explain with the aid of what Fortunato and Montresor do in parenthesis. The candidate emerges from the anteroom (Fortunato in the recess), proceeds through the two brazen pillars (Fortunato is led by Montresor into the crypt), to a winding staircase (Fortunato and Montresor descend the staircase into the vaults under Montresor's palazzo), to a place representing the Middle Chamber of King Solomons temple (Montresor and Fortunato while they are above ground), where you will find the Worshipful Master who will give you

instruction relative the wages and jewels of a Fellowcraft. (Montresor's initial meeting with Fortunato. Wages (Coin) and Jewels in a classical sense would make up a treasure, and Montresor's name means: "My Treasure".) There are many jurisdictions that have within their lodge rooms a physical representation of the pillars, along with the flight of winding stairs, which takes them to a room overlooking the lodge room that represents the middle chamber of King Solomon's Temple. (see the picture below)

Did Poe mean to do this? We'll never know. There's more than enough evidence to suggest that Poe had knowledge of this degree and incorporated it into his work. So where does that leave us? With a mystery, the way Poe intended it. I will say that Poe was, towards the end of his life, when this story was published, thinking about the nature of God and our universe. His Lengthy: "Eureka: A Prose Poem" published in 1848 gives us deep insight into his beliefs, and I would say echoes some themes discussed in Freemasonic philosophy. Even the title of this work should be familiar to every Freemason, even if it is attributed incorrectly to Pythagoras instead of Archimedes. However, there is no evidence that Poe was a Freemason. However, I do not believe that he was anti-Masonic. I think that he was critical of the institution of Freemasonry, but also perhaps intrigued by its mysteries.

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TRESTLE BOARD

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Lancaster Lodge 54

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David Bloomquist, W.M. 435-6049
davidbloomquist@gmail.com
Adam Thayer, Sec. 314-6310
adam.thayer@gmail.com
1st Fri. Reg. Communication 7:00 p.m.

East Lincoln Lodge 210

2700 S St. 68503 476-2412
Jeff Buhrman, Sec 703-732-4765
jeff.buhrman@hotmail.com
1st Thur. Reg. Communication 7:30 p.m.

North Star Lodge 227

2610 N. 48th St. 68504 466-2236
Adam English, W.M. 308-379-8598
adam.english@huskers.unl.edu
Steve Wetzels, Sec. 890-0405
1518 Skyline Dr, 68506
swetzels849@aol.com
1st Wed. Reg. Communication 7:30 p.m.

George Washington Lodge 250

4430 N. 70th St. 68507
David Sierks, W.M. 466-2514
6525 Hartley St, 68507
Mark Poston, Sec.-Treas. 540-7270
mwpostons@gmail.com
1st Tue. Reg. Communication 7:30 p.m.

Hickman Lodge 256

4641 Cooper Ave., 68506
1st Thur. Reg. Communication 7:00 p.m.

Cotner Lodge 297

1542 No. 65th St. 68505 413-1332
1st Mon. Reg. Communication 7:30 p.m.

Liberty Lodge 300

1635 L St. 68508 476-3453
Andy Seachord, W.M.
aseachord@gmail.com
Mark Rossignol, Sec. 617-4150
mark.rossignol@gmail.com
1st Thur. Reg. Communication 7:00 p.m.

Craftsmen Lodge 314

2645 B St. 68502 475-2820
1st Tues. Reg. Communication 7:00 p.m.

College View Lodge 320

4641 Cooper Ave. 68506
1st Wed. Reg. Communication 7:30 p.m.

Tabula Rasa Lodge 332

1635 L St. 68508 476-3453
3rd Tue. Reg. Communication 6:30 p.m.

Lebanon Lodge 3

Prince Hall Affiliation 430-7003
1630 N. 24th St. 68503-1117
2nd Tue. Reg. Communication 7:00 p.m.

York Rite**Grand York Rite of Nebraska**

Jeffrey Coleman
Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter
Frank Borden, Jr.
Most Ill. Grand Master, Grand Council
Steven Barchus
Rite Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Commandery
Dennis Newman 490-1381
Grand Secretary

Lincoln Chapter 6 R.A.M.

1635 L St. 68508 476-3453
Mark Rossignol, High Priest 617-4150
Mike Lagueux, Secretary 310-2118
1st Wed.
Covered-dish dinner 6:15 p.m.
Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Lincoln Council 4 Cryptic Masons

1635 L St. 68508 476-3453
Val Ryckman, Illustrious Master
Mike Lagueux, Recorder 310-2118
1st Wed.
Covered-dish dinner 6:15 p.m.
Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Mount Moriah Commandery 4

1635 L St. 68508 476-3453
John Duling, Cmdr.
pastorjdd@gmail.com
David Bloomquist, Recorder 435-6049
davidbloomquist@gmail.com
1st Mon.
Business meeting 7:00 p.m.

Scottish Rite**Scottish Rite Temple**

332 S. Centennial Mall 435-2144
P.O. Box 95013 68509-5013
Bruce Wood, Gen. Sec.
Edward Boone, Venerable Master
David Bloomquist, Wise Master
Dennis Hecht, Commander
Andy Seachord, Master of Kadosh
3rd Wed. Bus. Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Shrine**Sesostris Temple**

1050 Saltillo Rd 474-6890
Roca, Ne 68430
Merv Moeller, Potentate 785-7545
4805 Davey Rd, Ceresco 68017

Daughters of the Nile

Naphis Temple No. 66
Laura Chytka, Queen 660-5731
7732 N 38th St, Omaha 68112

Eastern Star**Eastern Star Grand Chapter of Nebraska****Linda Dubry**
Worthy Grand Matron**L. Cecil Smith****Worthy Grand Patron**

301 N. Cotner Blvd, Suite 200
Lincoln NE 68505-2315
nebraskaoes@msn.com
402-937-7056
1-844-309-6855

Electa Chapter 8

1635 L St. 68508 476-3453
Brenda Frank-Collins, WM 560-2317
electa8pm@windstream.net
Donald Frank, W.P. 423-0802
Elizabeth Benson, Sec. 310-0416
bazi16@msn.com
2019 Harwood St. 68502
1st Sat. Meeting 2:00 or 7:30 p.m.

Electa Chapter Kensington

Susie Dunn, Sec. 890-6733
4000 Garfield St. 68506
2nd Thurs. 11:00 AM

Past Matrons Club

Ilah Anderson, Courtesy Chair
Dona Y. Hurst, Sec.-Treas. 421-1108

Myrtle Chapter 94

2610 No. 48th St. 68504 466-2236
Deb Kendle, W.M. 617-3991
dmkendle@gmail.com
Tom Anderson, W.P.
Emily Schoenleber, Sec.
emilyschoenleber@gmail.com
2nd and 4th Tues. 7:30 p.m.

Myrtle Club

Connie Weir, Pres. 488-9040
cdweir01@gmail.com
Deb Kendle, V.P. 617-3991
dmkendle@gmail.com
Jeanne Bonnett, Sec 465-4817
fjbonnett@twc.com
Robyn Mason, Courtesy 484-5756
robynkt@gmail.com

Martha Washington Chapter 153

4430 N. 70th St. 68507
Michelle Smith, W.M. 440-1397
shellie.smith@duncanaviation.com
David Sierks, W.P. 466-2514
dealer1695@gmail.com
Betty Kirby, Sec. 450-9137
4501 Eagle Ridge Rd. 68516
1st Thurs. 7:30 p.m.

Temple Chapter 271

332 S. Centennial Mall 68508 435-2144
Tiffany Westerholt, W.M. 304-8238
618 W Burt Dr, 68521
David Jelinek, W.P. 327-1234
1334 C St #2, 68502
Melinda Brage, Sec. 488-0837
620 Leavitt Ln 68510-2530
1st Mon. Stated Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Past Matrons Club

Marilyn Jepson, President 423-6049

Starcraft Chapter 307

2645 B St. 68502 475-2820
Terri Sherman, W.M. 525-6008
12244 N. 84th St. 68521
Dennis Brydl, WP, 423-6982
2510 Kessler Blvd. 68502
Cora Redwine, Sec. 438-9447
4101 N.12th St., 68521
1st Wed. Stated Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Youth Groups**DeMolay****Lincoln Chapter**

Tom Parker, Master Councilor
Sarah Warwick, Chapter Sweetheart
Brent Warwick, Chapter Dad 770-0693
Meetings 2nd and 4th Wed. 7:00 p.m.
332 Centennial Mall South
Please send correspondence to:
Brent Warwick 770-0693
bwarwick@inebraska.com

Dr. Frederick Eiche Chapter

No Master Councilor
No Chapter Sweetheart
No Chapter Dad
No Meetings

Job's Daughters**Bethel 5**

Please send all correspondence to:
1635 L St. 68508-2510 476-3453
Diana Weers, Guardian 304-1353
5910 S 52nd St Ct, 68516
Greg Prososki, ABG, 525-9243
21040 NW 70th St, Agnew, 68428
Cora Redwine, Sec. 438-9447
4101 N 12th St, 68521
Grace Meyer, Honored Queen
2nd and 4th Sat. 10:00 a.m. or 3:00 p.m.
Dark July and August

Bethel 27

2610 N. 48th St.
Please send all correspondence to:
Sally Comer, Guardian 540-0844
Bethel27lincoln@gmail.com
Dan Chesnut, ABG
Bethel27abg@gmail.com
Stephanie Bleess, Sec. 314-1675
stephtbleess@gmail.com
Jenna H., Honored Queen
1st & 3rd Sun. 1:30 p.m.

Bethel 63

1542 No. 65th Street
Beth Jacobson, Guardian 770-9814
220 West G St, Elmwood, 68349
laurabethjacobson@hotmail.com
Eric Bahm, Assoc. Guardian 770-0693
3710 LaSalle St, 68516
ericdbahm@gmail.com
Lisa Warwick, Sec. 440-0693
2230 Trevor Court, 68512
1st and 3rd Thurs. 7:00 p.m.

Rainbow for Girls**Lincoln Assembly 6**

332 S. Centennial Mall (Scottish Rite)
Please send all correspondence to:
Tiffany Westerholt, Mother Advisor
618 W. Burt Dr. 68521 304-8238
Kelly Stahly, Advisory Board Chair
6906 S 91st St 68526
kelly.stahly@gmail.com
Rochelle Folsom, Worthy Advisor
1st and 3rd Tues. 7:00 p.m

Other Bodies**Masonic News, Inc.**

1635 L Street, Lincoln, NE 68508
John Hansen, Pres. 202-4487
president@masonicnews.org
Julie Fowler, Vice-Pres.
vicepresident@masonicnews.org
Sue Stroud, Bus. Man.-Treas. 742-6293
businessmanager@masonicnews.org
Adam Thayer, Editor 314-6310
editor@masonicnews.org

New Masonic Temple Assoc.

1635 L Street, 68508 476-3453
Matt Zier, Pres. 531-800-4650
Mike Lagueux, Sec-Treas.310-2118
Please address all correspondence to Sec.-Treas., 1635 L Street, Lincoln, NE 68508
2nd Tues. Board of Directors meeting
Members welcome 5:00 p.m.

New Masonic Temple Preservation Foundation.

1635 L Street, 68508 476-3453
Denise Lagueux, Pres. 310-2118
4th Weds. Board of Directors meeting
Members welcome 5:45 p.m.

Masonic Temple Assoc. of Havelock, Inc.

4430 N. 70th Street 540-7270
Mark Poston, Pres.
Please send all correspondence to:
Jeanne Krenk, Sec.
2411 Surrey Ct, 68512

Nebraska Masonic Home

April Johnston Exec. Dir. 800-245-5812
1300 Avenue D
Plattsmouth NE 68048-1055

Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children

Ron Giesselmann, Exec. Dir.
Box 1327 (2415 N. Main St.)
Fremont NE 68025-1327 1-402-721-1185

Acacia Fraternity

2255 Vine Street, 68503 436-6160
Ciaran Riley, Ven. Dean 905-7933
Jon Anderson, Sec. 889-6029

Widows Sons Memento Mori Chapter

Zach "Zee" Thompson, President
308-530-9461
Andy "Lucky" Seachord, Secretary
309-9336

Lincoln Boys Choir

Executive Director 499-4446

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All submissions may be edited for length and content. The Masonic News Board makes all final decisions.

Liberty Lodge #300

Nathanael Gabel

Well, we officially fell back in time! Who knew we could lose and gain the same thing at the same time! As we lost an hour of time we gained an hour of rest!! For those of you who enjoy fall holidays, this can only allude to one thing... Thanksgiving!!! The trees allow us to 'bare' in mind that cold days are ahead and it's time to replace the mower with the snow shovel and start looking for those holiday grocery deals!! By now, everyone is starting to make plans for the Thanksgiving weekend! Putting up decorations, travels plans, accommodating family and friends, planning dinner dishes and arrangements all while trying to keep stress levels down!! Fear not!! The eventful day will come and we'll enjoy the fellowship of our family and friends and eat amazing food!!

A congratulations is in order to our newest Brother Connor Griffith! We had a successful EA degree last month and we look forward to growth

in the coming years! We were as busy as a bee could be during the Nov. business meeting! We elected our 2024 officers and appointed a new Temple board member! Newly elected members are: WM- Lance Neeman SW- Tom Lagerstrom JW- Keith Plummer Treas.- Lynn Friesen Sec.- Mark Rosignol

We are holding a Past Masters' dinner this month to honor our Brothers of Liberty Lodge. We encourage all those with special honors and long standing to attend the dinner to help celebrate and make it a memorable event!!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR
2023

Nov. 16th MM Lodge Proficiency. Dinner at 6pm. Meeting at 7pm.
Nov. 18th Masonic Family Potluck Diner. 5pm. Bring your favorite sides!
Nov. 30th Past Masters Dinner 6pm.
Dec. 7th Business Meeting

Please feel free to visit Liberty Lodge, on the first Thursday of the month as we continue to bring great times and fellowship to Masonry!!!



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