



Jerusalem Times

Jerusalem Lodge #99 F & AM

Issue 22 August 2009

The View from the East...

By Robert L. Blackburn, Worshipful Master

From time to time, Brethren send me different stories or news via e-mail. A Brother sent this story to me a few weeks ago:

Years ago when I was a new Master Mason my job occasioned a visit that will stay in my heart forever. I was working at the time as an insurance agent and one of my duties was to make "courtesy calls" on current policy-holders. Most agents despise doing them because they feel their time could be better spent in front of someone who might buy something rather than with someone who already had. But it was part of the job so I went to the home in rural western Tennessee to let them know the company was still around and not to stop paying their premiums.

I was met at the door by a grandmotherly sort of lady with a friendly manner who invited me in for a cup of tea. I realize now this was more an expression of loneliness than interest in why I was there, but I was happy to spend a few minutes with her. In the course of the ensuing conversation I complimented the Masonic cross stitch pieces on her walls and made the observation that her husband must be a Mason. She said he had been but had died a few months ago. I was horrified to have brought up still painful memories but she assured me that they had had many wonderful years together and Masonry was a big part of their lives. She remarked that I wasn't wearing a Mason Ring and I told her I hadn't gotten one yet. In truth I knew what I wanted but couldn't afford it at the time with a wife and new baby to deal with. I proceeded to show her my dues card and prove myself to her as an Eastern Star. Then getting up she said something that I will never forget. "I'd like to give you something if you'd accept it".

Before I could say anything she went back to the room she'd shared with my unknown departed brother and came back with something in her hand. She then placed in my hand a Mason ring big enough for me to have worn on my thumb. I tried to refuse the gesture saying it was an heirloom that surely someone in her family would want. She returned that there were no more Masons in the family that she knew of. She said her husband had felt that every Mason should have a Mason ring and had gotten her to promise before he died that rather than bury it with him she would keep it until she came across a brother Mason who didn't have a ring. When she did she was to give the ring to him under the condition that he would in turn pass it on to another brother one day. She said if I agreed to that condition the ring was mine. I willingly agreed to the condition and she shook my hand and sent me on my way.

I took the ring to a jeweler friend and had it sized and then wore it proudly. It identified me as a member of our ancient and honorable fraternity, and I never looked at it on my hand without remembering how it came to be there. A few years later while in the Navy stationed in Charleston, SC one day a friend I was stationed with remarked that he had always wanted to be a Mason. He knew I was a Mason by the ring I wore and asked me to help him get into the fraternity. Not having moved my membership to Charleston, I got with a civilian brother who was a member of a local lodge and in due time my friend became my brother. On the night he was raised in Hammerton Lodge #332 I said to him what the widow had said to me: "I'd like to give you something if you'd accept it". I then handed him the ring that had let him know I was a Mason and started him off on his own journey toward Masonic Light. He reacted much as I had years before. I told him it really wasn't mine to keep. Then I told him the story of how I came to have the ring and got the same promise from him to pass it on that I had made to the widow in Tennessee.

I haven't seen the ring or the brother I gave it to for years. We got stationed in different places and lost touch. I like to think that the ring will be worn by a succession of Masons all hearing the story of how it came to them. I have another Mason ring now, but when I look at it I still remember my first one. And how a brother I never met reached from beyond the grave to give it to me.

This story is about so much more than just a ring; it is Masonry in action. We are taught about so many things; faith, hope, charity, temperance, fortitude, prudence, justice, and the list goes on. Not only do we learn the application of these important things, we also learn that there is a certain imperishable part of mankind that never dies. The lessons that we are taught today stay with us; we share them and improve the lives of our friends and family.

As always, God Bless, and we hope to see you at the Little Italy Festival!

Rob

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SECOND ANNUAL LADIES DINNER PLANNED

A date has been set for the Second Annual Ladies Dinner. Please mark your calendar for:

Tuesday, September 22 - 6:30 PM

For those of you that were fortunate enough to attend last year, this is an evening filled with great food, fantastic entertainment, and an opportunity for us to thank all of the ladies that support us. The event is open to all Masonic ladies of both current and former members, and we encourage you to tell anyone you know about the event. The night is free-of-charge for any lady in attendance, but a small fee is requested for any Mason present. This year we do have a special entertainer booked who will be sure to make you laugh!

If you do plan on attending this event, we do ask that you RSVP to Kevin Williams at 765-832-2764 or Rob Blackburn at 765-832-6452 prior to the event. We hope to see you there!

Don't forget to check out our web site at

www.jerusalem99.com

Download petitions, view updates, see newsletters, get contact information, online events calendar, and much, much more!

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER PLANNED

During our November Stated Meeting which will be held on the 10th, Brother John Rose will be our honored speaker that night. Brother John is the CEO of the Indiana Masonic Home, Inc. and is traveling to Clinton to do a presentation about the Home and the services they perform. Also, a presentation will be done showcasing the new Assisted Living Facility which was debuted in the last edition of the Indiana Freemason Magazine. If you or anyone you know has ever had a question about the IMH including the application process, this is your opportunity!

Due to our Stated Meeting falling on the day after Labor Day, the schedule for the September Stated Meeting will be as follows:

6:00 PM - Clean-Up from Labor Day

7:00 PM - Stated Meeting (as usual)

Light Refreshments After Meeting

Any available workers to help put the Lodge back together are needed and appreciated!

Questions, Comments, Input? Please Contact the Editor:

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238 S. Jackson St.

Clinton, IN 47842

JerusalemLodge99@aol.com

(765)832-6452

Fellowship Meetings

1st Tuesday of Each Month - 7:00 PM

Everyone Is Encouraged To Attend!

Special Degree Conferred

On the morning of Saturday, July 4th a number of Brethren celebrated the day by conferring the Master Mason Degree on one of our own. Before the Degree began, Brother Kevin Williams (with the assistance of a number of other early risers) came in and prepared a fantastic breakfast for everyone to enjoy. After the meal, Brother David Barnes was Raised to the Sublime Degree with a fantastic display of ritual. We sincerely thank all of you who came out that morning to share the experience with our newly raised Brother!



**HELP WILL BE NEEDED TO SET UP
FOR THIS YEAR'S LABOR DAY
FUNDRAISER - IF YOU CAN HELP,
PLEASE SHOW UP AT THE LODGE
ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd AT
6:00 PM!**

With the help of several members the set-up will only
take about 1- 1 1/2 hours!

LABOR DAY FUNDRAISER INFORMATION

The following is important information concerning the upcoming Labor Day Fundraiser and Ticket Information

Planning is in full swing for our upcoming fundraiser, which will once again take place this Labor Day Weekend (September 4-7). Included in this mailing you will find four tickets for our upcoming fundraiser that is held in conjunction with the Little Italy Festival. We are strongly encouraging every member to sell these tickets, but we also need your support! It takes a great deal of work to put this event on, so we are also asking for your help. We need people to man the stand, cook, clean tables, and help set-up/take down, etc. If you can volunteer any of your time, please contact Kevin or Rob as soon as you can!

We ask that these tickets either be purchased, sold, or returned. We greatly appreciate your help in selling these tickets, and if you feel that you can sell more, please contact Kevin Williams or Rob Blackburn. Remember, the proceeds from this fundraiser go directly to the Building Fund to continue our restoration and improvement efforts! **IF YOU CANNOT SELL THE TICKETS, PLEASE SEND THEM BACK!** While it is very difficult, we will then attempt to find someone else to sell them! Every ticket is accounted for, so your help is greatly appreciated!

If paying by check, please put the ticket numbers (stamped on the back) in the 'Note' section of the check.

Please return all payments/unsold tickets to:

Jerusalem Lodge #99
Fundraiser
315 1/2 S. Main St.
Clinton, IN 47842

If you would like to volunteer your time or have questions, please contact:

Kevin Williams
765-832-2764

Rob Blackburn
765-832-6589 (H)

765-832-6589 (W)

PLEASE NOTE:

ONCE YOU HAVE PAID FOR THE TICKETS, PLEASE PLACE YOUR INITIALS IN THE BOX IN THE LOWER RIGHT HAND CORNER OF THE TICKETS! THIS WILL HELP US TO KEEP TRACK OF