



Jerusalem Times

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The View from the East...

By Robert L. Blackburn, Worshipful Master

"The Hour Glass is an emblem of human life. Behold, how swiftly the sands run and how rapidly our lives are drawing to a close. We cannot without astonishment behold the little particles which are contained in this machine, how they pass away almost imperceptibly, and yet, to our surprise, in the short space of an hour they are all exhausted."

I couldn't think of a better way to start this article. I address you as a Worshipful Master who sees his term already half way over, yet feeling that it has gone by so rapidly that so little has been accomplished. I guess this is the reason that the phrase was coined, "Time flies when you are having fun."

We have done just that. I want to thank those of you who have taken an opportunity to come up and visit us either during a degree or a stated meeting. We have done a tremendous amount of work this year. Speaking as someone who mentors a great number of young Brothers, I am so proud of the hard work, motivation, and dedication that they have been putting into their efforts. Our new members have gone from men just memorizing words to Brothers who are well versed in the ritual and truly understand the meaning of the catechism.

You have heard me say it before, and will hear me say it again, but I am also very proud of my officers. We have traveled to Washington, IN to a training session. I was accompanied this year at Grand Lodge by not only our secretary, but also by our Senior Warden Chas Johnson. We have a lot left to do, and I am working to make the rest of the year as interesting and busy as possible. As you will read on the last page, I have decided to perform a 4th of July Master Mason degree. I hope that it will be an opportunity for those of you that maybe can't make it to our other meetings to stop up and see us, have a great meal, and just sit on the sidelines and watch the work being put on. Planning has already begun for the 2nd Annual Ladies Night, which is tentatively scheduled for September 22nd (look for more details in the next issue). In addition, I am working to expand our horizons by trying to negotiate the logistics of trading a degree with one of the Lodges in Paris, Illinois. While the first half of the year is over with, there is still a **lot** to be done.

Instead of me going on, I wanted to share a story with you. It speaks of a not-so-common Masonic emblem:

As early as the year 1934, soon after Adolph Hitler's power, it became apparent that Freemasonry in Germany was in danger. In the same year the Germany Grand Lodge of the Sun in Beyreuth (one of the pre-war German Grand Lodges), realized the imminent problems facing them and elected to wear a little blue flower, "das vergissmeinnicht," the Forget-Me-Not, in lieu of the traditional Square and Compass, as a mark of identity for Masons.

It was felt that the new symbol would not attract attention from the Nazis, who were in the process of confiscating and appropriating Masonic Lodges and property. Masonry in Germany had gone underground and it was necessary that the Brethren have some readily recognizable means of identification.

Throughout the entire Nazi era, a little blue flower in a lapel marked a Brother. In the concentration camps and in the cities a little blue Forget-Me-Not distinguished the lapels of those who refused to allow the Light of Masonry to be extinguished. In 1947 when the Grand Lodge of the Sun was reopened by Past Grand Master Beyer, a little blue pin, in the shape of a Forget-Me-Not, was proposed and adopted as the official emblem of the first convention of those who survived the bitter years of semi-darkness, bringing the Light of Masonry once again into the Temples.

At the first Convent of the United Grand Lodges of Germany in 1948, the pin was adopted as an official Masonic emblem honoring those valiant Brethren who carried their work on under adverse conditions. At the Grand Master' Conference in the United States, Dr. Theodor Vogel, the Grand Master of the newly formed German Grand Lodge presented one of the pins to each of the representatives present.

Thus did a simple flower blossom forth into a meaningful symbol of the Fraternity and became perhaps the most widely worn pin among Freemasons in Germany.

God Bless! -Rob

Jerusalem Lodge #99, F & AM
C/O Rob Blackburn
315 1/2 South Main St.
Clinton, IN 47842

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Special Presentations Made



During the Fellow Craft Degree held on Tuesday, April 28th, a couple of distinguished presentations were made. Below you will find pictures of the presentation of a 50 Year / Past Master apron that was presented to Brother Art Nowling. Art truly displays all of the qualities of Masonry on a daily basis, and we are certainly honored to call him a Brother. Also presented that night was a plaque in honor of Extraordinary Service to the Lodge by three generations of the Blackburn family. Shown on the plaque are the names of Wayne L. Blackburn (Past Master—1967), Gary L. Blackburn (Past Master—2007), and Worshipful Master Robert L. Blackburn. The award was presented to Gary and Rob by Past Grand Master Ron Smith, Trustee and Past Master Ron Lockwood, and Trustee and Past Master Kevin Williams along with the membership of Jerusalem



#99.

A Brief Outline of Freemasonry

The next time someone asks you, "What is Masonry?", let this be a quick guide:

Freemasonry is the world's largest, oldest, and best known gentleman's fraternal organization. There are 4.5 million Freemasons in the world, including 1.5 million in the United States. The Grand Lodge of Indiana has over 68,000 members, meeting in 485 Lodges throughout the state.

Freemasonry is based on the belief that each man can make a difference in the world by improving himself, and taking an active role in his community. It is a charitable, benevolent, educational, and religious fraternity. Yet, Freemasonry forbids the discussion in Masonic meetings of religion, creeds, politics or other topics likely to excite personal animosities.

Freemasonry dates back to the guilds of European stonemasons who built castles and cathedrals during the Middle Ages. Temporary buildings called lodges were built next to the cathedrals, and the Masons used them to meet, receive their pay, plan their work, train new apprentices, and socialize. The first Grand Lodge was established in England in 1717, transforming the craft from 'operative' masons who constructed building, into a 'speculative' fraternity that used the symbolism, tools, and terminology of the medieval masons as illustrations of character building. Masonic ceremonies use tales of the construction of King Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem as symbols for building an inner temple in the hearts of men.

By 1731, Freemasonry had spread to the American colonies. Freemasonry circled the globe on the colonizing ships of the British, the French and the Dutch. Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Paul Revere, and other founding fathers were among the first Masons in the United States. After the American Revolution, grand lodges were established in each state. The Grand Lodge of Indiana was formed in Madison, Indiana in 1818. There is no national or international governing body for Freemasonry.

Membership in the Masons is open to men 18 or older who believe in a Supreme Being and meet its qualifications and standards of character and reputation. One of Freemasonry's customs is not to solicit members, but any man is welcome to request information about joining the fraternity.

Related organizations that base their membership on Masonic affiliation include the York Rite (made up of the Royal Arch, Cryptic Council and Knights Templar), the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, the Order of the Eastern Star, Order of the Amaranth, Shrine International, and Grottoes of North America. Masonic related youth groups include DeMolay International for boys, and International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and Job's Daughters International.

For more information, you can also go to www.tryfreemasonry.com or www.jerusalem99.com.

Questions, Comments, Input? Please Contact the Editor:

Rob Blackburn, W. M.

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!

Scholarships Awarded

It is with great pride to announce that numerous scholarships have been awarded this year; as a matter of fact, we have never had this many. About a month ago, the Secretary, Worshipful Master and six - yes, six Masonic families received notice that they were to receive a \$1300 Indiana Grand Lodge Scholarship. The recipients of this years scholarships (along with their Masonic Sponsor) are:

Khaim Helms - son of Brother Kenny Helms, S.D.	Jessica Dugger - daughter of Brother Alan Dugger
Ty Wiggins - son of Brother Lester Wiggins	Brittany Haltom - daughter of Brother Jeff Haltom
Nekoda Hoke - son of Brother Danny Hoke	Dirk Foltz, Jr. - son of Brother Dirk Foltz, Sr., P.M.

Our most sincere congratulations goes out to these students. A banquet will be held this July where they will receive their scholarship money - look for pictures in the next issue!

Worshipful Master Appointed To State Board

Worshipful Master Rob Blackburn has been appointed by Grand Master Charles F. Marlowe to be one of thirteen members of the Board of Directory of the Indiana Masonic Home. Rob is one of three Worshipful Masters in the state to hold such a position. As the year goes on, you will read more about the role that Jerusalem #99 and our Worshipful Master will play in the future of the Indiana Masonic Home. Also, if any of you have any questions or if you know anyone affiliated with Masonry that is interested in the IMH, please let Rob know by using the contact information on page 2 or visit www.inmasonichome.org.

Labor Day Planning Already Underway

A meeting has already taken place in order to get the ball rolling for this year's activities in conjunction with the Little Italy Festival and Labor Day. These organizational meetings are occurring during the Fellowship Meetings that are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month. If you would like to know more, just stop by one of these meeting or a Stated Meeting. In the next issue, you will once again receive 4 tickets for this years fundraiser. Also, we will be looking for assistance in not only putting on the 4 day event, but also with people willing to help us set up and tear down. If you have any questions, just give Rob at call at 765-832-6589 or Kevin Williams at 765-832-2764.

E-Mail List Available

Thanks to the efforts of our Junior Steward Dave Hudgens, Jerusalem #99 now has a e-mail list established. At this time, we already have a great number of people signed up. With the list, we are sending out messages concerning upcoming degree work, reminders of Lodge events, and soon pictures of past degrees and events. If you would like to sign up, just send an e-mail to Dave at kc9egn@gmail.com or Rob Blackburn at JerusalemLodge99@aol.com and we will gladly add you to the list. Also, if you know a Brother from a different Lodge that would like to be added, just let us know their e-mail address and we will add them to the number of other Brothers that are already receiving messages from Jerusalem #99.

- - - SPECIAL DEGREE ANNOUNCEMENT - - -

Jerusalem #99 has decided to hold a special event:

What: Master Mason Degree

When: Saturday, July 4th

Time: Degree Begins at 9:00 AM

Meal: Breakfast Begins at 7:45 AM



We have decided to celebrate our Nations Birthday this year by doing something a little different; heading to Lodge! Since the 4th lands on a Saturday this year, we have decided to hold a early morning degree to confer the Master Mason on one of our Brothers.

We have decided to celebrate by cooking a great breakfast (biscuits, gravy, and sausage) followed by some terrific degree work. Worshipful Brother Rob wants to extend this opportunity to those of you who maybe haven't had an opportunity to come to Lodge in a while (we all know how busy life can be, especially with work, family, etc.) to take this day (which many of us have off) to come up to the Lodge hall, enjoy a big breakfast, and just sit on the sidelines and watch the degree. The great thing is, by starting early we will be finished well before Noon so that you will have the rest of the day to enjoy plenty of other activities with family and friends in celebration of our great country!



We hope to see you there!