



Jerusalem Times

Jerusalem Lodge #99 F & AM

Issue 23 November 2009

The View From The East...

By Robert L. Blackburn, Worshipful Master

I have heard it time and time again from other Masters, this indeed was the fastest year of my life. It seems that you work so hard to get to this point, only to have the time flash before your eyes. My time has been very enjoyable serving as your Worshipful Master, and there are several people that I want to take this opportunity to thank.

To my officers - I am so proud. The work and time you have put in this year has not only benefitted you, but has allowed Jerusalem #99 to retain its prestige among the ranks of Lodges in the Wabash Valley. Our Senior Warden Chas Johnson has already conferred two EA degrees and our Junior Warden Kris Cloyd is working toward the same goal. All of our officers received very complimentary marks in this year's Lodge of Instruction. Our Treasurer Tim Morgan constantly keeps us up-to-date on our records, and our Secretary Ron Smith has served diligently and faithfully for 13 years in his office. I can't say enough about the work that they all have done. We should all be proud!

To the members - all of your patronage to our Lodge is appreciated. Thank you to those that took the opportunity this year to come up and see us and share your presence. Your participation in our events, from the Child ID Program to our Labor Day festivities, is always welcome and appreciated. For all of the kind words and encouragement, thank you. Without you, none of this would be possible.

To the Past Masters - words cannot express to those of you that have been there to help me and Jerusalem #99 not only this past year, but through the ages. Without you, there would be no one to pass our traditions, to give the lectures, or to help the Master govern his Lodge. You were the ones who gave me the opportunity to accomplish all of the things that I have done, and for that, I am most humbled.

Finally, to my family...for all of your support, encouragement, and kind words. I can honestly say that I have shed blood, sweat, and tears in our Lodge. There have been moments that touched many of us, but seeing three generations of my family in our Lodge is one of the best for me. As most of you know, my father Gary Blackburn was Worshipful Master in 2007, but also that both of my grandfathers were members - Alex Naccarato and Wayne Blackburn (who was Master in 1967). I appreciate the honor from the Lodge earlier in the year; a bronze plaque that hangs in the center room in the Lodge that says, "In Honor of Extraordinary Past Masters - Wayne L. Blackburn, Gary L Blackburn, Robert L Blackburn". Words can't describe the pride that comes from walking in and seeing that hanging there...

Finally I want to continue what I started out to do in these newsletters - keep you informed on events and spread some Masonic education. I was recently shared this after a board meeting at the Indiana Masonic Home, and I hope you enjoy it.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Jerusalem Lodge #99, F & AM
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Inside this issue:

Editorial	1
Editorial (Cont.)	2
Ladies Night	2
Special Guest	3
Child ID Program	3
Labor Day	4

Lodge
Dues
Are
DUE By
Dec.
31st

May God Bless You & Yours During This Holiday Season!

The View From The East... (continued)

One of my joys is in the instruction of new members. I certainly take pride in not only having them commit the necessary ritual to memory, but to also TEACH it to them. Often times, I am asked how much of what we teach came about. Here is just one example of how the Scripture influences what Masonry conveys.

"He erected the pillars in the front of the temple, one to the south and one to the north. The one to the south he named Jachin and the one to the north Boaz." (II Chronicles 3:15-17)

A little refresher reminds us that Jachin means it establishes and Boaz means in it is strength. The collectively allude to the promise of God to David that he would establish his kingdom strength. In reality, the entire second book of Chronicles is quite pertinent to the teachings of Masonry and is quite something to read and study for a candidate who has just completed the Fellow Craft degree (or for one who has been a Mason for quite some time).

We should never forget what is indeed the Greatest Light in Masonry; the book that we all received upon completion of our journey through the three degrees. We tell a new Master Mason that, "I hope that you will search within the pages of this book, for there you will find the Light that will illuminate your pathway to the Celestial Lodge above, where the Grand Architect of the Universe presides". May God Bless, and again thank you for this opportunity to serve as your Worshipful Master. Rob

2nd Annual Ladies Night Held

One of the best events in recent memory was held on September 22nd - our Second Annual Ladies Night! This is our annual opportunity to come together for an evening of good food, fellowship, and wonderful entertainment. This year, we were fortunate enough to have magician Jason Brewer as our evenings entertainment. It was truly a terrific evening and served as a token of our appreciation to the ladies of both current and past members of Jerusalem #99.



The dining room was filled with people enjoying our 'famous' pork chops and some great entertainment!

Jason Brewer attempts to saw one of our guests in half - thankfully everyone walked away!



Questions, Comments, Input? Please Contact the Editor:
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Fellowship Meetings
 1st Tuesday of Each Month - 7:00 PM
 Everyone Is Encouraged To Attend!

SPECIAL GUEST COMING!

At our December Stated Meeting, we will have a guest speaker. Brother John Rose, CEO of the Indiana Masonic Home, is scheduled to speak. He is coming to Jerusalem #99 on December 8th, and will share with us information about the home including current programs, admissions, and upcoming events.

While Brother John is doing his presentation, it will be open to the public. If you, or someone you know, has ever been interested in the IMH, please invite them to come. Although the IMH does have long and short term health care facilities, remember that they also have apartments, duplexes, and even homes on site for independent living! Plus, there are Fraternal Care Plans available that John will discuss for those that cannot afford to pay out of pocket!

Child Identification Program Set

For the FIFTH YEAR in a row, Jerusalem Lodge #99, in cooperation with the South Vermillion School Corporation, Clinton Police Department, and Vermillion County Sheriff's Department, will hold ANOTHER FREE CHILD ID PROGRAM!

Date: Saturday, December 5th, 2009

Place: Central Elementary School - Clinton

Time: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (Santa from 11:00 - 2:00)

We need help to put on the event! If you can assist, please call Rob or Gary Blackburn at 765-832-6589.

More information can be found about this program from our web site, www.jerusalem99.com, or by calling Rob or Gary at the number above. We always have a great time putting on this event, and are thrilled to provide the service to the community. If you can't help, please stop by with your children, grandchildren, or anyone else that needs to tell Santa what they want for Christmas (plus they can get some free prizes at the same time)!



Every child that goes through the program will be automatically entered for a chance to win a FREE BICYCLE! Also, they will receive free McDonald's coupons, balloons, candy, and more!

**Bring the kids by from 11:00 -
2:00 to visit with Santa!**

LABOR DAY FUNDRAISER ANOTHER SUCCESS

Due to the hard work of several Brothers, this year's Labor Day Fundraiser was another great one. Once again, Jerusalem #99 showed the community that we are alive and well, and gave them a good excuse to stop by and have some outstanding food. This year we continued to break records, and saw both tremendous sales as well as support from our members!

Ticket data from this year's event:

Paid Tickets

- 110 Members paid for ALL tickets in advance
- 8 Members paid for SOME tickets in advance
- 6 Members paid for tickets AND returned them

Returned Tickets

- 31 Members returned ALL tickets

We would like to thank all of the Brethren that helped support this year's event - your help in buying tickets, coming down to eat pork chops, or volunteering your time is GREATLY APPRECIATED!!! THANK YOU!!!

