



Letters from District No. 10

Free & Accepted Masons of Washington

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July 2007

Bethel No. 25 Job's Daughter's

The daughters of Bethel No. 25 recently returned from the Washington Job's Daughters Grand Bethel Session, held in Wenatchee, WA. The daughters did very well in a variety of competitions and several daughters were selected to be on this next term's Grand Bethel. Ms. Mary Davis, of Bethel No. 25, completed her year as Grand Bethel Honored Queen by presiding over Grand Session with poise, grace and with a pleasing sense of wry humor.

Bethel No. 25 - Daughters serving on the Grand Bethel team:

Senior Princess,	Amy Brady
Fourth Messenger,	Kat Finch
Bethel Choir,	Kristin White
Rep to Oklahoma & Rio de Janerio,	Courtney Scheffler
Grand Bethel Committee,	Mary Davis

Grand Session was lots of fun and your Daughters appreciate the assistance provided by the Lodges & Star Chapters and by the individual Masons and Easter Star members who donated time and funds. All three of our local Masonic Youth Groups need your support throughout the year, not only financially but also by being present at their meetings. We all belong to a wonderful family and families grow and stay strong when the members are there to encourage, guide, comfort, learn and laugh together.

Faternally, John Browne - AG of Bethel No. 25

Whatcom Lodge: Election Results

On Thursday June 21st, 2007, Whatcom Lodge held its stated meeting and conducted the annual election of officers for the 2007-2008 term. The results are:

Worshipful Master:	Glenn W. Hutchings
Senior Warden:	Frank C. Myers
Junior Warden:	Tim Springstead
Secretary/Treasurer:	John F. Browne

Installation of Officers will take place Saturday, September 8th, 2007 at the Bellingham Masonic Center, 2626 West Maplewood, Bellingham, WA.

To those of us who study history not merely as a reminder of man's follies and crimes, but also as an encouraging remembrance of generative souls, the past ceases to be a depressing chamber of horrors; it becomes a celestial city, a spacious country of the mind, wherein a thousand saints, statesmen, inventors, scientists, poets, artists, musicians, lovers, and philosophers still live and speak, teach and carve and sing.

~ Will Durant, Historian

Stated Meeting Dates of the District Ten Lodges

- Jul 4th San Juan Lodge - 7:30 p
- Jul 5th Lynden Lodge - dark
- Jul 6th Bellingham Bay - no meeting
- Jul 9th Ferndale Lodge - 7:30 p
- Jul 10th Fairhaven Lodge - 7:30 p
NOTE! Summer dress is in effect.
- Jul 11th Nooksack Valley - dark
- Jul 17th Kulshan Int. Lodge - dark
- Jul 19th Whatcom Lodge - dark

Being dark does not necessarily mean a lodge has no events—many of our lodges will have Special Communications during the Summer! Check in with the lodge Secretary!!!!

That best portion
of a good man's life –
His little, nameless,
unremembered acts
of kindness and
of love.

~ William Wordsworth,
from "Tintern Abbey"



KING'S QUOTE'S

Opportunity is missed
by most people because
it is dressed in overalls
and looks like work.

~ Thomas A. Edison (1847 - 1931)

Lynden Lodge on the move

Lynden Lodge calendar for July 2007

Jul 5 th	Fellowcraft Degree for Tony Wilson	7:30 PM
Jul 7 th	Float judging, Nooksack Valley School	9:30 AM
Jul 23 rd	Installation, Ferndale Lodge #264*	7:00 PM

*All meetings are at the Ferndale Masonic Hall unless otherwise noted.

MASONIC MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Memorial Day, May 28, 2007 Masons from Lynden Lodge #56, along with members of other Lodges in District #10, gathered at the Lynden Cemetery to hold a memorial service in remembrance of the Masons buried there.

The service began with a brief welcome from WM Dick Decima, followed by a prayer by Chaplain Larry Dodson. VWB Frank Juntunen read a composition he had written for this service about those Masons. As Bro. Troy Luginbill read the name of each Mason, Bro. Tim Springstead tolled the chime which had been graciously loaned for this occasion by Whatcom Lodge #151. Over 80 names were read of brother Masons who had passed to the celestial Lodge above. The benediction was given by Chaplain Dodson.

LYNDEN LODGE POTLUCK PICNIC

There is going to be a potluck picnic on Sunday, August 12th beginning at 5 PM at the home of Dick & Susan Decima at 273 Maberry Loop in Lynden. It's going to be a social get-together for Masons, their ladies, families and guests. The meat will be provided. Just bring any dish to add to the bounty. It will be a fun evening! Good food and great fellowship! Mark your calendar. Please come!

Dick Decima

Here is what *Bellingham Bay* has going on.

July Schedule No meetings

Thursday July 5th We will be attending the Fellowcraft Degree at Lynden Lodge No. 56.

Monday July 9th We will be attend the Master Mason Degrees at Ferndale Lodge No. 264.

August Schedule

Friday August 3rd We will be holding an Entered Apprentice Degree at 7:30 PM at our Stated Meeting.

WM Gary Pitcher

Ferndale Lodge #264

Spring has been very busy for us, and it looks like Summer is going to be equally so. We are not Dark during the summer months and would welcome all who wish to attend one of our Lodge meetings.

We will confer two Master Mason Degrees on July 9th starting at 7:30 p.m. This is our Stated Communication so it promises to be a busy evening. The two Brothers to be raised are Michael Reynolds and Jeff Moisan. We would welcome all who can attend to help us welcome these two Brothers to Masonry.

On July 28th Ferndale Lodge will sponsor the Masonic Float in the Old Settlers Day Parade. Any and all members of the Masonic Family are invited to come join us as we walk the parade route. Ferndale Lodge will be serving refreshments at the Ferndale Hall after the parade to all Masonic Family members who participated in the parade.

Our election of Officers for 2007-2008 will be held at the August 13th Stated Communication. It would be nice to see the sidelines full of Ferndale Lodge Members. We have seating for at least 100, so even if you get there at 7:30, you have a good chance at a front row seat! As all members and visitors to Ferndale Lodge know, summer meetings can sometimes be rather warm, so tie and coat are not standard dress code. Come dressed for comfort. Of course, we might frown on swim trunks or equal.

In Memoriam:

On May 27th our Brother, WB Patrick Kelly, was called to the Celestial Lodge above. WB Kelly was Raised in New York in 1954 and joined Kirkland Lodge #150 when he and his wife Sheila moved to the Pacific Coast in 1969. He ran his own electrical business in the Kirkland area and on retirement, moved to Custer area where he became a member of Ferndale Lodge #264. WB Kelly served as Master of Kirkland Lodge No. 150 and later, two years as Master of Ferndale Lodge. WB Kelly served tirelessly in the Quarries for 52 plus years and will be sorely missed.

Again, we are not Dark during the summer months and would welcome all who can attend our meetings.

Everett Thompson
Secretary, Ferndale Lodge #264

Whoever admits that he is too busy
to improve his methods
has acknowledged himself
to be at the end of his rope.
And that is always the saddest predicament
which anyone can get into.

~ J. Ogden Armour

Grand Orator's Report

Given at the 150th Annual Communication, June 15th, 2007

Grand Master, officers, distinguished guests and brethren all!

What a wonderful and exciting year it has been for your Grand Lodge elected and appointed officers. Grand Lodge was opened, by my count, fourteen times during this past year for the pleasure and honor of constituting two lodges, laying nine cornerstones and to celebrate the 100 Year Anniversaries of four lodges. As Grand Orator I composed and delivered, counting today's, sixteen orations. For me this has been a labor of deep affection. One year ago, when I received this collar and jewel of office, I really had no idea what was in store for me. The journey from then to now has been one of the most enjoyable of my life. I have met so many fine brothers, sisters, sons and daughters along the journey to this annual communication.

In preparing for this present meeting, I noticed that this is the 150th Annual Communication, denoting a century and a half of labor for the Grand Lodge of Washington. This past year, as part of several lodge constitution ceremonies, I observed in my orations that, as the great medieval Cathedrals were built of individual stones, lodges are, analogously, comprised of individual Masons. Similarly, Grand Lodges are assemblages of individual lodges. I noted too, that lodges serve as safe-havens for brothers to learn and practice skills taught to us via Masonic ritual. Likewise, Grand Lodge provides support to its constituent lodges.

So, just as buildings that are properly situated, designed, executed and constructed of high-quality materials, will afford the best protection against the vicissitudes of weather, lodges, properly managed and consisting of men of the highest quality, have the best chance of long-term success. To aid in that goal, Grand Lodge is a resource for its member lodges to draw upon for materials and expertise that any individual lodge may lack. It also acts as a forum to ensure that we Masons, as individuals and as lodges, are all using the same play-book. The Annual Communication is our opportunity to update our play-book, the Washington Masonic Code, as our collective wisdom decides. The strength of this system resides with each of us, the individual Mason; just as a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Where do the links of our chain come from? Well, from the men in our local communities.

Freemasonry is continuously replenished when men, young and old, come to see that Masonry has a value in which they would like to participate. These men come to the craft by a variety of paths. Some are sons of Masons, some are friends or acquaintances of Masons, and some read about Masonry in a book, magazine or newspaper. They might have attended a local parade and seen the Masonic float followed by Masons, Masonic Youth and a Shrine contingent. A sight which may have piqued their interest. Some men join because their wife is in Eastern Star or a son or daughter has joined a Masonic Youth group.

There are numerous attractions drawing men to Masonry. Like a great many of you I have read a number of Masonic books and seen the A&E and History Channel documentaries on Freemasonry. I regularly view a favorite movie, National Treasure. You know, I do think it is possible that the original nine Knights Templar did find a treasure under the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. As some legends claim, it could now be under Roslyn Chapel in Scotland or at the bottom of the money pit on Oak Island in Nova Scotia. But in my twelve years as a Mason I made my own discovery: We Masons really do have "treasure" that is not of myth or legend. While it is not gold, silver or jewels, its value cannot be underestimated.

As I see it, we have at least three treasures. First is our Masonic heritage handed down through the ages. This heritage is so vast and rich, in a complex blend of fact, legend, myth and mystery, that the

books and videos on Freemasonry will fill many library shelves and provide lifetimes of fascinating and fulfilling study.

Secondly, we have our Masonic ritual, which serves several purposes. One is to teach the basic beliefs of and operational modes of the fraternity. Ritual provides a framework, if embraced by the participant, within which to receive, absorb and learn Masonic ethical and moral principles. Our ritual is also a very effective way to develop verbal communication skills and self-confidence in speaking before groups.

Third, we have our Masonic brotherhood. You and I, lodges across Washington, the United States and Canada, and around the world. We constitute a band or society of friends that provides a global network of mutual support and friendship. And because many decades ago, Masons saw the wisdom of sharing our treasure, we have the Masonic Family of concordant bodies.

Those bodies led me to discover yet a fourth treasure, Masonic Youth. The importance of our youth was noted recently by Grand Master MW Chuck McQuery when he declared this past April as Youth month, he said, "*Remember, the Youth are 25% of our population, but 100% of our future.*"

It was about three years or so ago, when I attended a Grand Officer Reception to honor three young women who had been appointed to positions on the Rainbow Girls Grand Assembly. At their formal reception each girl had to give a five minute talk about what Rainbow meant to her. Each one of the girls began by saying how, when they joined Rainbow at age eleven, they were a shy quiet wall-flower. I observed that each one of them displayed command presence and I thought to my-self, yea-sure, no-way they began as meek personalities. After all three had finished I reflected on what I had witnessed. During each girl's presentation she expressed thanks to her parents or a particular mentor. At this point all three young women broke into tears. Each fought to refocus her composure and continue on to the end of her address. My reflection became an epiphany. I suddenly realized that the Rainbow version, of our Masonic ritual system, had transformed these three shy girls, in the span of a few years, into self-confident, effective, and each in her own way, a dynamic public speaker.

Many of you know, Freemasons played an integral part in securing our nation's independence and in framing our Constitution. It takes moral, ethical and competent leadership in order to safeguard the rights our Constitution affords us. The leaders of tomorrow are in our schools today. The modern public school system, which Freemasons helped to establish, struggles to both educate and nurture our students in the face of deteriorating family support, the daily onslaught of advertising and un-self-restrained media content. How can Freemasons today, help?

I believe we can help by a vigorous and systematic support of our Masonic Youth organizations. In the words of Bro. Franklin D. Roosevelt "*We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.*" Masonic Youth groups, like our lodges, provide safe-havens or environments where youth can develop. The Masonic family shares a common system of education and it is a truly valuable asset for us. It not only builds leaders within our respective groups, it hones skills for leading our local, State and National, public and private service organizations. Here are three examples: **1)** I just pointed out the effectiveness of Rainbow; **2)** DeMolay for boys has raised up many leaders in society, including many of our own Grand Masters; and **3)** in perhaps the most striking example, it was last year I believe, that a majority-member Job's Daughter, of Bethel No. 25, was invited to speak at the United Nations, and this year she has been invited to participate as a delegate at the Hague in Belgium. If more parents understood the benefit their children could gain from participation in one of our Youth groups, I think they would cause our phones to ring off the hook, and the lines to join, would flow around the block.

Every Mason is on a journey and daily we encounter people along the

BMC = Bellingham Masonic Center on W. Maplewood ; FMC = Ferndale Masonic Center;
 FHMC = Friday Harbor Masonic Center; NMC = Nooksack Masonic Center; SRH = Scottish Rite Hall

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 SJ # 175	5 L # 56 has an EA degree 7:30 p	6 BB # 44 no meetings this month	7
8	9 Hesperus Commandery No. 8 dark F-OES #223 7:30 p. (FMC)	10 ML-OES # 58 (BMC) 7:30 p.	11	12 Chuckanut Chapter DeMolay 7 p. (BMC)	13	14
15	16 F #264-stated 7:30 p. (FMC). Bellingham Council No.16 R&SM - dark	17 F # 73-stated 7:30 p. (BMC) Evergreen RB # 17 7 p. (FMC)	18 NV # 105 dark	19 Bethel # 25 JD is dark	20 BB # 44 no meetings this month	21 Chuckanut Chapter DeMolay 7 p. (BMC)
22	23 Bellingham Chapter Royal Arch dark F-OES #223 7:30 p	24 KI # 186 dark ML-OES # 58 7:30 p. (BMC)	25	26 W 151-dark	27	28 Bethel #25 is dark
29	30	31 Evergreen RB #17, 7 p. (FMC) Fairhaven #73 Spl. 7:30 p.	To contribute to this newsletter please send your letter, comment, historical fact, poem or calendar announcement, by the 2 nd Monday of each month, to: John F. Browne PO Box 1895, Maple Falls, WA. 98266 Ph. 360-599-3481 e-mail: jbrowne@telcomplus.net			



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way. Each of us is an interactive Masonic billboard that can attract new high-quality members. This is where our Grand Master’s motto comes into play. “Walk the Talk” is something that each of us should strive for as a matter of course. First, if we really believe in Masonic values then all our actions should reflect it. Also, displaying our values is a free form of advertising by which to attract men of like mind, who are searching for a place to enrich their lives and those of their families.

In our many Grand Lodge events this year there is one which stands out in my memory, the cornerstone ceremony at Sadie Halstead Middle School in Newport, WA. Grand Lodge marched down the road with Police escort. At the school we were privi-

leged to perform in front of the student body, and both sides of the gym’s bleachers were full. The kids were attentive, curious and many lingered to check out our regalia. We left with the sense that we had made a positive impression with both faculty and students. They had been given a small peek at Masonic Treasure.

Alas, due to the information-overload pressures of our mass-media society, most won’t recognize the underlying value of the ceremony observed. We do not offer fame or fortune, so often sought in American culture. What we do offer is a rich and rewarding life through service to others. My brothers, we build our edifices, political, social, commercial and familial using human stones, quarried in our communities, shaped and trued in our lodges, chapters, bethels and assemblies by Masonic working tools and ritual. This is the genuine treasure. As I pass on the Jewel of Grand Orator, I invite each of you to seek out your own Masonic treasure.

Before I go, I want to express my appreciation to all those brothers who have encouraged and supported me. I extend a special thanks to all Past Grand Masters who have Mentored me, taught me to embrace Change, as the Key to our Future and, to have Great Expectations. In particular I thank MW Chuck McQuery for having faith in me by appointing me to the office of Grand Orator.



Fraternally, VW John F. Browne—Grand Orator (2006-2007)
 (I wish success to our new Grand Orator, VW Mark Wiggins)

I realize the font size is hard to read, so, a pdf or paper copy are available upon request.