



Letters from Whatcom Lodge No. 151

F. & A.M. of Washington



Volume 4 - Issue 9

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November 2003

The Master's

Trestle-board

The weather in November is about as unpredictable as it gets. One minute there is a spot of Sun peeking out and the next the wind is blowing rain almost horizontal. But you know, its OK, because the Great Architect of the Universe designed it for a reason. The November winds help the trees shed their leaves and then the leaves can decompose to enrich the soil from whence much of our food comes. It is quite a magical process if you think about it.

There is actually a point I'm making here and it is that even when things don't appear to be too good, they aren't necessarily bad. Sometimes you have to shift your point of view in order to see a benefit in discomfort or adversity. At times Masonry looks to be in trouble but perhaps we're just in a period of change that will ultimately turn out for the good.

Fraternally,
WM M. H. Strickland Jr.

The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook.

William James

Installation & Holiday Dinner

Whatcom Lodge will hold its Installation of the Worshipful Master, WB Glenn Hutchings, on Thursday evening, December 18th, 2004. The installation will begin shortly after the lodge is opened at 6:30 pm.

Immediately after the installation a Holiday Dinner will be served. Not only will you feast on a fine dinner but there will be entertainment and some lodge awards presentations. This installation and dinner is an "open" event, so bring your family and especially any friends who might be interested in joining any organization within the Masonic Family.



A poem for November

Father, hear the prayer we offer:
Not for ease that prayer shall be,
But for strength that we may ever
Live our lives courageously.



Not for ever in green pastures
Do we ask our way to be;
But the steep and rugged pathway
May we tread rejoicingly.



Not for ever by still waters
Would w idly rest and stay;
But would smite the living fountains
From the rocks along the way.



Be our strength in hours of weakness,
In our wanderings be our guide;
T hrough endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.

Mrs. L. M. Willis

The King is doing well

I dropped by WB Ted King's residence Friday Nov. 14th. He is a tough old Navy saltwater sailor and mending nicely, after heart surgery in early November. My visit was official in that I presented WB Ted with his 55 year pin & certificate. Ted was ornery, I couldn't leave until I promised to reinstate King's Quotes in the newsletter, but that's OK, I missed it too!
Secretary, John Browne

Calendar of Events

Nov 20th is our Stated Communication, lodge opens at 6:30 PM.

Dec 4th is our Spl. Communication no plan as yet has been set, stay tuned.

Dec. No MFLA meeting this month.

Dec 18th Installation of Worshipful Master Glenn Hutchings at 6:30 PM. Family Holiday dinner at about 7 PM.

Jan 1st date for our Spl. Communication, no plan is yet set, stay tuned.

Jan 15th is our Stated Communication, lodge opens at 6:30 PM.

Jan 17th MFLA meeting this month hosted by Whatcom Lodge at the W. Maplewood Hall.

To contribute to this newsletter please send your letter, comment, historical fact, poem or calendar announcement, by the 2nd Monday of each month, to:

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From:
Your Secretary



Ok, its November and we are on the doorstep of the great Holiday Season. Soon we install our Master elect and embark on the ship 2004. Before doing so, let us not forget to tie up the loose-ends.

As the secretary, I find I'm the one holding many of those loose-ends and to tie them up I necessarily need your help. We have, at my last quick count, 75 members in Whatcom Lodge, and for me each one is a sort of loose-end when I don't here back from you. At the present moment I have 18 loose-ends. So, before you get too deeply embroiled in the upcoming Holidays, please take the time to respond to the Dues Notices and Survey; it will really help me out - thanks.

Speaking of the Survey, I have received 50 responses so far. Out of those 50, 20 have email. Regarding the Masonic Family News, 25 brothers asked to get the paper version and 15 opted for the on-line copy. I was gratified to see that 47 out of 50 say they want to continue receiving the lodge newsletter. Letters from Whatcom Lodge can be gotten from our Web-site in PDF format and I can now send it to you by email in PDF format, which is smaller in file size than in MS Publisher. If you don't have Acrobat Reader it can be downloaded from our Website at:

www.WhatcomMasonicLodge.org.

By the way, a very big thank you goes out to our excellent Web Master Bro. Oussama El-Khoury. We have one of the finest Masonic Homepages on the net.

We are breaking new ground again with our installing the WM-only and holiday dinner format; please join us, its sure be fun!

Sincerely & fraternally,
John F. Browne - Secretary



KING S QUOTE'S

YOU'RE GETTING OLD WHEN
YOU STOOP TO TIE YOUR
SHOES AND WONDER WHAT
ELSE YOU CAN DO WHILE
YOU'RE DOWN THERE!

SW-elect, Mike Johnston says:

I look forward to the upcoming year and expect many challenges but also fun for our lodge. I look forward to working with the brothers and look forward to having my brothers mentor me in my new position.

Mike

The best thing
to do behind
a person's back,
is to pat it!

New Life Member!

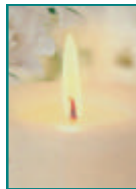
WB Frank M. Davis is the newest Life Member of Whatcom Lodge. Congratulations and Thanks! Frank is the father of Bro. Mike Davis, who is also a member of Whatcom Lodge and the grandfather of Max Davis, who is the immediate past Master Councilor of Chuckanut Chapter De Molay.

If you are interested in purchasing a life membership the cost is determined by age. The WA. Masonic Code, Sec. 17.12.B.L. 3-A, sets the age/cost scale as the following:

- age 18 to 35, inclusive \$450
- age 36 to 45, inclusive \$400
- age 46 to 55, inclusive \$300
- age 56 to 65, inclusive \$250
- age 66 and over \$200

This scale set is a minimum, lodges may set higher costs. Whatcom Lodge uses the above minimum scale. For more information, please contact the lodge secretary.

A Little Light!



The Donkey in the Well - A Parable

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway, it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey. He invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They each grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement, he quieted down. A few shovel loads later, the farmer looked down the well, and was astonished at what he saw. As every shovel of dirt hit his back, the donkey did something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up. As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed, as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off.

The Moral: Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a stepping stone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up!

The Illuminated Soul - The sphere of the soul maintains its perfect form when it is not extended toward any object, or shrinking in on itself, or dispersed or sunk down, but only when it is bathed in light, the light in which it sees the truth, both in all things and in itself.

Marcus Aurelius