



Seattle's Masonic Lodge of the Arts

October 19, 2002 Stated Meeting

DAYLIGHT LODGE #232

TRESTLEBOARD

www.daylightmasons.org

STATED MEETING, MASTER MASON DEGREE AND MERIDIAN LODGE VISIT

The October 19th Stated Meeting will be the conferral of Master Mason Degree. Lodge will open at the usual hour of 10:00 a.m. The first order of business will be the degree conferral. W\ Brother Allen Carter will be in the East for the principal part in the second section with Junior Warden Anthony Monaco as his co-leader. It will be good to have Brother Allen back in the ritual seat. See more details about the degree below.

Our sister daylight lodge up north of the border, Meridian Lodge No. 108 has let it be known that they expect to bring a contingent of brothers south for a visit and to return the Traveling Gavel. Their new District Deputy Grand Master for Meridian is their own Past Master, R\ W\ Harry Gorkoff and he has listed the trip to Daylight as an "Official Visit."

Our new Junior Warden promises to not let the lodge starve but hasn't yet planned the meal so it will be a surprise what he serves up to keep the lodge Festiveboard the usual happy event it has always proved to be. But the beverages will be the usual so come to enjoy the meeting and the fellowship and with Meridian visiting, wine and toasts will be in order. JW Monaco will "see that none convert the means of refreshment to intemperance or excess." Come and join the fun

Plan your Saturday, October 19 for a MM° starting at 10:00 a.m.

Worshipful Master Julian has planned to return the Silver Trowel of Fellowship to Ridgefield Daylight Lodge No. 237 on Saturday morning November 2. Lodge opens at 10:00 a.m. in north Vancouver just off I-5 so it is a trip of about 2 ½ or 3 hours at the most. The Rainbow Girls will be serving lunch after the meeting, part of Ridgefield's support of the Masonic Youth Groups.

We will meet at the South Renton Metro Park and Ride Lot on South Grady Way at 6:30 that morning and see about ride sharing headed south. Hopefully we can make it a large turnout of officers and members to this every other year visit to the other Vancouver and one of Washington's four daytime lodges.

Officers were elected and installed on September 21 by M\ W\ Milt Benson, P.G.M. Sadly our Junior Warden Uly Ruiz informed the earlier in the month that he could not move on to Senior Warden because he was moving to Southern California where he had found a job.

As a result of this, the best laid plans sort of went awry but the end result will still be great for the lodge.

Worshipful Master V\ W\ David Julian was reinstalled as Master, Brother Rob Pitre III is the new Senior Warden and Brother Anthony Monaco is Junior Warden. Not being very original W\ Jim Maher and V\ W\ CoeTug Morgan were reinstalled Treasurer and Secretary.

The appointed officers are Raleigh Wilson and Tad Dodge as Senior and Junior Deacon, David Johnson as Chaplain and W\ Cleo McCord as Tiler.

Because of family and last minute work conflicts three of the new officers could not be at the meeting will be installed later. The other now vacant stations will be filled later after the degree conferrals, etc. But everything went well and it should be a great year. Starting out with degree work is an excellent indication

A reminder that a new stair elevator-lift system has been installed at Greenlake making it easy for those having trouble climbing stairs getting into the lodge room, etc. It is a much need and valuable addition to give the lodge hall handicap access.

The Master Mason Degree conferral will be for two, hopefully three brothers. Jeffrey Kelley, Roy Pollock and also a brother Branden Williamson from Doric Lodge No. 92.

Senior Warden Pitre has put together a degree team that finds W.: Brother Allen Carter back as Solomon and working with him will be Anthony Monaco. The newly elected Junior Warden of Doric Lodge Gwydion Stone will be Senior Deacon. Past Master Scotty Russell will be Senior Deacon/First Craftsman. Doric's incoming Senior Warden Boe Lindgren will be the principle villain. This is fitting because both Pollock and Williamson are Senior DeMolays as was Lindgren and Carter. And there are costumes for the participants. Our new District Deputy Gale Wells Kenney will be giving the lecture so we will be able to learn how good he is at filling the ritual requirements of his new office?

Past Grand Master Thomas Ehlers passed away on October 2. He learned he had ALS about a year and half ago, a fast moving disease with no know cure. He was Grand Master in 1997-1998 and conducted the institution ceremony for Frank S. Land Lodge No. 313, the Seattle area's youngest daytime lodge.

The office of President is a bastardizing thing, half royalty and half democracy, that nobody knows whether to genuflect or spit.

----- Jimmy Breslin

Special Opera Report

From your secretary

Most Daylight members know that I am a real opera buff, have the practice of collecting opera CDs. A few weeks ago I found a new recording of an opera by the 19th Century French composer Charles Gounod. Most famous for his opera *Faust*, this opera is *La Reine de Saba* or in English *The Queen of Sheba*.

Mozart's the *Magic Flute* is often called the Masonic Opera. Well, here is the plot that librettist Jules Barbier and Michel Carre fashioned for *La Reine de Saba*.

In Jerusalem the master in charge of building and decorating Soliman's [Solomon] great temple is named Adoniram. Balkis, the Queen of Sheba arrives to visit Soliman so a celebration is planned and the workers are given a day of rest. Three of Adoniram's workmen confront him and demand from him a higher salary and *avec le mot de passé* . . . Adoniram sends them away telling them that he should have fired them long ago, that the title they want is for others. They leave plotting revenge.

Adoniram meets Balkis, she of course falls for him instead of Soliman, how else get things involved in an opera. Adoniram is about to pour his great masterpiece the Sea of Bronze, but the three workmen have set up their revenge and sabotaged the pour. Before it starts Adoniram prays to the sons of Tubal-Kain. The revenge works, everything blows up, great chorus of course of weeping and wailing at this point. Then Tubal-Kain rises out of the ruin and *trace dans l'air le signe maconnique* . . . [traces the symbol of Masonry in the air] and the basin is repaired.

Now Adoniram and Balkis are in love, plan to sneak away from Soliman, but just before he can leave the three workmen corner Adoniram again and demand the password and when he refuses they stab him *Meurs donc!*

Certainly an interesting plot and opera, one that is rarely if ever performed but it does have quite good music and I personally find it

more interesting than Gounod's *Romeo and Juliet*. Too bad the Masons can't fund a production for Seattle, etc.

DUES ARE PAYABLE SOON

Dues cards will be here soon from the Grand Secretary's Office so you can expect to see your formal notice/bill shortly.

The Washington State Minimum Wage has risen to \$7.01 so there will be an increase in Daylight dues but Grand Lodge assment goes down to \$8.00

2003 Dues will be:

Under age 65	113.+GL	=121.00
Over age 65	57.+GL	= 65.00
Life Members	+GL	= 8.00

The District 5 Officers and Members Association meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Scottish Rite Center at 7:00 p.m. this month on the 23rd. Any officer or member can attend. The important items that will be discussed on October 23 will be final plans for the October 26 Halloween Party for Kids sponsored by the District. Our new Deputy has an English copy of the ritual for members to look at and read at each meeting. He can't let you take it home but if you have doubts about some part of the ritual this is how you can find what is right and in plain English.

ATTEND LODGE OCTOBER 19

Bring your kids or grandkids to the district 5 Halloween party at the Scottish rite center on October 26. pizza, pop, games, fotos all free.

Or just come and help out with making it work

Havana Journal

Masonic Rites, No Less. In Castro's Bailiwick!

By DAVID GONZALEZ

HAVANA, April 25 — Cuba's capital has a sovereign grand commander who wears a uniform, is privy to secrets and partial to symbolism. But he is not Fidel Castro.

His name is Jesús Armada Peña, and he is a 33rd degree Mason who presides over Cuba's Supreme Council at an imposing, if age-worn, Scottish Rite Masonic temple in central Havana.

Long discouraged and distrusted by the authorities, Cuba's Masons have seen their ranks more than double since the 1980's, to 29,000 members in more than 316 lodges across the island. Earlier this year, the Cuban government gave permission for two new lodges, the first since 1967.

Along with other fraternal or mystical groups, like the Oddfellows and the Rosicrucians, the Masons have been attracting men searching for more enduring answers than those offered by Communism, the only system generations of Cubans have ever known.

Once shrouded in secrecy, the fraternal groups — which exist in many countries and have origins as old as the Crusades — shun specific religions and ideologies and say their purpose is to foster brotherhood and search for truth.

The Masons, the largest of Cuba's brotherhoods, meet weekly to celebrate rituals in rooms with flaked murals of the heavens and tarnished swords on pedestals. They sit, wearing threadbare ceremonial aprons, in high-backed wooden chairs.

Members visit the sick in hospitals and help out their families. Mr. Armada's Masonic temple distributes medicine and vitamins donated by lodges in the United States and Europe. The brotherhoods are creating a mutual aid network that seeks — very cautiously — to provide what Mr. Castro's government does not or will not.

"We have always existed in Cuba," Mr. Armada said. "But after the revolution there was a decrease in membership. So many left the country, while others thought the Masons no longer had a reason for being because our principles and foundation as an institution were overtaken by the political process."

He added: "Now we have found an echo among the young. They are looking for answers to their worries, which the state could not give them."

What the state has long given the Masons is trouble, going back to the rule of Spain in the 1800's. The first lodges were founded by French set-



Jesús Armada Peña, sovereign grand commander of Cuba's Masonic Supreme Council, in the group's temple.

tlers who fled the slave revolt in Haiti. Cuba's Grand Lodge and the Supreme Council were created in 1859, and attracted many men who would go on to fight Spanish colonial rule.

Pointing to a portrait on his office wall of Benito Juárez, the Mexican hero, he said the fellowship has had a strong appeal to nationalists. Even José Martí, the fabled apostle of Cuba's fight against Spain, was said to have been a Mason.

"The Mason is imbued with the ideals of the French Revolution, the American Revolution and the philosophical currents of the time, like Rousseau," Mr. Armada said.

But when the Communist revolution came to power in 1959, the Masons' ideas were seen as a threat. Membership plummeted from 39,000 in 1959 to 14,000 by 1980, as the group was treated as a clandestine counter-revolutionary sect.

Recently the government has given a little more leeway, even allowing some Masons to travel to conventions overseas. Members are careful not to overstep their bounds, and they give the government reports on their meetings.

Lately they have been allowed to

conduct wreath-laying ceremonies in public parks. But they cannot hold street processions with unfurled banners.

"There is a great vacuum after the fall of the socialist bloc did away with any hope for people to develop themselves," said Raúl Rivero, an independent Cuban journalist. "So people sought refuge in those groups looking for solidarity. For these fraternal groups the loyalty is to the human being. For the government, solidarity is conditioned on political principle."

Officially, the government now says the Masons are linked to some of the nobler moments of Cuba's past. Privately, Masons complain that they are infiltrated with government agents and sometimes receive veiled warnings about their meetings with foreigners, including American diplomats.

Those diplomats are watching the growth of the fraternal orders with interest.

"They loosen the bonds of the state by showing that services and resources can be provided by people themselves," said Vicky Huddleston, the head of the United States Inter-

ests Section in Havana. "For a Communist system, that is a dangerous idea."

Masons insisted that Cuban politics, like race, are not discussed inside the temple's thick walls. But they say their talks are free-ranging, covering everything from democracy to the human genome project.

The Masons do have their secrets, like the phrases and signals they use to identify one another. But they openly proclaim their principles — indoors. Inside the temple's entrance is a huge framed copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In recent years rights advocates who tried to distribute the document in public suffered arrest, and the issue is sensitive now after the United Nations voted this month to criticize Cuba's rights record.

"What are human rights in the context of a nation or a person?" Mr. Armada mused. "Say I am a head of state and I ruin the country. Thousands of people suffer the consequences of my error. Have I gone against human rights?"

Then, with a smile, he added a quick coda:

"That was hypothetical."