



# The Trestleboard



Masonic Temple, 1155 Locust St., Dubuque, IA 52001-4751

## From the Trestleboard

To the Secretaries, Members and others receiving the Trestleboard. The Trestleboard would like any address changes, new members, deaths or members temporarily away to turn in these changes to

[dubuquetrestleboard@gmail.com](mailto:dubuquetrestleboard@gmail.com), send them to The Trestleboard, 1155 Locust ST, DUBUQUE, IA 52001, or leave them in the Trestleboard mailbox at the Dubuque Masonic Temple.

### **Wes Struebing**

In trying times, try!

## **OXUS Grotto #137**

### **Regular Meeting**

**Thursday, December 8, 2022**

Darlene "Dar" Kirch, 92, of Dubuque, passed away on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Her husband, Norm, was a Mason and a Grotto member. He passed away in 2008. Up until the last 5 years, Dar could be found working the Grotto breakfasts. When she couldn't work anymore, she would always come out for a meal. She will be missed by all.

On a brighter note, Leon "Les" Sonksen will be petitioning for membership in our Grotto. It would be nice to have a few more Masons join our Grotto. The Grotto is termed "The Master Mason's Playground."

At our October breakfast we served 126. Those numbers are good but could always be better! Thank you to all who work to make this happen.

Hope everyone has a happy Thanksgiving, and if you are tired of leftovers, let us cook breakfast for you on Sunday morning, November 27.

*Respectfully;*

**Smokey McGovern**

## **Dubuque Lodge #3**

**A.F. & AM**

**Thursday, December 15, 2022,**

**7:00 PM**

Dubuque Lodge #3 met in regular form on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00PM. There were seven members present.

WM Justin Young welcomed one and all. Minutes were read and approved, bills were read and ordered paid. The Masonic Retirement Home in Bettendorf will receive \$200.00 from the charity fund, as will Camp Courageous.

Under new business, Sec. Jack Smeltzer brought up the need for the Secretary, with so much of his work being done on the Grand Lodge's Grandview app, in the coming months, to have a computer of some type, configured for the secretary's duties. Brother Wes Struebing did

research on what would best serve the secretary's needs, and he was assigned the task of finding an adequate laptop, and its attendant hardware/software. Funds were authorized, and once one is selected a check will be cut to him for its purchase.

It was election night, and the results are as follows: WM, Justin Young; SW, Dale Hefel; JW, David Patton; Treasurer, Jack Smeltzer, and Secretary, Wesley Struebing. Also appointed by WM Young were: SD, Taylor Merfeld; JD, Randy Tolley; Tyler, Wayne Stanfley.

Congratulations to all the newly elected officers! Brother Jack also announced that he will be WM for Mosaic 125 next year, and got a hearty congratulations from the members of Dubuque #3. The lodge was closed in form at 8:10PM, peace and harmony prevailing.

*Respectfully;*

**Wes Struebing - SS**

## **December 21, 2022**

It's pretty hard to have a meeting when you can't muster a quorum. The same is true for keeping an organization alive and well going on into the future. Only Noble Wes Struebing and I were at our Shrine meeting Wednesday night. A similar thing has happened several times this last year. Sad to say, the same is true with many other service organizations, as too many people are being pulled in all different directions. Even sadder still, all good things must come to an end.

At this point in time, the Key City Shrine Club is seeking guidance for what might be in our best interests.

It is imperative, therefore, that all of you be at our December's meeting to discuss the future of this club.

*Respectfully;*

**David H. Patton**

## **Dubuque York Rite, Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 6, 2022**

**(York Rite is still aborning. Please stay tuned! Ed.)**

## **Metropolitan Lodge #49**

**Next Meeting**

**Thursday, December 1, 2022**

Metropolitan Lodge #49 met on Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.

After a Chili supper the members present had a good discussion about why some members are not coming to meetings.

Age, health, and not living in the area were everyone's thoughts. We also spoke about what we can do to gain members and what we will need to do to keep them.

**Key City Shrine Club**

There are many ideas and we hope we can put them to use to keep Masonry alive in the area.

*Fraternally;*  
**Dan Neuhaus - WM**

## **Mosaic Lodge #125 Regular Meeting Tuesday, December 13, 2022**

Greetings from Mosaic #125.

Before we get too far, I need to address a Lodge concern. Recently the Grand lodge voted to raise its dues by \$15.00. Somehow, the changes were not reflected when the dues notices were sent out. This was discussed during our November meeting and we have decided to simply ask our members to consider including the additional amount when paying your dues. This is at your own discretion; however it will be greatly appreciated and help offset the balance that our lodge will be required to cover. An e-mail was sent out explaining the same. Thank you in advance for this consideration. In addition, Grand Lodge has gone to a digital format for dues cards and they will no longer be printed or sent out. You will be able to get your dues card by downloading the Grandview app from the Grand lodge website. You will be able to print the card if you wish. Please visit and see what you can do. Mosaic met at 6:00pm in order to enjoy a soup supper. We had some cheddar broccoli soup and Chili. We also enjoyed some sandwiches and pineapple grown by our very own Les Sonkson. Thank you to all that attended. Brother Joe Hartel has graciously opened his home and has been hosting a viewing party and watching the classic film War & Peace. Following the film, Joe led a discussion regarding the evenings. Those that attended reported it was a great time and enjoyed the event entirely. Joe even fed them each night. This is the sort of Brotherly Love that Masonry exemplifies. The fellowship that Joe provided says so much about him and his character. Joe you truly are a Mason in both name and character. Thank You! November is typically the election of officers and tonight was no exception.

We have elected the following officers and have complete confidence that they will represent Mosaic with the interest of our members a priority. Brother Jack Smeltzer has been elected to Worshipful Master, Brother Les Sonkson as Sr. Warden, and Brother Joe Hartel as Jr. Warden. Brother Brian Carroll remains as Secretary and Brother Randy Tolley as Treasurer. It has been my Pleasure to serve as Worship Master and look forward with excitement to the coming year. Our next meeting will be on December 13th at 6:00am as Les Sonkson will be providing a soup for our enjoyment. I look forward to seeing you all there. I wish you all the happiest of Thanksgivings. Me, I am very thankful for the family that you have all been part of.

*Fraternally Yours;*  
**Brian Kelley - WM**



### **Ye Olde Editor's Ramblings**

There is a program on the History Channel, called, "The Curse of Oak Island". The Knights Templar AND Masonry are featured very heavily in the island's history. Brother Dave Patton has done some research on the Masonic/Templar connection (if, indeed, there truly is one), and he has submitted a report on his research. Part 1 follows here:

Recently, I was asked by Ms. Mary Reuter, one of the organizers for the Memorial Day Parade in Dubuque to make a presentation to members of Weight Watchers' who weren't familiar with Shriners. See, even though we regularly took part in their parades, few of them knew much about us. They, therefore, wanted to know much more. Which also meant, I needed to do some research. I should also point out, much of the information I found was on the Internet and the History Channel.

(Specifically, stories about *Freemasonry*, *King Solomon's Temple*, *The Knights Templar*, but more recently, *The Curse of Oak Island*.)

You also need to know, since many of the people in the audience were Roman Catholics, plus since the Roman Catholic Church is well-known for being opposed to Masonry, as well as, any organization affiliated with it, I had to pick and "choose" my words very carefully. So, since many of them were more acquainted with St. Jude Hospital, based in Memphis, Tennessee, I first started talking about it. (Not surprisingly, the reason they knew much more about St. Jude, is because of all the advertising being done by Marlo Thomas, and some of its young patients.)

I then mentioned Shriners started to do the same thing several years ago. (Besides, if you have a good thing going for you, the worst thing you can do, is keep it hidden under a bushel basket! Instead, you need to regularly get the word out.)

I then tried doing some compare and contrast because I believe the two hospitals are not only closely affiliated in the population they serve, but also have similar missions.

That's because St. Jude was started by Danny Thomas in 1962 to be a childhood cancer research center. Shriners' hospitals, meanwhile, zeroed in on burns and orthopedic concerns – again of young people. (More importantly, there are no out-of-the-pocket costs.)

What made it even more surreal, Danny Thomas was not only an ardent Roman Catholic, but also an active Shriner – which also meant, he had to first become a Freemason!

I mention that, because I discovered the Roman Catholic Church first restricted its member from joining Freemasonry, or any of its affiliated organizations somewhere back in 1738. Mainly, because the Pope at the time, Pope Clement XII, thought their beliefs and rituals were diametrically in opposition to the Catholic Church. (The question then came up was WHY?!)

After doing additional research, I found out back around 1300 is when the Church really started to wield its

influence when they decided to crack down on the Knights Templar. (Again, the question came up is Why?!)

**[Some background information: between 1095-1291 A.D. were the years of the Crusades as European Christians unsuccessfully tried to take back control of the city of Jerusalem from the Muslims who had been occupying it. At the same time, they were fought to prevent the Muslims from taking over, and acquiring even more land.**

**It's also important to note, the Knights Templar were wealthy, God-loving men, who were fierce fighters, while being gifted architects, clever engineers, and financial wizards. All the while, they were staunch protectors of the Roman Catholic Church, as they supplied protection for the Crusaders on their travels throughout the Middle East.]**

For that reason, they were highly respected around much of Europe – more importantly within the Catholic Church. Many people of royalty would, therefore, regularly hire them to guard their possessions. And, in so doing, they acquired a tremendous amount of wealth, which they often shared with others. (In recognition for their loyalty to the Church, Pope Honorius II recognized the Templars as being the ‘Army of God’.)

Until King Philip IV (Philip the Fair) – a greedy, devious, insecure, self-centered, power-hungry, narcissistic ruler of France who would do just about anything to promote and elevate himself. (All the while, he was regularly warring against neighboring counties, which was a very costly endeavor!) Ironically, it also just so happened, King Philip was largely responsible for promoting Pope Clement V to head the Roman Catholic Church. (Largely, due to that, Pope Clement felt somewhat indebted to him.)

It should also be noted the Pope wielded much more influence and power than any king or ruler in the civilized world, therefore, it really helped to stay in his good graces. Knowing this, King Philip would repeatedly cater to his needs. To make it even more surreal, Pope Clement greatly respected and trusted the Templar – much more than even his

own cardinals and bishops – not only in protecting him, but in conducting his business affairs! (All the while, power-hungry, King Phillip would often invade other countries, which ran up a tremendously huge debt, requiring him to borrow large sums of money from others.)

About this same time, Jacques de Molay was heading up the Knights Templar. So, since King Phillip was desperate for funds, he quickly befriended him in an effort to tap into some of the Templar’s wealth to cover his costs, to which de Molay agreed. (Expecting to be repaid in full!)

Once the warring ended, King Phillip was now expected to repay the staggering loan. He obviously couldn’t do it since he was broke.

(Part 2 next month...)

### Masonic Calendar: December, 2022

| Sunday                    | Monday | Tuesday                               | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|--|--|--------|----------|
|                           |        |                                       |  | 1<br>Metropolitan<br>Lodge #49<br>7:00PM, eat<br>at 6:00PM | 2      | 3        |
| 4                         | 5      | 6<br>York Rite<br><br>Bellevue<br>OES | 7  | 8<br>Oxus Grotto<br>6:00PM Eat<br>7:00PM<br>Meeting        | 9      | 10       |
| 11                        | 12     | 13<br>Mosaic<br>Lodge #125<br>7:00PM  | 14   | 15<br>Dubuque<br>Lodge #3<br>7:00PM                        | 16     | 17       |
| 18                        | 19     | 20                                    | 21<br>Shrine Club<br>6:00PM Eat<br>7:00PM<br>Meeting | 22<br><br>Trestleboard<br>Deadline<br>4:00PM               | 23     | 24       |
| 25<br>MERRY<br>CHRISTMAS! | 26     | 27<br>MTA Board                       | 28   | 29   | 30     | 31       |

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