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Occidental Lodge #72, F&AM

Trestleboard ~ June, 2005

Serving Ballard for 114 Years

Ballard Masonic Center ~ 2006 NW Market St. ~ Seattle, WA 98107 206-782-8289

www.occidental72.org

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FROM THE PUBLISHER:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)

For all those of you who missed the change in our Movie Night in May, and were counting on seeing *National Treasure* as soon as possible, I apologize. I and others could have done a more thorough job of checking calendars for conflicts before publishing our Trestleboard. As it was, there was a Table Lodge for Walter F. Meier 281 on Saturday, May 28th, and as Junior Warden of that Lodge, I was personally already committed to that date - as I expected many other members of both Lodges would be as well. In the end, both the rescheduled Movie Night and the Table Lodge were conflicting with a more important "National Treasure", the Memorial Day weekend. A very sorry scheduling job to say the least. Live and learn to both groups.

FROM OUR WORSHIPFUL MASTER:

By WB [Al Mungin](#)

Greetings from the East!

On **June 1st**, the brothers of Occidental Lodge will make our annual **visitation to Prince Hall Hercules Lodge #17**. Hercules Stated Communication starts at 8:00PM.

The **Stated Communication of Occidental Lodge is scheduled for June 16th** at the Ballard Masonic Center, 2006 Market St – Seattle, WA. Traditionally, the brothers at Occidental Lodge **dress casually** for the last communication before summer. A light dinner will be served at 6:30PM and lodge will start at 7:30PM. I will present the 40-year pin to Elden Strong for outstanding service to Masonry and Occidental Lodge #72.

Our Senior Deacon, **Andy King**, is a member of the United States Coast Guard – Pacific Area. He will be our **guest speaker** for the evening with a discussion of Homeland Security. Topics covered will include Terrorist Attack Methods, Homeland Security and You, Suspicious Activity Tip-offs, and Surveillance Indicators. As masons and concerned citizens, we need to be informed and aware of an emerging threat to our community.

At our June Stated Communication, the brothers will **vote on a proposal** to change Occidental Lodge #72's initiation fees. This requires changing Article III Section 1 and 2 of the Occidental By-Laws. Section 1 proposes to change the Lodge portion of the fees for the three degrees from \$200 to \$100. Section 2 proposes to remove the ambiguous "any reason" to segregate fees, and specifically lowers the lodge portion of the cost of a Third Degree from \$67 to \$34. It also lowers the lodge portion of the cost of a Second and Third degree from \$134 to \$67.

Brother Orin Niles who has entertained us at Occidental Lodge for so many years with his delightful harmony is now a member of Occidental Lodge #72 by affiliation.

Our Family Evening scheduled for Saturday, May 28th, has been rescheduled for Friday May 27th, at 6PM due to a conflict with Walter F Meier's Table Lodge scheduled on the same day. Many brothers in Occidental Lodge hold dual membership in Walter F. Meier lodge.

The movie that will be shown on our big screen is entitled "National Treasure" starring Nicolas Cage. This movie quickly became the number one film for a number of weeks. It has generated an extremely wide public awareness of freemasonry. Most importantly, it portrays masonry in a very positive light and accents the significance of the founding fathers to our national identity. The movie is rated PG and should be seen by all masons and their families.

Our annual Granite Falls outing will take place on August 19th-21st. Due to the large anticipated turnout, we have reserved two sites: The Arlington and Whidbey shelters. Garbage service is now available at the gatehouse.

Park Hours are as follows:

April (8am – 6pm)

May – September (8am – 9pm)

October (8am – 6pm)

November – March: By Reservation Only.

Exceptions to the above hours can be provided if prior arrangements have been made with the park manager. This is a fantastic opportunity to relax, enjoy friendship and brotherhood with other masons, and with friends and family on a very casual basis. The food will be fantastic, with hot-dogs and hamburgers between meals, and many wonderful games including horseshoe, basketball, and others.

Our Big Feast will be on Saturday Evening, August 20th and two Big Breakfasts on August 20th and 21st.

We have a **scheduled visitation to Walter F. Meier Lodge #281 on the 24th of June.**

Have a great summer!

Fraternally,

WB Al Mungin – Worshipful Master

FROM OUR JUNIOR WARDEN:

By Bro. [Ed Collinge](#)

Well Brother's, here we are looking at June already, less than six months to get your Christmas Shopping finished. It's scary how time flies. Someone told me the only bad part about going to bed, is that when you wake up you're another day older.

I have had an incredible opportunity the past couple of months to hear and see how other Lodges, Jurisdictions and concordant bodies are addressing the common problem of attracting new members to join our ranks.

The one that really caught my ear is to start by working on the Brothers we already have. In the open market it has been proven time and time again that it costs less time and money to keep the customers you already have, than finding new ones. Let's look at why we have NPD'S on our books - Brothers who have joined our fellowship and then drop off the face of the earth. We need to keep track of these LOST Brothers. WB Carl Edelman had a great idea with his phone tree, we need to continue this.

Then there is the matter of retaining the faces you sit next to in lodge. Is there anything bothering him? Does anyone walk up and greet the Brother who is standing by himself looking lost, and thinking to himself "what am I doing here, I don't know these people and they don't seem to want to know about me". This person is very likely going to think it was a mistake to become a Mason and drop to the side.

We all need to put more effort into finding ways we can add more value to being a Mason. This is not going to happen by dropping prices like we are having a going out of business sale. We keep hearing how men can no longer find the time to participate in Lodge due to raising a family and a wife that works. Have we looked at ways of adding more family activities?

Every where I have traveled the past couple of months the same words are being said over and over, "we cannot survive by going the way we were when are fathers were Masons, we have to make Freemasonry a family friendly environment".

Enough ranting!

I am really looking forward to the summer arriving, and praying that we have great weather, and that a good time is had by all. Please don't forget about the Campout at Granite Falls Masonic park, there will be more space available this year, and I cannot foresee a shortage of food. Start polishing up your horse shoes or at least get practicing.

Have a Safe and Happy Summer.

Ed Collinge - Jr. Warden

PASSAGES:

The following Brothers were memorialized at the May, 2005 Stated Communication.

Their names will be inscribed on a leaf for our perpetual Tree of Life at the Ballard Masonic Center.

B Gerald Eugene Dimick

July 7, 1931 ~ April 22, 2005

16 Year Mason

8 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

B Edward L. Nail

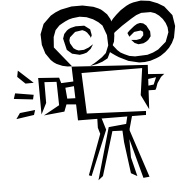
April 2, 1923 ~ January 28, 2005

53 Year Mason

13 Year Life Member of Occidental Lodge

FAMILY NIGHT AND MOVIES:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)



We had a smaller than anticipated group of fans who came out to see **National Treasure**, on Friday, May 27th, but they all seemed to enjoy the movie with the strong Masonic theme. Thanks to the Ed Collinge family for providing another fine meal. They have given an unbelievable amount of effort to make sure our tummies are full at all these special events. **Thanks Ed, Linda, and Rob. You rock!**

This is the end of the movie nights for the summer. The Master has scheduled the next for Saturday, September 24th. That leaves time for deciding what it might be. Send me your ideas, and we will see what seems most popular. I'm thinking **The Aviator** sounds pretty good. It's the Howard Hughes story.

PARADE RESULTS:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)

The weather held once again, and the Seventeenth of May Parade in beautiful downtown Ballard was a success. The Occidental Lodge No. 72 float "Leif", complete with smoking sea dragon and spitting fish won first place,... again! I believe this is the fourth time Ballard has shown its appreciation to the Lodge for our hard working Float Committee, led by our Senior Warden, Bro. Errol Scott. Worshipful Master Al Mungin was an able skipper and proved to be an expert at the controls. He was beaming from start to finish, and looked spectacular at the helm, dressed in bright yellow oilskin.

PROPOSAL ON INITIATION FEES:

By WB [Brian Hardy](#)

Brethren,

For the 20 who took time to fill out the survey on initiation fees which appeared in the May Trestleboard, thank you! Your opinions were summarized and shared with those members who met at the May Stated Communication. At a high level, 70% of the survey results were in favor of lowering our initiation fees, and 30% were either strongly against it - or sent in alternative ideas they thought would work better at attracting members.

A further discussion was held at the May meeting, where it was announced that our lodge initiation fees of \$200 were the highest in the District. The other four Lodges charge \$105, \$130, \$129, and \$100. This proposal would move us from highest to tied for lowest. Barely \$30 would separate all of them.

The following proposal was submitted in writing at our May meeting, as is required for any proposal that would change our By-Laws. **It will formally come before the Lodge to vote on at the June 16th, Stated Communication.**

Section 1 would change the fee for the degrees from \$200 to \$100. Keep in mind that the "fees required by Grand Lodge" are currently \$50, and we purposefully **don't** say what those are here, because they can change outside our control. The petitions themselves have four lines printed on them that list these "contributions", and when a man receives a petition, those plus the Lodge fees are added up and totaled for the petitioner.

Section 2 would proportionally change what the Lodge charges when an Entered Apprentice or a Fellowcraft wishes to finish his degrees in our Lodge. An Entered Apprentice would pay 2/3 the fee or \$67, and a Fellowcraft would pay 1/3 the fee or \$34 dollars. The proposal in this section also eliminates arbitrary reasons to segregate fees.

ARTICLE III FEES AND DUES

Section 1. The fee for the three degrees shall be ~~Two Hundred (\$200.00)~~ **One Hundred (\$100.00)** Dollars. In addition, any fees required by the Grand Lodge must accompany the petition.

Section 2. ~~If for any reason it becomes necessary to segregate the fees, t~~The fee to accompany the petition of an Entered Apprentice for the Second and Third Degrees shall be ~~One Hundred Thirty Four (\$134.00)~~ **Sixty Seven (\$67.00)** Dollars and in addition any fees required by the Grand Lodge, and to accompany the petition of a Fellowcraft for the Third Degree shall be ~~Sixty Seven (\$67.00)~~ **Thirty Four (\$34.00)** Dollars, and in addition any fees required by the Grand Lodge.

Section 3. There shall be no fee for affiliation except those fees required by the Grand Lodge.

Section 4. The annual dues of each member shall be Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars payable in advance on the first day of January of each year.

THE UNITED STATES ONE DOLLAR BILL:

Take out a one dollar bill, and look at it. The one dollar bill you're looking at first came off the presses in 1957 in its present design. This so-called paper money is in fact a cotton and linen blend, with red and blue minute silk fibers running through it. It is actually material. We've all washed it without it falling apart. A special blend of ink is used, the contents we will never know. It is overprinted with symbols and then it is starched to make it water resistant and pressed to give it that nice crisp look.

If you look on the front of the dollar, you will see the United States Treasury Seal. On the top you will see the scales for a balanced budget. In the center you have a carpenter's square, a tool used for an even cut. Underneath is the Key to the United States Treasury.

That's all pretty easy to figure out, but what is on the back of that dollar bill is something we should all know. If you turn the bill over, you will see two circles. Both circles, together, comprise the Great Seal of the United States. The First Continental Congress requested that Benjamin Franklin and a group of men come up with a Seal. It took them four years to accomplish this task and another two years to get it approved.

If you look at the left-hand circle, you will see a Pyramid. Notice the face is lighted, and the western side is dark. This country was just beginning.

We had not begun to explore the West or decided what we could do for Western Civilization. The Pyramid is uncapped, again signifying that we were not even close to being finished. Inside the capstone you have the all-seeing eye, an ancient symbol for divinity. It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do it alone, but a group of men, with the help of God, could do anything.

"IN GOD WE TRUST" is on this currency. The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS, means, "God has favored our undertaking." The Latin below the pyramid, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, means, "a new order has begun." At the base of the pyramid is the Roman Numeral for 1776.

If you look at the right-hand circle, and check it carefully, you will learn that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States. It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, Florida National Cemetery, and is the centerpiece of most hero's monuments. Slightly modified, it is the seal of the President of the United States, and it is always visible whenever he speaks, yet very few people know what the symbols mean.

The Bald Eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons: First, he is not afraid of a storm; he is strong, and he is smart enough to soar above it. Secondly, he wears no material crown. We had just broken from the King of England. Also, notice the shield is unsupported. This country can now stand on its own. At the top of that shield you have a white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor. We were coming together as one nation. In the Eagle's beak you will read, "E PLURIBUS UNUM," meaning, "one nation from many people". Above the Eagle, you have thirteen stars, representing the thirteen original colonies, and any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away.

Again, we were coming together as one. Notice what the Eagle holds in his talons. He holds an olive branch and arrows. This country wants peace, but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace. The Eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the arrows.

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They say that the number 13 is an unlucky number. This is almost a worldwide belief. You will usually never see a room numbered 13, or any hotels or motels with a 13th floor. But think about this:

13 original colonies,
13 signers of the Declaration of Independence,
13 stripes on our flag,
13 steps on the Pyramid,
13 letters in the Latin above,
13 letters in "E Pluribus Unum",
13 stars above the Eagle,
13 bars on that shield,
13 leaves on the olive branch,
13 fruits, and if you look closely,
13 arrows.

And, for minorities: the 13th Amendment.

I always ask people, "Why don't you know this?" Your children don't know this, and their history teachers don't know this. Too many veterans have given up too much to ever let the meaning fade. Many veterans remember coming home to an America that didn't care. Too many veterans never came home at all.

Please share this message with someone else, so they can learn what is on the back of the United States One Dollar, and what it stands for.... Or, they might never know....

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