



Meridian Sun

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Star in the East Lodge
#33

Volume 37, Issue 1
Winter 2010

From the West

By: Charles Maeyaert, Sr. Warden

Wow, has this past year has gone by so fast. It's hard to believe that it's 2010. A lot has happened since the last article.

On November 9th we conferred the 2nd degree on Brother Cory Michaelson. We had planned to have the Grand Master of Minnesota Tom McCarthy recite the staircase lecture, but unfortunately, he was unable to make it. We conferred the 3rd degree on December 14th starting at 5:30 and then had dinner at intermission, followed by Outer Lodge at a local serviceman establishment. We also conferred the 1st degree on Brother Tony Johnson, grandson of WB Jim Partridge on December 23rd.

The lodge held its third 5th Monday event on November

30th. I wasn't able to make it myself due to my work schedule, but I heard that once again it didn't disappoint. Hopefully, you didn't miss it either because the next one isn't until March 29th, 2010. Plan to attend and bring a dish to share.

What better way to warm up during the cold winter months than having coffee and donuts every Thursday from 7-9 am down at the lodge. If anyone has time to help make coffee and pick up donuts for this it would be greatly appreciated. We could really use the help.

On January 11th one of my personal favorite events...CHILI NIGHT! Several brothers took advantage of the free meal and maybe some bragging rights about whose chili is the best.

Anyone interested in having a game night, please email the lodge at

owatonnamasons@gmail.com.

Hopefully, with your input on what we could play and a date that we can get together, we can get something figured out. Some ideas that have been passed around are a poker or cribbage night. I know great fellowship would be had no matter what we did.

And as always, If you haven't been to a lodge or a lodge meeting in a while, maybe its time you came and seen some of the great new and exciting things going on. You would be surprised how much you have missed and how much you have been missed by your brothers. Come down and show our new brothers support.

Cornerstone Ceremony

By: Sir Knight Hugh C. Swift, Jr, RE Grand Commander

Just awesome, beautifully awesome; that is the only way I can describe the events of the cornerstone ceremony on October 24, 2009 at the U of M Medical Campus.

The morning started with a practice by the participants at 9am, then, with time to burn, we stood around and visited with those Brethren whom we had not seen for some time. At precisely 10:50 am, with precisely 250 plus people in attendance the program started.

The procession started 3 blocks from the court yard where the ceremony was to take place. The Zuhrah Shrine Bag Pipe unit led the procession; they were followed by the color guard, consisting of the Sir Knights from Zion Commandery No. 2, which was followed Sir Knights from throughout the state, who served as an honor guard for the ceremony. Rt. Em. Grand Commander Hugh Swift, a Past Master from Corinthian Lodge in Farmington was in charge of the Templar units. These units

where followed by the representatives of the many lodges from throughout this grand jurisdiction, in order of their number.

At the court yard, the colors were posted in their proper position and the honor guard formed the lines and came to present swords for the reception of the dignitaries from those lodges present; the Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge; and Past Grand Masters. M.W.G. M. Thomas G. McCarthy proceeded through

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Special points of interest:

If you received duplicate mailings please let us know.

If you know of a member of the Masonic family that is not receiving the Meridian Sun but should please let us know.

Contact the editor at
jsmcneely@msn.com



Owatonna Chapter #15, Royal Arch Masons

By: James McNeely, High Priest

What a year 2009 was... During the past year we put on all of the Royal Arch Degrees at least twice. We even put on the Royal Arch Degree three time, once without any assistance from other Chapters. I was really impressed with the way the Companions stepped to the plate and gave as much of their time and talents to help our Chapter take several huge steps forward. It is my hope that we can get several of our new Companions to follow in the foot steps and continue to help Owatonna Chapter as we constantly improve the work that we provide our candidates.

It is also honor when our Chapter is requested to confer one of the degrees during a Chapter Festival. Owatonna's Past Master Degree team has been asked to present that degree during the one day Festival in St. Peter. Excellent Companion Jim Partridge has put together the team and will serve as the degree director. Our Past Master degree team has travelled to many other Chapters over the years for this degree and has always made us proud. The team is made up of actual past masters of Star in the East Lodge #33 all dressed in tuxedos and blue past master aprons. They are a sight to see. After the Chapter Festival our next set of Chapter degrees won't be until August when we start the 2010-2011 degree class.

Thanks for a great year and good luck to EC Greg as he progresses into the East.

Ark Council #3, Cryptic Masons

By: James McNeely, Illustrious Master

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the first Illustrious Master of Ark Council #3. It is because of the Companions that we were able to launch the newest Council in Minnesota.

Less than two years ago Ark Council was nothing more than an idea at the dinner table in Farmington

during a Council Festival. Without the support of many Companions it would never had left that table or several other tables for that matter, much of the planning occurred over meals and beverages. Even with all of our planning we still needed a champion and we found one in MIC Tony Keane. We never had chance to properly say

thank you for all your support.

In the last twelve months we have greeted 20 new Cryptic Masons, received a Charter, and learned the work. Not too bad for a bunch of "kids" who had stars in their eyes and had no clue on what they were getting into.

It has been my pleasure and honor to be the first.

Cyrene Commandery #9, Knights Templar

By: Greg Schultz, Commander

In December we had a wonderful Christmas Observance which was well attended by 30 plus Sir Knights and their guests. Our speaker did a great job presenting on Masonry in Greece throughout the ages. We even got a bonus presentation because of questions that were asked, Now it is time to really get into high gear. We have several things going on this spring for the Commandery.

On February 24th we will be conferring the Order of Red Cross. Due to Ash Wednesday we have changed the February degree night to the 24th. In March we will present the Order of

Malta with the Order of the Temple coming in April. Not only will we be doing degree work but we will also be getting ready for the formal opening of Grand Commandery in Willmar where we have been asked to open.

All Sir Knights are invited to join us for fun and fellowship.

If you have any questions or wish to receive a petition please give me or any other Sir Knights a call. Remember every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar.

Meridian Sun Publication Dates

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Articles Due</u>
Jan. 1st	Dec. 1st
Mar. 1st	Feb. 1st
May 1st	Apr. 1st
July 1st	June 1st
Sept 1st	Aug. 1st
Nov. 1st	Oct. 1st

All Articles need to be to the editor by the due date for inclusion. It is asked that articles are no more than 200-300 words in length.

Any Items that need to be included in the Calendar of Events please list separate from article.

If you have photos that you would like to include, please send with article.



Cedar Chapter #123

By: CJ Brase, Worthy Matron

The Star in the East plays a major role in the Christmas story and we can be thankful for this wonderful Holiday season. I know that our Eastern Star shines brighter because of the gift of your membership with us. Thank you to each of you for your support and love on OES. We have been blessed with our many members who have become friends as well during these past years within Cedar Chapter. We wish for you a very blessed and Happy New Year.

Our switch night meeting was great fun and we will have enjoyed our Christmas celebration meeting by the time you receive

this writing. We are looking forward to our Annual pajama night party meeting on Jan. 4th. It is a fun relaxing evening-so come dressed in pajamas and robes and "fuzzy" slippers ready for fellowship. Our January 18th meeting has the dress code of wearing your favorite sweatshirt. This is a fun way to stay warm and check out sweatshirt fashion.

Our friendship meeting will be held on February 1 and we will celebrate Valentine's Day with our "Happy Hearts Club". Please come and join us for this special evening as we

greet our guests from other Chapters in the area. Rumor has it that cupid may attend. We will celebrate Presidents' Day at the February 15th meeting and hope to see you there.

We miss you when you are unable to be with us and we truly hope that you will join with us whenever you can. We appreciate each one of you.

Why Join the York Rite?

Why should you as a Master Mason seek more light? As a Master Mason don't you have all of the answers?

Now that you have completed the third degree you have found that which was lost, or have you? As a Master Mason you know how to receive your wages, right?

You portrayed a very important brother during the 3rd degree. How would you like to walk with him and talk to him. How would you like to hear his story. The Holy Royal Arch com-

pletes the Master Mason degree. In fact it is so important that it is included within the Constitution of Minnesota Masonry. The other degrees help with the understanding of the first three degrees and the Commandery Orders help build upon those Masonic lessons from a Christian prospective.

The Southern Minnesota York Rite Center in Owatonna is here to help the Master Mason seek further light and grow his personal understanding of the Craft. If you know an interested brother there will be a one-day Chapter Festival in St. Peter on January 8, 2010.

Shrine Club News

By: Doug Brase, Scribe

December 6th the Nobles and Ladies of the Owatonna Area Shrine Club enjoyed a fine social evening at the Masonic Lodge. The Owatonna High School Carolers performed and shared the Christmas spirit. President Leonard presented the Mussman Award to Noble Doug Meyer honoring his outstanding service planning and organizing the Zuhrah Spring Ceremonial that was held in Owatonna in May. Zuhrah liaison, Mike Lavine, presided over our annual installation of officers and directors.

Our 2010 officers are: President, Leonard Binstock; Vice President, Donald Loken; Treasurer, Michael Donahue; Secretary, Douglas Brase. Our 2010 directors are: John Petersen, Andrew Joenks, Richard Heide, Jimmy Harris, Joe Rose, and Rick Heide. The club provided scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and refreshments and we collected donations that were presented to the Steele County Food Shelf.

December 12th we welcomed a new Noble to our club. Matt Ketelsen participated in the Fall Ceremonial at Zuhrah. Welcome Matt. Be sure to congratulate Matt when you see him.

Our club has reserved two tables for the Potentate's Ball on Saturday, January 30th. If you wish to reserve seats please get a check for \$56 each to President Leonard. You may reach me at 507-

Heads of Masonic Bodies in Owatonna

Star in the East Lodge #33 2nd & 4th Monday @ 7:30

Master: Grant Schultz
SW: Chuck Maeyaert
JW: Anthony Martinez
Sect: WB Ron Jensen

Cedar Chapter #123 1st & 3rd Monday @ 7:30

W. Matron: CJ Brase
W. Patron: Doug Brase
Sect: Pam Mount

York Rite Bodies 1st & 3rd Wednesday @ 7

Sect/Rec: Steve Partridge

Owatonna Area Shrine 3rd Tuesday @ 6

Pres: Leonard Binstock
Sect: Doug Brase

Bethel #17, Jobs Daughters 2nd & 4th Sunday @ 3:30

HQ: Emily vW
BG: Sarahle Harris

DeMolay 3rd Sunday @ 6

Chp. Dad: Scott MacFadyen

OMBA

Pres: Ralph Carpenter
Sect: Ron Jensen



January

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

31					1	2
3	4 7:30 OES	5	6 7:00 York Rite	7 7a-9a Coffee	8	9
10 3:30 Job's Daughters	11 7:30 Lodge	12	13	14 7a-9a Coffee	15	16 DeMolay Advisory
17 1:00 Job's Daughters 6:30 DeMolay	18 7:30 OES	19	20 York Rite 6p Dinner 7p Degree	21 7a-9a Coffee	22	23
24 3:30 Job's Daughters	25 7:30 Lodge	26	27	28 7a-9a Coffee	29	30

Schultz Homes
146 W Broadway
Owatonna, 451-0131

J-C Press
785 24th Ave SW
Owatonna, 446-5300

Sampson Dairy Foods
808 Rice St
Owatonna, 451-2430

Insty-Prints
306 Cedar Ave N.
Owatonna, 451-6004

Kottke Jewelers
115 Cedar Ave N
Owatonna, 451-6644

Glen Meger
Medford Funeral Home
310 Central Ave E.
Medford, 455-1363

Hursh Motors
195 18th St SE
Owatonna, 451-6934

Michaelson Funeral Home
1930 Austin Rd
Owatonna, 451-7943



February 2010

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 7:30 OES	2 6:30 OASC Board	3 7:00 York Rite	4 7a-9a Coffee	5	6
7	8 7:30 Lodge	9	10	11 7a-9a Coffee	12	13
14 7:30 OASC Pancakes 3:30 Job's Daughters	15 7:30 OES	16 6:00 OASC	17 Ash Wednesday	18 7a-9a Coffee 7p Lodge Officers	19	20 DeMolay Advisory
21 6:30 DeMolay	22 7:30 Lodge	23	24 York Rite 6p Dinner 7p Degree	25 7a-9a Coffee	26	27
28 3:30 Job's Daughters						

United Prairie Insurance

325 Cedar Ave N.
Owatonna, 451-3450

Brick-Meger Funeral Home

1630 Austin Rd
Owatonna, 451-1457

Photo At Right:
Sir Knights and Guests at
2009 Christmas Observance





Other Voices: [Paying for Friendship!?](#)

By: Bro. Nick Johnson, Sr. Warden Corinthian Lodge No. 67

<http://www.millennialfreemason.com>

Editor's Note: Other Voices will be included as space allows. This Column will feature articles from various Masonic writers from around the world. The goal is to spark thought and discussion. All articles are published with permission of the author and all rights remain with the author.

I am proud to be a Mason, a member of this ancient Fraternity. I was never in a Fraternity in college and I am fairly certain that I would not have joined one even if I had had the opportunity. The reason I bring up this topic is that I heard a very interesting statement about College Fraternities and Sororities. I was listening to old shows of the "[In the Stream](#)" with T.D. Mischke. The reporter that Mischke calls in the middle of show said something rather profound. The statement paraphrased was, "No, I didn't join a Sorority because I didn't think that I needed to pay to make friends; I can do that on my own."

I had never heard fraternities or sororities explained this way. When we join Freemasonry, are we really just paying dues to make friends? What are we offering to our brethren except a chance to wear a square and compass ring?

In college, I never joined a fraternity for two reasons. One, there were no fraternities on campus but also, two, I never wanted to join one in the first place. I enjoyed dorm life in all my years in college. I'm not trying to insult college Fraternities as I think they serve a need on campus but they were never for me.

When I first joined Freemasonry, I really knew nothing of the Fraternity. Frankly, all that I knew was that I had Masonic roots extending from both my grandfathers. I already had my group of friends that was not connected to Masonry in any way, shape, or form. I was looking for something different, a new experience to help me grow as a person.

Masonry is a lifelong study in self-improvement, a place to meet men of different points of view or belief systems, and a time for reflection on the duty to serve. If we are to be a great society, we must understand that we are not buying into friendship. Sure, we make new friends while in Lodge but that is only one aspect of Masonry, we also learn to improve ourselves and our world around us. I would say that Masonry is one part college fraternity and one part college course.

In terms of making friends, Freemasonry is very good at bring men of very different views together to do great works. Frankly, I would have never met many of the brothers of my Lodge because I do not share a particular political belief or a certain religious faith. Yet, we can all come together, put all of those differences aside, and be friends, nay more, brothers, dedicated to helping each others' families. This transformation from unknown person to related brother is beautiful. Masonry is not just about one's self but it is also not only about making friends and living a communal existence; it is about forming each one of us into a better man through the lessons imparted in our ritual and teachings.

Sadly, I think some Lodges have begun to view their members as merely dues payers, like a hungry cartoon character on a deserted island imagining his friend's head is a hamburger. Instead, we should be asking members why they're not coming to meeting and what we need to do for them. Only then can we be more than just a group of guys paying to be friends.

Cornerstone (cont.)

the line under an Arch of Steel.

With everyone in their proper place, Grand Master Tom presided over the ceremony and all the Grand Officers involved did an outstanding job. The message for the day was brought

forth by the Grand Orator; W. Bro. William Callister of Cannon Falls. He gave a very enlightening talk about his Grandson, who was present for the occasion.

A light lunch was served after the ceremony, along with more visiting among those present.

It was a very moving ceremony and made me very proud to be a Minnesota Mason.





Shrine Club (cont.)

451-2000 or email:
owatonnamasons@gmail.com.

The Shrine Club organized a Winter Celebration for all members of the Owatonna Masonic Family on January 16th at the Gainey Conference Center. The event was enjoyed by 57 Masons and their guests. The food was delicious, the Gainey ambience and service were outstanding. The Mystery Theater actors generated howls of laughter from the thrilled audience. Self-guided tours of the Gainey

mansion elicited oohs and ahs. See left for a couple of photos from the event. More photos are available on our club web site.

Our next regular club meeting will be February 16th at Torey's, Social hour at 6 with dinner served at 7.

Our annual pancake breakfast fundraiser at the Eagles Club is set for February 14th. Noble Ron Jensen and his committee look forward to another fun, successful event.

We regret to report that the Black Camel arrived for Noble Scott Pederson in December. Our club extends our sympathies to his Lady Cathy and his family.

For more information about your club and the upcoming events check our website at www.oasczuhrah.org.



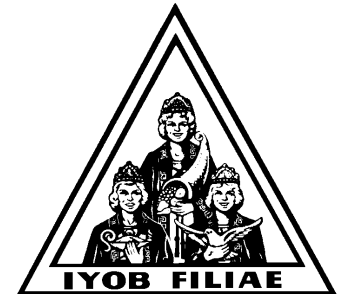
Bethel #17

Are you a Master Mason or a member of the Eastern Star? If you are, did you know that you have the opportunity to attend the meetings of Job's Daughters. Not only can you attend but because of you any of your relatives between the ages of 10 and 20 can become a member.

As a member of Eastern Star or by being a Master Mason you can change the life of young

ladies. Give some of your time and attend one of our meetings.

Bethel #17 meets on the second and fourth Sundays at 3:30pm.



Owatonna DeMolay

By: Tyler MacFadyen

Happy New Year from Owatonna DeMolay!

We are proud to welcome a new member, Sam S. He has completed his necessary degree work and has become an active member.

Our goals are still aimed toward membership and we look forward to working with the York Rite.

We recently received our original officer's robes and are continuing to learn the ritual work.

Our meetings are on the third Sunday at 6:30pm. If you know any young men who may be interested in fraternal fellowship and fun, contact any member or advisor of DeMolay.





Star in the East Lodge #33

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Freedom, Tolerance, Integrity.
Freemasonry, it's not for Everyone.



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Darkness cannot drive
out darkness; only light
can do that. Hate cannot
drive out hate; only love
can do that. ~ MLK

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Leo Roars... Who was Hiram, King of Tyre?

During the three degrees of Masonry we learn of King Solomon, Hiram King of Tyre, and Hiram A'bif. While we know the story of Solomon and the Holy Bible provides many stories and the legend of Hiram A'bif is told during the third degree we don't hear a lot of King Hiram.

Who was King Hiram, did he exist, and where is Tyre? According to the records King Hiram I was a contemporary of both King David and Solomon. He reigned as King of Tyre from 969 BC to 936 BC. In Hebrew the name Hiram means high born.

In 2nd book of Samuel it is written that he formed an alliance with King David. In 1st book of Kings as well as 2nd book of Chronicles we learn of dealings that he had with King Solomon during the building of the Temple. During the degrees as well as in Holy Scripture we are provided several details of the men, gold, and supplies that Hiram I sent to the building of the Temple in Jerusalem.

During Hiram's reign, Tyre grew from a satellite of Sidon into the most important of Phoenician cities, and the holder of a large trading empire. He suppressed the rebellion of the first Tyrian colony at Utica, near the later site of Carthage.

Hiram is best known for having allied himself with King Solomon of Israel, the upcoming power of the region; together they would fill the power gap left by the retreat of Egypt when Assyria and Damascus were unable to do so. Through the alliance with Solomon, Hiram ensured himself access to the major trade routes to Egypt, Arabia and Mesopotamia. The two kings also joined forces in starting a trade route over the Red Sea, connecting the Israelite harbor of Ezion-Geber with a land called Ophir.

Both kings grew rich through this trade. He also extended the Tyrian harbor, enlarged the city by joining the two islands on which it was built, and built a royal palace and a temple for Melqart.

As for the city of Tyre it was founded by the Phoenicians around 2750 BC. The location of the city of Tyre is not in doubt, for it exists to this day on the same spot and is known as Sur. Tyre originally consisted of two distinct urban centers, one on an island and the other on the adjacent coast in the south of Lebanon.

The commerce of the ancient world was gathered into the warehouses of Tyre. "Tyrian merchants were the first who ventured to navigate the Mediterranean waters; and they founded their colonies on the coasts and neighboring islands of the Aegean Sea, in Greece, on the northern coast of Africa, at Carthage and other places, in Sicily and Corsica, in Spain at Tartessus, and even beyond the pillars of Hercules at Cádiz"

In the time of King David (c. 1000 BC), a friendly alliance was entered into between the Kingdoms of Israel and Tyre, who was ruled by Hiram I. The city of Tyre was particularly known for the production of a rare and extraordinarily expensive sort of purple dye, produced from the murex shellfish, known as Tyrian purple. This color was, in many cultures of ancient times, reserved for the use of royalty, or at least nobility.

Throughout history there is a long history of nations and Kings trying to conquer this city-state. Egypt, Assyria, as well as the Babylonians led by Nebuchadnezzar all attempted to control this wealthy city. In fact it was not until the attack of Alexander the Great that Tyre become a part of the mainland. To conquer the island Alexander built a causeway from the mainland out to the island over time the causeway was silted in and formed a land bridge.