



TRESTLE BOARD

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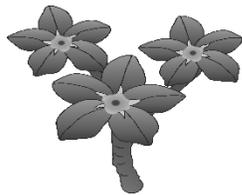
Issue No. 7

July 2014

STATED COMMUNICATIONS: 1st & 3rd Thursdays Dinner 6:30 PM - Meeting 7:30PM

Masonic Education

THE FORGET-ME-NOT FLOWER



Masonry has long used symbols to teach its valuable and important lessons. Every Mason is familiar with their usage. One of the most recent symbols that are associated with Masonry is the blue Forget-Me-Not flower. During the early 1930s, this delicate, little, five-petaled flower, which is similar to the common violet, became a symbol of Freemasonry in Nazi Germany and exemplified the spirit, dedication, and courage of men who literally held to their Masonic principles and beliefs in the face of the gravest danger.

Shortly after Adolph Hitler came to power in 1933, he issued two decrees. One provided for Nazi control over the educational process. The second made membership in a Masonic

Jewish conspiracy” and wanted it eradicated. At that time there were 85,000 Masons in good standing in Germany. Adolf Eichman, who would later play an important role in Hitler’s “final solution,” raided the Grand Lodge of Germany and confiscated all of their records including names and addresses of 80,000 German Masons. Lode property was confiscated and Eichman secretly issued orders that Mason should be put to death. His orders were followed.

The remaining 5,000 German Masons whose records were not found, immediately went underground hiding their records, lodge paraphernalia, and identifying jewelry. Active Freemasonry in Germany ceased to exist.

In 1934, members of the German Grand Lodge of the Sun (one of Germany’s per-war Grand Lodges) began wearing the blue Forget-Me-Not instead of the traditional square and compass on their lapels as a mark of identity for Masons. This was a Masonic secret that was never broken. Throughout the whole era of Nazi domination, little blue Forget-Me-Not appeared on lapels in cities and even in concentration camps, worn by brothers whose love of freedom, learning, and Freemasonry

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Visit the Lodge Website Trestle Board

For Masonic
Birthdays, Anniversaries
And Additional Articles

www.jfswarsel251.org

In 1947, when the Grand Lodge of the Sun was reopened in Bayreuth by past Master Beyer, a pin in the shape of a Forget-Me-Not was adopted as an emblem of that first annual convention by those who had survived the bitter darkness of the Nazi era and were now able to openly rekindle the light of Freemasonry.

In 1948, the first Convent of the United Grand Lodges of Germany also adopted the pin as an official Masonic emblem honoring those brothers who had been forced to shelter the light of Freemasonry within, but dared to wear the little flower openly. The

tradition of using the blue Forget-Me-Not as a tribute to those whose fidelity to the Fraternity sets them apart was also used by the Masonic brotherhood of the blue Forget-Me-Not that recognizes the contributions of Masonic educators.

Although Adolph Hitler was able to destroy the outward vestiges of Freemasonry by desecrating temples and imprisoning or murdering Masons, he was never able to completely eradicate Freemasonry in Germany. He was never able to understand that respect for individual rights and the love of liberty and learning will continue to burn in hearts of some men, and that is the place where Masonry can endure even under the most repressive environment. Like the phoenix, Masonry rose out of the ashes of Nazi Germany (as it is also doing in several former communist-bloc countries) as a tribute to the courage of man and the durability of those values and lessons that Masonry holds dear.

Sources: Callaway, Walter M., "Forget-Me-Not, A Masonic Symbol in Germany." California Freemason. pp. 168-169; "Das Vergissmeinnicht, The Forget-Me-Not" Square & Compass. pp. 19-20; Roberts, Allen. Explanation of the Masonic Brotherhood of the Blue Forget-Me-Not.



In the pre-Revolutionary years, colonists had held annual celebrations of the king's birthday, which traditionally

included the ringing of bells, bonfires, processions and speechmaking.

By contrast, during the summer of 1776 some colonists celebrated the birth of independence by holding mock funerals for King George III, as a way of symbolizing the end of the monarchy's hold on America and the triumph of liberty.

Festivities including concerts, bonfires, parades and the firing of cannons and muskets usually accompanied the first public readings of the Declaration of Independence, beginning immediately after its adoption.

Philadelphia held the first annual commemoration of independence on July 4, 1777, while Congress was still occupied with the ongoing war. George Washington issued double rations of rum to all his soldiers to mark the anniversary of independence in 1778, and in 1781, several months before the key American victory at Yorktown. Massachusetts became the first state to make July 4th an official state holiday.

After the Revolutionary War, Americans continued to commemorate Independence Day every year, in celebrations that allowed the new nation's emerging political leaders to address citizens and create a feeling of unity. By the last decade of the 18th century, the two major political parties, Federalists and Democratic-Republicans, which had arisen began holding separate Independence Day celebrations in many large cities.

The tradition of patriotic celebration became even more widespread after the War of 1812, in which the United States again faced Great Britain. In 1870, the U.S. Congress made July 4th a federal holiday; in 1941, the provision was expanded to grant a paid holiday

to all federal employees. Over the years, the political importance of the holiday would decline, but Independence Day remained an important national holiday and a symbol of patriotism.

Source:

<http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/july-4th>

Chair Chatter

From The EAST

Summer is here my Brothers and we will not be going dark. I understand people go on vacations and get out of town during these months. I only ask that if you are in town during our stated meetings, please come by the Lodge for a visit.

I want to thank everyone who came out to help with the Fish Fry on June 20th. We were pretty busy and had a good crowd. Our next Fish Fry is July 18th. Brothers, again, if you cannot make it out to help, please come by and support your Lodge. As well, the lodge Family Night dinner is scheduled for Thursday evening, July 31st. The lodge will be supplying the main meat course, but please bring a covered dish to share with everyone. Hope to see you there.

District School of Instruction is on July 2nd at 7:00 PM at John Darling Lodge. You should come out to support R.:H.: Goldman. He is going to make it fun and interesting. We as a Lodge need to do a better job in the second half of the year as far as participation. During the first half of the year, it has been mostly myself and R.:W.: Bell who show up for district school or masters and wardens.

Brothers, you know the saying, you only get out of it what you put into it. I would love to see more participation from our Lodge.

Jeff Sklet, Worshipful Master

From The WEST

Nothing From The Senior Warden This Month

From The SOUTH

My Brothers time is flying by, we are halfway through the year and things are getting done in a timely manner.

It was good to see Worshipful Joe Fara at our last Communication, Brother, you have been sorely missed.

We have a few things coming up this month: District School of Instruction on July 2nd at John Darling Lodge, 7-8pm, be there if you can. And please, send me any Masonic Training, Lodge Visitation or any other Masonic Education that you receive, via my e-mail at danval842@hotmail.com. My Brothers, this is important to the welfare of our Lodge and to our Worshipful Master.

The Fish Fry went well. The Ladies of the O.E.S. have been putting in a good word for us. Thank you my Sisters and Brothers.

My Brothers, It is very important that we support our Worshipful Master in all his efforts. He has been doing a great job.

School vacation is here and most of you are vacationing with your families, and that's the way it should be. Enjoy, we will be here for you when you return.

Fraternally

Danny Valdez, Junior Warden

From The SECRETARY'S DESK

My Brothers:

Congratulations go out to two (2) of our Brothers:

1. Brother **RAYMOND JOSEPH CIUNCI** on being elected to Plural Membership in J. F. Swartsel Lodge. WELCOME Brother.

2. Brother **CHRISTOPER TREMBLE** on passing his Master Mason Catechism and being presented his White Leather Apron.

Brothers our attendance at our Stated Communications needs some ATTENTION. The sidelines are BARE and we have problems filling the Chairs at times. PLEASE make a concentrated effort to attend our Communications and support YOUR Lodge.

Fraternally,

Donald R. Bell, Secretary

Please See PAGE 4 for UPCOMING LODGE DATES and EVENTS

From FRIENDSHIP CHAPTER #209

Nothing From Friendship Chapter This Month

*"The strength of Freemasonry is in its loyalty to each other."
Vasilios Karpos*

Lodge News And Events

Report on Petitions for the Three Symbolic Degrees



NOTHING TO REPORT FOR THIS MONTH



THE NEXT FISH FRY IS...

**Friday, July 18th
5PM - 8PM**

**Take-Out \$8.00
Eat-In (All You Can Eat) \$10**

Tell Your Friends and Neighbors and Join Us for Fun, Fellowship and Great Food!

Calendar of **IMPORTANT LODGE DATES**

JULY 2014

- 2nd District School of Instruction at John Darling Lodge No. 154.....7:00 pm
- 3rd Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge.....Dinner @ 6:30 pm - Lodge opens @ 7:30 pm
- 11th Masonic Park BOD Meeting at Tampa Lodge No. 240.....7:00 pm
- 17th Stated Communication of Swartsel Lodge.....Dinner @ 6:30 pm - Lodge opens @ 7:30 pm
- 18th Third Friday Monthly Fish Fry at Swartsel Lodge.....Serving from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm
- 19th Monthly meeting of Memorial Lodge No., 23 at Fellowship Lodge No. 265.....10:00 am
- 20th Monthly meeting of Masonic Home BOT at the Home in St. Petersburg.....11:00 am
- 25th Monthly meeting of Masters & Wardens Association at Fellowship Lodge.....7:00 pm
- 31st Family Night at Swartsel Lodge **EVERYONE WELCOME** with a covered dish.....7:00 pm

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**The Editor of the Trestle Board is
Brother Brian P. Stricker**

*Your comments and input are always
welcome and encouraged*

**Brother Stricker can be reached at
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