

**Onion Creek Masonic Lodge #220
AF&AM
Post Office Box 150727
Austin, TX. 78715-0727**

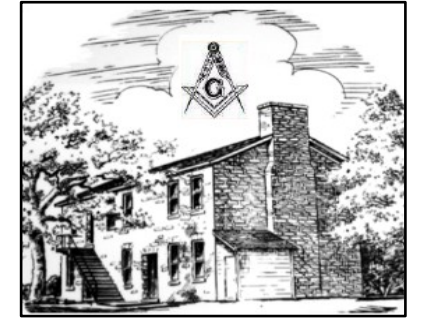
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THE BEACON

Onion Creek Masonic Lodge #220
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas – June 16, 1858

Visit our website at <http://www.onioncreeklodge220.org>



June 2018

Lodge Officers 2017 - 2018

WM: **William L. Lewis**
SW: **Christopher R. Dawson**
JW: **David "Tide" Williams**
Treas: **Dennis C. Kestner, PM**
Sec: **Troy J. Shugart, PM**
Chap: **Raul J. Scully, PM**
SD: **Orlando Perez**
JD: **Ernest Owney**
SS: **Richard Alonso**
JS: **Jeromy W. Odom**
Mar: **Dennis J. Ross, PM**
MC: **Curtis A. Gilgan, PM**
Mus: **Wilfredo "JR" Vera**
Tiler: **Jeff J. Carroll, PM**

Living Onion Creek Lodge Past Masters

1969- Tommie J. Conner
1970- Ralph L. Cearley
1974- Jimmy M. Hodges
1977- Roy L. Hamor
1978- Bobby J. Doherty
1980- Ronald B. Norwood
1981- Howard D. Hall
1982- Alan L. Karotkin
1984- Matias H. Ruiz
1987- Elliott R. Wilson
1988- Jerry T. Jarmon
1989- Dennis C. Kestner
1991- Ronnie H. Lee
1993- Albert A. Mehlhaff
1994- Walter H. Argall
1995- Javier R. Gonzalez
1996- Kenneth P. Wood
1997- William S. Lear
1998- John W. Turner

1999- James F. Keese
2000- Walter E. Sanders
2001- Jonathan D. Walker
2002- Robert L. Roda
2003- Ricky J. Tindell
2004- Elijo Arjona, Jr.
2005- Hamilton B. Carter
2006- Russell M. Tidwell II
2007- Michael E. Sanders
2008- Daniel E. Barber
2009- Dale L. Flatt
2010- Tony M. Ramirez
2011- Dennis J. Ross
2012- Adrian W. Edmundson
2013- Raul J. Scully
2014- Ben B. Rauschke
2015- Curtis A. Gilgan
2016- Jeff J. Carroll

Living Affiliated Past Masters

J. Roland Brown
Don R. Cowley
Gerald T. Dawson
Allen W. Deaver
Carlton L. Edwards
Robert Eschenburg
Elbert I. Franks
Reagan W. Hammett
Bennie L. Hudson
Gordon W. Kelso
Howard Kimball
James M. King
Don R. Long
Wes Mersiovsky
Bobby J. Norris
Boyce Oakes
Gene C. Payne
Troy J. Shugart
Bill Weathers
James C. Wells
Roni Zulu



June Birthdays

Chaz A. Grumbles, Todd Lewis 01; Louis C. Martin, Jeffrey L. Dotterer 03; Scott A. Freng 04; John W. Jackson II, Edward L. Weeren, Jeffrey T. Lester 07; Daniel P. Vasquez 11; Jeff J. Carroll, William L. Weathers 13; Jorge A. Millan 14; Trollis J. Morris 15; Donald A. Villoni 16; Thomas D. Hoke 17; Tommy R. Peters, Nazario Cantu III, Stanley A. Mitchusson 18; James R. Robinson II, Jeffrey L. Wilbur 20; Raymond D. Hannah 23; Wendell E. Koenig, Elbert I. Franks 24; Tony M. Ramirez, Samuel E. Taylor, Jr. 26; Sam M. Piper, Jr. 27, and Hunter S. Arend 28.

Happy Birthday, Brothers!

May the Supreme Architect bless you with many more!

Masonic Birthdays; raised in June (year)

Gary E. Clark 64; Sherrel D. Cole, Ronald L. Angell 66; Lloyd M. Robertson 69; James D. Hatton, Glenn R. Dyess 71; Richard W. Johnson 73; Robert A. Carnes, Walter E. Boyd 76; Nazario Cantu III 77; Mack Gerald 80; Donnie F. Carter 81; James C. Morton, Max F. Ehrlich, Allan J. Tolbert III 89; Kirk W. Reasoner, Robert E. Allen 90; Van M. Nimrick 92; James F. Keese 93; Robert D. Boddy 97; Henry R. Tindell, Ricky J. Tindell 98; James R. McMillan 99; Tony M. Ramirez 03; Jorge A. Millan 06; David S. Shackelford, Manuel A. Hernandez, Jacob R. Caudle 13; Lawrence I. Falk 14, and John A. Contreras 15.

***And God said "Let there be light,"
and there was light!***

Stated Meeting

**Second Thursday
June 14th, 2018**

Master Mason's Lodge

Family Night

**Meal at 6:30 p.m.
Meeting at 7:30 p.m.**

Onion Creek Lodge Committee Chairmen:

Beacon Editor: **David A. Karhi**
Breakfast Socials: **Ernest Owney**
Building: **David "Tide" Williams**
Cemetery: **Dennis J. Ross, PM**
Communications: **Raul J. Scully, PM**
Esoteric Instruction: **Orlando Perez**
Funeral: **Troy J. Shugart, PM**
Golden Trowel: **Jeff J. Carroll, PM**
Historian: **H. Max Fisher**
Hospital: **Carl H. Robinson**
Ill and Visitation: **William L. Lewis**
Social Activities: **Raul J. Scully, PM**
Vanguard: **David "Tide" Williams**

Greetings from the East

Hard to believe a year has gone by and my time in the East is coming to an end. It has been my honor and privilege to serve the brothers of Onion Creek Lodge as Worshipful Master. Together, the team of officers has had many successes and accomplishments. I would like to thank each of you for your prayers and support this past year for myself and the entire officer team. I was truly blessed by the officers and their dedication to our lodge. The Wardens, Chris Dawson and Tide Williams, deserve a very special thank you for their dedication, support, perseverance and hard work in support of our lodge.

A special thank you to my mentors: RW Raul Scully, PM; RW Troy Shugart, PM; Curtis Gilgan, PM; Dennis Ross, PM; and Joe Seguin, PM who taught me my work, guided me through the chairs and set my feet upon a solid path in Masonry.

Who are the Holy Saints John and how did we arrive at the dates for their festivals? "From a lodge of the Holy Saints John of Jerusalem" is a phrase familiar to all Masons.

Freemasonry is the largest, oldest and best-known men's fraternity in the world. Historically, it is based on the medieval stonemason guilds who built the great castles and cathedrals of Europe. Mythologically, it is founded upon the building of Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem, as told in the Old Testament of the Bible. Modern Freemasons likewise use the tools, traditions and terminology of those earlier stonemasons as allegories for building Temples in the hearts of men.

Operative Freemasonry was first developed when Roman Catholicism (the Church) was the prevailing religion. It was common for the guilds and other trade groups to adopt a patron saint for protection. Some early Masons chose the two Saints John.

The feast days of the Saints John were decided by the Church. In the Northern Hemisphere, June 20th officially marks the summer solstice. This is our longest period of daylight, which diminishes until we reach December 21st, the winter solstice, with the shortest period of daylight. The Church decided to mark the turnaround from the shortest day, traditionally December 25th, as the birthday of Jesus the Christ. No one really knows on what day Jesus was actually born, our best guess from Biblical evidence would be in the springtime near Passover. But for theological reasons, in an attempt to eclipse the pagan festival of Saturnalia

(the return of the solar Sun), the Church decided to celebrate instead the birth of God's newborn Son. Two days after that, on December 27th, the Church added the festival day of John the Apostle also known as St John the Evangelist (because he bore witness to Jesus as the "light shining in the darkness – that could never be overcome").

The Church then placed the birthday of John the Baptist on June 24th, six months ahead of Jesus' birth, since Scripture does record that John's mother, Elizabeth, was already six months pregnant when the Virgin Mary conceived. Of course, this places John the Baptist's birthday in line with the summer solstice.

Blue Lodges (in the Christian world) are dedicated to the Holy Saints John (the Baptist and the Evangelist) recognizing them as their patron saints, and making a point of celebrating their festival days of December 27th and June 24th.

Their reputed characters adapt their festivals very readily to the symbolism. The feast of the Baptist recalls to our memory his inflexible fidelity and martyrdom for his faith, and thus, while reminding us of another martyrdom for similar high principles which is familiar to all Masons, furnishes a worthy ideal for Masonic consideration. In the rite of baptism from which his distinctive title is derived is symbolized the cleansing of the heart from the dross of selfishness and vice, and the spiritual initiation of the soul into the knowledge of the mysteries of eternal life. Thus the festival of his birth very appropriately coincides with the summer solstice, when all visible nature is at the zenith of life, light, and joy. On the other hand, the festival of the Evangelist who is so fortunately represented as a man in the winter and wisdom of life; who so insistently proclaimed the gospel of brotherly love; and whose writings teem with allegories of the mystical initiation into the secrets that lie beyond the veil of material vision, is very properly assigned to that period of the year when life has reached its full maturity and seems about to depart from the earth. Considering all this he too becomes a worthy and appropriate figure for Masonic recognition.

These two figures, whose festivals fall upon the two extremes of the year, represent the cycle of nature and of human life, presenting to us a key to Masonic philosophy.

Looking Forward

- At the Stated Meeting, June 14th, OCL will hold officer elections. The finance committee will

recommend increasing the endowment to 10 units. It will be preceded by an Open Meeting with the presentation of the Community Builder Award and the Scholarship Awards.

- Officer Installations will be held on June 30th.

William Lewis, Worshipful Master



Golden Trowel Award

At the May stated meeting, the Golden Trowel Award was presented to Brother Thomas Stephenson Estes. Brother Estes has been a Master Mason at Onion Creek Lodge #220, AF&AM, for 15 years. He was initiated as an Entered Apprentice here on March 25th, 2002, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on January 23rd, 2003 and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on April 24th, 2003. He became an endowed member in May of 2012.

The Halliwell Manuscript

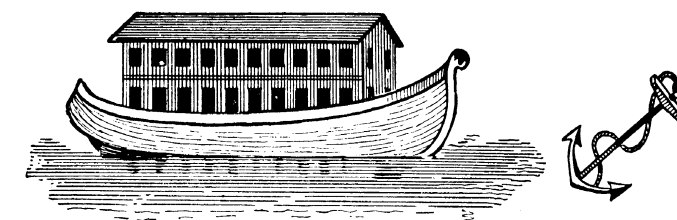
The oldest known Masonic text is "The Halliwell Manuscript" or "Regius Poem" and it is said to have been written somewhere between 1390 and the beginning of the 15th century. This text begins with a history of the Craft, starting with Euclid's invention of geometry in ancient Egypt.

The text, written in poetic form, is also the earliest Masonic manuscript containing charges. The introduction of the manuscript is in fact followed by a section containing the rules of conduct for a Master Mason, thus giving us a very-early insight of the moral code and behavior expected by Freemasons at the time.

Prayer List

Please remember the following people in your prayers as they seek comfort and healing. They are or have been ill, recovering from medical procedures or have limited mobility: RW T.K. Anthony, Walter Boyd, Jack Brassil, Johnnie Camarillo, Shawon Carroll (Jeff's brother), Thomas Carroll (Jeff's dad), Madeline Carter (Richard Alonso's Mother in-law), Gerald & Zoey Curry, Glenn Dyess, Sidney Ellis, Robert Flores (PM Blanco), Lily Forman (Troy Shugart's niece), Curtis Gilgan, Barbara Gower (RW Mike Gower's wife), Reagan Hammett, Alba Haney (Larry's wife), Sam Hill, Freddie Hite, Arnold Holden, Ethel Johnson (Roland Brown's stepdaughter), Amy Karotkin (Alan's daughter), Larry Korts, Johnnie Long, Ken Loveless, Thurman McGinnis, Tony Moreno, Bob Oakes, Tom Peters, Joe Pickering, Tony Ramirez, Bertha Salinas, JT Shugart (Troy's dad), Theresa Shugart (Troy's mother), David Solverson, Wanda Stewart, April Tinajero (Larry Haney's daughter), and Tracy Williams (Tide's wife).

If you know of others who should be on this list, please contact WM William Lewis or Chaplain Raul Scully, PM



SAMC Hospital Volunteers

During the month of April, 9 Masons, wives, and friends contributed over 114 hours assisting our friends and neighbors over at St. David's South Austin Medical Center.

The outstanding volunteers who made this possible are (in alphabetical order): Linda Boyd with 18 hours, Max Fisher with 9 hours, Norman Hayes with 4 hours, Dwane Idecker with 3 hours, David Karhi with 5 hours, Carl Robinson with 27 hours, Jeanine Robinson with 27 hours, Dennis Ross with 3 hours, and Bobby Tiner with 16 hours.

Thank you folks for a job well done!