

Blythe-Needles ISSUE 24-4

April 1, 2024



APRIL TRESTLEBOARD

From the East

Work, Play & Brotherhood

**Rememberance of a Brother
Upcoming Events for Fellowship**

Words by Jeffery Gatchell

Brethren,

Hope you all are well, and if you are taking the time to read this, Thank You! I'll try and keep this short.....

First off, I'd like to congratulate our newest EA, brother Zachary Bush on now being a brother in the fraternity! It was a tremendous pleasure being a part of the team here at Blythe-Needles who put on what I thought was a very good example of the 1st degree. Special thanks to Worshipful Larry Wuertz, who once again delivered a jaw-dropping lecture. As we all know, degrees are never perfect, but we always strive to achieve

that and who knows, maybe one day it might actually happen! Also thanks to the 'core' officers who practice regularly. Your practice has been definitely producing positive results, and we now have a solid base of brothers with which we can continue to move forward. And, thanks to Bert Bell, Danny Dill and Richard Morrow for coming in support of our candidate. Richard, you are a very good Chaplain by the way!

Thanks to those of you (Worshipfuls Wuertz and Presley, Terry, Sutton, Jared and myself) who 'guarded' the doors at the Exhibit building during the recent Colorado River Fair. We have been able



to sustain this commitment for a number of years now, and assisting the fair while receiving a nominal stipend for the Lodge is a win-win. I look forward to being involved next year also.

A **BIG REMINDER** that our 2nd Annual Skeet Shoot event will be on **Saturday, April 20th at 3pm** at the Trap and Skeet club. The cost is \$30 per person, and includes what promises to be a fantastic meal (steak and sides!). Your only tasks will be eating, shooting, and having good fellowship! In order to reserve a dinner reservation, **you MUST RSVP no later than the 13th** by calling 760 922-9253. We had such a good time last year that we decided it was worth

doing again. If you don't have a gun, I'm sure we can provide you with one. There will also be a silent auction for a really nice piece of hardware!

Lastly, our recently departed brother, Kenny Luper was very involved with the Trap and Skeet club, and it would be nice that we have a good turnout in his memory. We miss you brother!

On the Square,

Jeff Gatchell

Embracing Masonry Through Degree Work

“April brings Masonic renewal through focused degree work, fostering brotherhood and commitment to our timeless principles.”

Greetings everyone,

As we dive into April, we're greeted with the excitement of a month filled with Masonic activities and opportunities. It's a time when we come together to continue our Masonic journey with enthusiasm and dedication.

In the spirit of renewal and rejuvenation that April brings, we look forward to engaging in meaningful Masonic work, particularly focusing on degree work. Degree ceremonies hold a special significance in Freemasonry, serving as transformative experiences for both candidates and brethren alike. They offer us an opportunity to reflect on the timeless teachings and symbolism of our Craft and to reaffirm our commitment to its principles.



“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”
– Winston Churchill

April Trestle

Throughout April, our lodge will be dedicating time and effort to degree work, ensuring that each ceremony is conducted with precision, dignity, and reverence. We will strive to provide candidates with a memorable and meaningful experience, guiding them through the degrees with care and respect.

As we welcome new brethren into our fraternity and guide them on their journey of self-discovery and enlightenment, let us also take this opportunity to renew our own commitment to the Craft. May each degree ceremony serve as a reminder of the solemn obligations we have taken as Masons and inspire us to live up to the noble ideals of our beloved fraternity.

In the spirit of brotherhood and fellowship, let us come together to support and uplift one another as we embark on

this Masonic journey anew. Together, let us work towards the betterment of ourselves, our lodge, and our community, guided by the principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Fraternally,

Sutton Miller
Junior Warden

A Friend and Brother

THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF MASONIC FRIENDSHIPS IS ENSHRINED IN THE INITIATION.

Words by **John L. Cooper III, Past Grand Master**

This article was originally published on the California Masonic Lodge Website.

The initiatic process of becoming a Freemason is one filled with symbols, some of which are easier to interpret than others. It is easy to see the symbolism in the working tools of a stonemason, as, for example, when we present the new Entered Apprentice with a stonemason's hammer, known as the "common gavel," and a measuring stick, which we call a "twenty-four inch gauge."

We explain to the new Mason that he is to use the hammer metaphorically, shaping his life as he would a block of stone, by "breaking off and deleting" any habits in his life that are hindering him from becoming a better person. The gauge reminds him that he has only 24 hours each



to accomplish all the things he may want to do.

A more obscure symbol in the initiatic process requires a little more consideration to grasp its true meaning. In our present ritual, the senior deacon is the candidate's conductor through the degree. The lecture, which follows the degree, explains that his conductor was a "true and trusty friend, on whose fidelity [he] could, with the utmost confidence, rely."

This statement refers to a much earlier tradition - a time before deacons were common officers of the lodge - when the candidate's conductor was his sponsor into Freemasonry. The Entered Apprentice degree teaches, in part, that in order to make progress in life we must trust others to lead us when we cannot otherwise know the way forward. The person leading us is often a "conductor," or someone who serves as a guide.

Another term for guide in Freemasonry is "mentor." A Masonic mentor is someone who conducts us through the process of understanding the meaning and importance of Freemasonry, not only in the abstract, but for each of us personally. A mentor can be the man who signed our petition to the lodge, and often should be. He can also be another "friend and brother" with whom the candidate is closely connected. He can, of course, be the senior deacon, and in many lodges the senior deacon takes the responsibility of mentoring candidates very seriously.



In addition to conducting the candidate through the ritual itself, the senior deacon is often assigned the important task of asking the ritualistic questions required of the candidate before he can advance to the next degree. Both of these responsibilities are metaphorically related to the deeper symbolism that every Mason needs a friend and brother with whom he has a personal relationship and through whose friendship he will learn the very important Masonic understanding of friendship.

Most Masonic degrees include someone who fulfills the role of conductor, and the symbolic meaning is the same. In the Royal Arch Degree this role is assigned to the principal sojourner, whose duties are defined as "to bring the blind by a way that they knew not; to lead them in paths that they have not known; to make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight; these things to do unto them, and not forsake them." Those words are but an expansion on the duties of the senior deacon, and by extension, of the duties of a Masonic mentor. We are each of us often blind to the duties we owe to God, our country, our neighbor, or ourselves.

A mentor, a friend and brother on whose faithfulness we can, with the utmost confidence, rely, helps us to see those duties. He is expected to lead each one of us by a way that we knew not before the doors of Freemasonry opened a new vista to us. He is expected to make darkness light before us, and crooked things straight. And, above all, he is never to forsake us.

The role of a mentor who is a friend and brother is one of the most important responsibilities in Freemasonry. Mentors, and those whom they lead in Freemasonry, often develop a strong bond of friendship that lasts through many years. This is the secret that causes “true Friendship among Persons that must else have remain’d at a perpetual Distance,” as the Constitutions of 1723 state it. Being a friend and brother is the heart and soul of Freemasonry.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Longtime members and new brothers can use these questions as the starting point for a discussion in lodge, or in one-on-one conversations.

- **How do you define “Masonic friendship?” How do “Masonic friendships” differ from friendships you have outside the lodge? Why are they different?**
- **The role of the senior deacon in leading a candidate through the first degree ritual used to be performed by the candidate’s sponsor. How might this experience have been different for you, if you had been conducted by your sponsor? What value does it provide for the senior deacon to perform this role?**
- **How does the experience of the Masonic initiation develop bonds of trust between the candidate and his lodge? How might you and your lodge enhance this experience?**
- **Most Worshipful Cooper writes, “every Mason needs a friend and brother with whom he has a personal relationship and through whose friendship he will learn the very important Masonic understanding of friendship.” Which brother has played this role for you? What have you learned from him?**

April Calendar

blytheneedleslodge@gmail.com Apr 2024 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	7pm - Stated Meeting	4	5	1pm - Scottish Rite -
7	8	7pm - Candidates	9	10	7pm - Candidates	11
14	15	16	7pm - Monthly OSI	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26	3pm - Skeet Shoot
28	29	30	7pm - Stated Meeting	1	2	3
						4

Join Us!

<http://blythe-needles473.com/events>

Celestial Lodge Above: Kenneth David Luper



On March 3, 2024 Brother Kenneth David Luper laid down his working tools of this life and peacefully departed from this world. Kenny was born on September 7, 1951. He was the cherished son of Kenneth and Anna May Luper and the eldest among his three brothers and two sisters: Keith, Kevin, Kirk, Kathie, and Karlene.

Kenny dedicated 22 years of his life to the U.S. Air Force, with 20 of those years spent in Germany, where he not only served his country but also immersed himself in the culture, becoming fluent in German. A man of adventure and zest for life, Kenny lived to the fullest, enjoying the thrill of riding his Harley until circumstances led him to trade it for his RZR. However, his ultimate joy was found in the serenity of riverside living. A true friend and neighbor, Kenny generously shared his skills by fixing and building things for those around him. His magnetic personality and warm heart earned him a circle of great friends, making a lasting impact on the lives of those fortunate enough to know him. As an exceptional brother and friend, Kenny will be profoundly missed, but his memory will endure eternally in our hearts.

May Kenneth now find rest in the loving arms of God, surrounded by the peace and serenity he brought to the lives of others.

