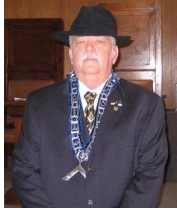


The Swope Park Masonic Temple Bodies Quarterly Newsletter



Master's
Trestle Board

Charles A. Farris
Worshipful
Master

First , I would like to wish all of the members of the Swope Park Masonic Family a Safe, Healthy, Prosperous and Happy New Year and hope you all had a Merry Christmas.

My first three months as Master have quickly passed and while we didn't have any of our own degree work, we did do some courtesy degree work for Kansas City Lodge #220 and were quite busy in the community.

Our fundraiser for the 4th Annual Kansas City Veteran's Hospital Visit went very well. Thank you to Brother **Mike Anderson** for his efforts, as well as the businesses who donated the prizes, to make this event successful. In addition to the gift bags, we were able to donate 25 sleeping bags and 10 bedspreads and pillows to the hospital for distribution to the patients. I also thank the young men and women of William F. Kuhn Chapter DeMolay and Bethel #1 Job's Daughters for their assistance in assembling the gift bags and then distributing them to the Veteran's Hospital patients. In addition to the VA Hospital, we donated 30 bedspreads and pillows for two Restart, Inc. locations and to the City Union Mission for the homeless and needy. A special thanks to Mrs. **Darlene Pollard** and Mrs. **Betty Jones**, the makers of the bedspreads and pillows and **RWB Sammie Rhoades**, who was instrumental in obtaining the materials. My thanks also goes out to **WB Kenny Best**, who spearheaded this project and ensured its success.

The upcoming quarter will be busy with several events. We will pursue the probability of our second annual Valentine's Day Luncheon for the wives, girlfriends and ladies of the Temple. More information will be distributed as it becomes available.

SWOPE PARK OES Chapter 520 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS



The officers of Swope Park 520 were installed November 13, 2010. Pictured are **Holly Johnson**, Worthy Matron and **Preston Pemberton**, Worthy Patron. They are surrounded by 14 of the 16 other officers. The chapter room was beautifully decorated by **Marilyn** (PM) and **Richard** (PP) **Houston**. A large crowd was in attendance. After the installation, they enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by **Deb Merrick** (PM). Many other members assisted to make the day a success

SWOPE PARK CHAPTER 520 Rambler Winter 2010 News Letter

We were honored to do the Bible Ceremony for the Job's Daughters Bethel #1 installation of officers. Several of our members had never witnessed a Job's Daughters installation. We are welcome to attend any of their meetings.

Our thanks to the members of Swope Park Lodge for including all of the groups that meet in Swope Park Temple to events they plan. We had a most enjoyable Christmas party together. During the past three months we have lost three members to death. Brother **William Dixon** passed away Sept. 27; Brother **Paul Warrington, Jr.** died October 17 and **Sister Catherine Burge** passed away December 11th. Brother **Marline Hess**, Past Grand Patron passed away December 20, 2010. Sister **Esta Broderick** is now a primary member of Swope Park Chapter. Sister **LaVerne Simpson** received her 50 year membership pin and certificate.

We have had a special program each of the past three months. Past Matrons and Past Patrons were honored at our October meeting. Fifteen of them were in attendance. A fun "Kick Out" program was held at the November meeting to honor Sister **Pat Neece**, retiring Worthy Matron. Brother **Preston Pemberton**, Worthy Patron was honored in December as we celebrated his birthday.

As we embark on a new year we look forward to working with sisters and brothers in the chapters that form the new 11th District. We will have the Official Inspection in the afternoon of January 15th at the Independence Temple. The Fifty year and 50 year plus members will be honored at 12 p.m. We hope many of our members will be in attendance. The Ruth Club Breakfast to honor Grand Ruth will be held earlier at the East Gate Temple. The visit of the DDGM to our chapter will be February 8th and Friendship Night is planned for June 14th.

Please remember to keep us informed of illness, deaths and happy events. You may call Lois Patten, secretary at 816-318-9808 or Holly Johnson, Worthy Matron at 816-679-7604.

Lois Patten, Secretary

(CONT. PAGE 9)

ROYAL ARCH MASONS

MARK SCHMIDT EXALTED



(Oct 15) EC **Mark Schmidt** (center) was initiated and exalted to the sublime degree of Royal Arch Mason, along with nine other companions. The courtesy degrees were conferred at Independence Chapter 12 which met at Independence Temple. Independence Chapter did the courtesy degrees for Wm F Kuhn, Ivanhoe, Wyoming, East Gate, Grandview, Kansas City and Orient Chapter RAM. EC Mark is the newest member of Wm F Kuhn Chapter Nr 139, which meets the first Tuesday each month at Swope Park Temple.



(Nov 2) The 88th Installation of officers for the Wm F Kuhn Chapter 139 Royal Arch Masons was conducted at the November regular stated meeting. 2010/11 officers are: High Priest, **Charles Farris**, King, **Steve Anderson**, Scribe, **John Arterburn**; Treasurer, **Mike Luellen**; Secretary, **Jim Payne**; Captain of the Host, **Ken Best**; Royal Arch Captain, **Melvin Tacke**; Master of the Third Veil, **Frank Chester**; Master of the Second Veil, **Mark Schmidt**; Sentinel, **Bill Rogers** and Chaplain, **Harry Brown**. Installing High Priest was DDGHP **George Duncan** and Installing Marshal was GCEC Captain of the Host **Roy Thomas**.

William F Kuhn Royal Arch Chapter 139 meet the first Tuesday each month at Swope Park Masonic Temple. Membership is open to all Master Masons who wish further light in Free Masonry though the York Rite. Initiation fee is \$ 45 and annual dues \$ 30. For further information, contact Jim Payne, Chapter Secretary (816) 223 6068 email DSMAZDAD@Yahoo.com

NEW NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

RWB Larry Cameron

Brethren, I am happy to announce that your lodge will be using a new notification system to alert resident members to all of the lodge meetings, degree work and special events. Brethren living out of town will not be alerted. The system is called "Calling Post" and will announce "You are receiving a call from Swope Park Lodge" and then you will hear a pre-recorded message from your Worshipful Master announcing the activity to take place, where, when and the time. It will also leave the message on your answering service, the length not to exceed 55 seconds. This service will commence in the later part of January, so don't be alarmed when you hear from us. Also in the near future there will be a web site of the "Calendar of Events" for all Masonic Organizations meeting at our temple. You will be notified when it is up and running. Finally brethren, there are many of you who have been away from your lodge for many years and we would love to see you in lodge once again. We are now an extremely active lodge and need more help from our brethren. We need more men to learn the ritual, more to work for the "Veterans Christmas", more to assist in the "Rambler Publications", more to assist in "Building Maintenance", more to assist in the kitchen for special event dinners...etc. In short brethren, regardless of your interests, there is something that every brother can do to make Swope Park Lodge even better. I know that many of you have been away from your lodge for many years and have become "rusty" on how to enter lodge and have forgotten some of the key things required. Please do not let that keep you away. There are many of us that would be happy to refresh your memory in what is required. Just show up with your dues card in hand and you will feel like you have never been away. Enjoy the Masonic Fellowship and the fine refreshments served after every meeting. I sincerely hope to greet every one of you.



SWOPE PARK INSTALLATION



(Oct 14) A belated installation was conducted for (left to right) Bro. **Jim Lowman**, Senior Steward, RWB **Paul Miller**, Senior Deacon and RWB **Larry Cameron**, Chaplain. Brother Lowman was out of town during the regular installation held Oct.2 at which RWB Miller was Installing Master and RWB Cameron the Installing Marshal. This completes the 2010-11 Swope Park Lodge Nr 617 Officer line with all eleven positions filled.

MASONIC HOME HALLOWEEN PARTY



(Oct 18) Shown above, residents of the MO Masonic Home participating in the 4th annual Halloween party hosted by our WM F Kuhn chapter DeMolay. Bro. Danny Best, PMC, reported over 40 children came in costume to celebrate with several residents attending. Gifts, treats and refreshments were supplied from donations given the DeMolay chapter by Swope Park Chapter OES and Swope Park Lodge Nr 617. Additionally, the DeMolay Chapter presented the Masonic Home with a \$150 donation to support the care and upkeep of the birds enjoyed by the residents in the building main room

MASONIC HOME CHRISTMAS VISIT

(Dec 20) WM **Charles Farris**, (behind Sister Coffey) RWB **Larry Cameron**, (top left) WB **Ken Best**, (kneeling left) WB **Jim Payne** (top right) and Masonic Home Rep. Bro. **Jim O'Shea** (kneeling right) visited Sister **Delores Coffey**, our Adoptee, and left a little bit of Christmas cheer. Sister Delores is a sixty year OES member, Past Worthy Matron, DDGM and Grand Chapter Representative to Puerto Rico, having served in the later capacity in 2000. Sister Coffey also did volunteer work teaching ceramics at the Masonic Home prior to being admitted as a resident. She is still very active in ceramic work and also loves to sew and cross stitch.

Swope Park Lodge Family Christmas Outing



(Dec 12) Several Swope Park Lodge Brothers, their ladies and family members ventured to the Quality Hill Playhouse on a brisk Sunday afternoon for a performance of "Christmas in Song". The performance of secular and modern Christmas Carols definitely put all in the Christmas Spirit. Following the performance, J. Kent Barnhart, pianist and executive director of the playhouse, returned to the stage, thanked them for coming to the show and posed with the group for a picture. This was the third year of attendance for the "Christmas in Song" performance.

Submitted by WB Charles Farris

SWOPE PARK MASONIC FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY



(Dec 10) Members of the Swope Park Masonic family and guests enjoyed a Christmas party downstairs in Shotwell Hall. WM Farris welcomed everyone with a Holiday greeting. A pot luck dinner was enjoyed by all. Following the dinner, there were presents under the tree for all the children and a visit from Santa Clause. The Temple building fund also got a very nice Christmas gift from the proceeds of a white elephant auction of donated wrapped presents, which made the bidding more fun and interesting. It was an evening of Masonic fellowship and good conversation. We all left with a feeling of Christmas cheer.

JOB'S DAUGHTERS BETHEL NR. 1 INSTALLATION



(Dec 10) Outgoing Honor Queen **Samantha Keller** presided over the obligation of the incoming officers. It was well attended by members of Swope Park Chapter 520 Eastern Star, Swope Park Lodge Nr. 617, Wm F. Kuhn Chapter 139 Royal Arch Masons, and the Wm F Kuhn DeMolay Chapter. The DeMolay Chapter provided an Arch of Steel for the Honor Queen and her father, Brother **James Parkinson**, though which to approach the East. It was a very impressive ceremony. Once Honor Queen Madison was in the East, she was presented with many gifts from several visitors and representatives of the Masonic Family. Elected officers are: Honored Queen **Madison Parkinson**; Junior Princess **Ashley Otte**; Guide, **Josie Rahberger**. The appointed officers are: Chaplain - **Alexis Parkinson**; Treasurer - **Tina Anders**; First Messenger - **Amanda Smith**; Third Messenger - **Alejandra Burciaga**; Fourth Messenger - **Samantha Keller**; Librarian - **McKenzie Vonderaha**; Inner Guard - **Victoria O'Dell**; Installing officer: Installing Guide - **Hannah Socha**; Installing Marshall - **Victoria Socha**; Installing Recorder - **Connie Best**; Installing Chaplain - **Kaarin Hoogstraten**; Installing Sr. Custodian - **Rebecca Culver**; Installing Jr. Custodian **Meghan Culver**; Installing Flag Bearer - **Lilly Flanery**; Installing Honored Queen - **Samantha Keller**; Installing Musian **Ms. Houston**.

The New Honor Queen, Madison Parkinson, chose purple and orange as her color scheme for the reception and dance afterward.



Samantha Keller crowning Madison Parkinson (above).

(Right) Honor Queen Madison escorted by her father, Bro. James Parkinson, to the East under an Arch of Steel provided by the DeMolay chapter men.

Submitted by Bro. Mark Schmidt

DEGREE WORK

JASON NEWCOMER, MASTER MASON



3 GENERATIONS IN SWOPE PARK

(Oct 14) Brother **Jason Newcomer** (center) was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason as the first candidate for the degrees in this new Masonic year with WB **Charles Farris** in the East. WB Farris (left) obligated Bro. Newcomer assisted by WB **Jim Payne**, (second from left) Newcomer's maternal grandfather, as Senior Deacon, Bro. **Russ Newcomer** (right) the candidate's father, as Senior Steward and Bro. **C.J. Newcomer** (far right) paternal grandfather, as Junior Steward. RWB **Dennis Spears** raised Brother Jason in the second section of the degree, assisted by WB Payne, who had the honor of raising his grandson. RWB **David Colburn** (second row, left) gave the Lecture and RWB **Paul Miller** (second row, right) gave the Charge. Bro. Russ and Bro C.J. Newcomer conducted the candidate through his first two degrees earlier, and WB Jim Payne, obligated him in those degrees. We had a turnout of 28 Brethren, thanks in a large part to Alpha Lodge Nr. 355, who is always so very supportive in coming down for work in the Third Degree. Many thanks to WB **Al Moss**, Master, WB's **Robert Van Vector**, **Larry Moss** and **Russ Krueger**! Your Brethren exemplify what Masonry is all about!



In Memoriam

Marion Bybee
Born Nov 2 1918
Raised Nov 26 1949
Passed away Oct 4 2010

Cletus M. Losh
Born June 21 1925
Raised May 19 1948
Passed away Dec 9, 2010

COURTESY DEGREE CONFERRAL INITIATED THREE NEW EA MASONS



(Nov 10, 2010) Swope Park Lodge #617 did courtesy work for the Kansas City Lodge 220 helping initiate three new members into the Masonic Fraternity as Entered Apprentices. Brother **Emanuel Vance Thomas** (left front) was obligated by WB **Kenny Best**. Brother **Brandon Franklin Haller** (front center) was obligated by WB **Mel Tacke**. Brother **Justin Lake Whedan** (front right) was obligated by WB **Charles Farris**. All three received their charge and lecture and charge from RWB **Paul Miller**, DDGL. Many Brethren from the Kansas City Lodge 220 were in attendance and helped with the

degrees. There was a nice meal provided by the Kansas City lodge 220 prior to the degree work. The lodge was closed after the degrees were completed with peace and harmony prevailing.

Front Row: Bro. Thomas, Bro. Haller and Bro. Whedan. Back row: WB Kenny Best, WB Charlie Farris, WB Mel Tacke, and RWB Paul Miller, DDGL.

Submitted by Bro. Mark T. Schmidt, Associate Editor

Community Service

Swope Park Lodge Donates Sleeping Bags To VA Hospital



(Left) WM **Charlie Farris**, **Melissa Jacobson**, Chief of Volunteer Services at the Kansas City Veteran's Hospital, and WB **Kenny Best** with one of the twenty-five sleeping bag donated to the hospital for homeless vets (Right) Surrounded by the many blankets and sleeping bags they manufacture, **Betty Jones** (l) and **Darlene Pollard** (r), take a break, prior to starting on another bag.

(Nov 15), WM **Charles Farris** and WB **Kenny Best** presented **Melissa Jacobson**, Chief of Volunteer Services at the Kansas City Veteran's Hospital, with 25 sleeping bags to be given to homeless veterans in the Kansas City area. Ms Jacobson thanked the Lodge for the donation and said the sleeping bags would be greatly appreciated by the area's homeless veterans. The sleeping bags were made by Ms. **Darlene Pollard** and Ms. **Betty Jones** at the East Side Church of Christ in Lee's Summit, Mo., from remnants donated by a North Kansas City, Mo manufacturer. They said that each sleeping bag takes approximately one hour to complete.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR.....UPCOMING TEMPLE EVENTS

- January 29 4 PM** William F. Kuhn Installation with Chevalier Degree to follow.
- February 12 1:00 PM** Lodge Sweetheart Dinner
- February 26** William F. Kuhn Sweetheart Corination of new Sweetheart
- March 12 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM** Temple Open House
- March 19 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM** DeMolay Potato Bash

The Rambler is the official quarterly newsletter published for Swope Park Masonic Temple Appendant bodies to communicate the activities of the organizations meeting there. Articles and photos are earnestly solicited. Please place in The Rambler's box in the vestibule outside the lodge room or you may E-mail to dsmazdad@yahoo.com. We reach 425 households. To advertise, call 223 6068

Community Service

SWOPE PARK LODGE #617 DONATES QUILTED BEDSPREADS TO KANSAS CITY HOMELESS



(Dec 10) WM Charles Farris, assisted by RWB Larry Cameron, WB Kenny Best and WB Jim Payne, loaded 90 quilted bedspreads in a van and distributed them to three worthy charities to ward off the cold weather this winter. First stop was ReStart Inc. at 9th & Harrison, which provides emergency shelter for single men, women and children on a temporary basis.

Shown left, is WM Charles Farris presenting 30 bedspreads to Ms. Brenda Rand, Facilities Director, with (l to r) RWB Sammy Rhoades, WB Jim Payne, RWB Larry Cameron and WB Kenny Best. Behind WB Farris is Mrs. Darlene Pollard, the coordinator of volunteers of the East Side Church of Christ, Lee’s Summit, Mo, who made the bedspreads. RWB Rhoades, a member of Kansas City Lodge #220, facilitated obtaining the materials for the ladies to make the spreads and put Swope Park Lodge in contact with the ReStart Program operations management.

Next stop was the ReStart Inc. 8th and Paseo Homeless Shelter. This facility provides transitional housing for up to 20 families for up to 24 months. **Shown right**, is WM Farris and Darlene Pollard presenting 30 bedspreads to Ms. Mary Yount, Site Manager, with RWB Cameron, RWB Rhoades and WB Best assisting.



The last stop was at the City Union Mission. **Shown left**, (l to r), RWB Rhoades, RWB Cameron, kneeling, Mr. Ed DeLapp, WB Best, WM Farris, WB Payne, Mrs. Pollard and Mr. Ernie Pollard. Mr. DeLapp a City Union Mission Site Director, received 30 bedspreads on behalf of the Mission. Not shown is Ms. Laurie Grant, City Union Mission Media Director, who took the picture.

SWOPE PARK TEMPLE ANNUAL VA HOSPITAL CHRISTMAS EVENT

(Dec 17 & 18) Friday night (photo to the right) found fifteen various members of the Swope Park Masonic Family at the Lodge assembling 100 gift bags for distribution to hospitalized veterans at the Kansas City Veteran’s Hospital. Included in this year’s gift bags were socks, a stocking cap, a toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss, oranges, bananas and a letter from the Lodge thanking them for their service. Saturday morning, this group plus 6 others, returned to the Lodge, loaded the gift bags and 10 quilts into their cars and then delivered them to the hospital. The patients receiving the gift bags were very surprised and thankful, as was the hospital staff. This is the fourth consecutive year for this project and has grown every year since instituted. Masonic bodies represented were, William F. Kuhn Chapter DeMolay, Bethel 1 Job’s Daughters, William F. Kuhn Chapter 139 Royal Arch Masons, Swope Park Chapter 520 Order Eastern Star and Swope Park Lodge #617.



Photo left, Santa’s helpers from the Swope Park Masonic bodies line up in the lobby of the VA hospital for a group picture before distributing Christmas cheer and gift bags to the patients.

Submitted by WB Charles Farris

SWOPE PARK LODGE

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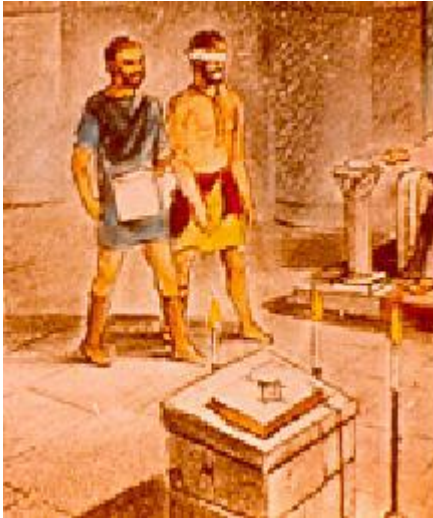
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WHAT COME YOU HERE TO DO?

Bro. Mark Schmidt



Why do you come here? What do you want? What will you learn?

Those are three questions I found hand written on a faded piece of tattered paper in a box. My father passed away in 1994, my mother is still with us and fast approaching 90. I was helping her go through boxes of documents and "junk", as she called it, for a garage sale. I had opened an old Swisher's cigar box with my dad's name written on it on it in faded magic marker. There were no other markings. I was enjoying the walk down memory lane when I found this. My mother and I had found several things that had us laughing and remembering my teenage years that were also in the box. What made this piece of paper stand out? It was paper clipped to an entered apprentice card that was almost fading to nothing. Any way, that is how it appeared to me. I asked my mom about this piece of paper and its questions. She said I had to remember that at the time dad was a member, the Mason's rarely, if ever, spoke about their lodge or its activities. My dad was no different, she said, so she had no clue what it was about. It has been a couple months now since I found that piece of paper and I have thought about those questions. I think whether they had a direct meaning to his Masonic membership or not, they are as appropriate now as they would have been when he was an Entered Apprentice in the early 1950's. It is my belief that they dealt with either the investigation or with my father's first degree work. To a certain point, they are questions that need to be asked even today in some form. As I have sat and watched the study club and the

regular communications take place, these questions have come back to me several times. It appears to me that the regular attending membership is graying fairly quickly. No offense is meant to the membership. While I have seen well over ten new members come in since I became a Mason, I have observed only a couple of these new members attend more than once. Those I see on a regular basis are all older, long term dedicated Brethren. Every time I witness this, it takes me back to those questions on that faded paper. So, here are some thoughts and opinions. When we do an investigation, and I have never done one mind you, are we asking the right questions? I am asking this because it seems to me that a lot of the members join and move on. Membership in the Blue Lodge and reaching the sublime degree of MM seems to be, for some, only a stepping stone to the Scottish or York Rites and/or to membership in the Shrine. Once that is attained they rarely, if ever, come back to the Blue Lodge. What this has achieved from what I can tell, is to produce a younger average age for the other Masonic bodies while affecting the Blue Lodge average age of those in attendance to gray. This is some detrimental to the Blue Lodge. While it is easy to be satisfied with their collected dues and participation in all that they do to help on an irregular basis, is that necessarily good for our Blue Lodge? Why do you come here? That is a really good place to start. For me it was to honor a promise to my father made many years back. It was also to complete something to which I felt drawn. I know of two potential future members who are currently in high school, fast approaching the age of membership who are disposed to join the lodge in order to gain membership into the Scottish Rite. They have asked me about how to move from the Blue lodge into the big temple downtown. This truly bothers me, Brethren. It strikes me as having an eroding effect before they even join. Is there a solution? I do not really know. Whatever solution is found, it will have to be something that comes from within our own lodge. What do you want? Another question I feel needs to be asked.. I know that it was not asked of me. There are many different reasons to join an organization. They can range from perceived power to just wanting to belong to something. I think it behooves us to look at what is motivating the membership in the first place. This motivation can be at the root of the lack of participation by some members, who, once they reach the sublime degree of MM, move on and don't come back. But this question, as it was written on that old piece of paper, can take on many different forms: What do you expect from membership? What do you expect from the members themselves, or what do you expect being to obtain by being a member of the fraternity?. Motivation is an amazing factor in how a person interacts within the lodge. So it is just my thought; if we know what truly motivates them, going hand in hand with the why they are coming to the lodge, we can thereby ascertain the best way to get them involved on a regular basis. What will you learn? Now, that one still has me stumped.. I say this based on my experience. While I had some clues as to what Masonry was about, until you reach the sublime degree of MM, you really do not get a sense of what all you it is about and how your life can change for the better through involvement. So how can we as Masons express what they can learn? It seems this is a question that we should ask and then answer it for them. Well, these are my thoughts. We have a great lodge and a great core group of dedicated members.. Many of us want to be actively involved but have conflicting family and work commitments at times. To those that just move on as soon as they can, we need to have a way to bring them back into the Blue lodge on a regular basis. Regular stated communications should be more than reading the minutes and paying the bills. When degree work is not being held, there should be a Masonic education program to stimulate the new members interest and participation in the Craft.

My conclusion is that we need to come up with a solution, and that solution lies within each of us.

SWOPE PARK MASONIC BODIES MEETINGS DATE, TIME and CONTACTS

Swope Park Lodge Nr 617 AF & AM Second and Fourth Thursdays 7:30 PM Ken Best, Secretary Phone 965 5261
Swope Park Order Eastern Star Chapter 520 Third Tuesday each month 7:30 PM Lois Patton, Secretary phone 318 0808
Job's Daughters Bethel Nr 1 and Jobie-2-Bees Second and Fourth Mondays 7:30 PM Jayna Walden, Bethel Guardian phone 645 0544
Wm F. Kuhn Chapter DeMolay First and Third Thursdays 7:30 PM Gary Dryer, Chapter Advisor Phone 763 9494
Squires of the Round Table First and Third Thursdays 7:30 PM Tammy Laughlin, Adult Advisor phone 304 2353
Wm F Kuhn Royal Arch Masons Chapter 139 First Tuesday 7:30 PM Jim Payne, Secretary 223 6068
SWOPE PARK TEMPLE STUDY CLUB Wednesdays 7:30 PM Paul Miller, DDGL & Coach Phone 886 0066

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

On the twenty-seventh day of December, Freemasons celebrate the festival of one of their patron saints, the loving Evangelist. In the earlier history of the Craft, Freemasons were specially remarkable for their observance of these anniversaries. A hearty appreciation of the full significance attached to them, made the times and seasons, the new moons and the full moons, the solstices and the equinoxes, occasions not merely for the interchange of fraternal greetings, but opportunities for the acquisition of solid Masonic knowledge, and for the cultivation and strengthening of those great precepts of Freemasonry, Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. That the celebration of the festivals of our patron saints, while still very generally observed, has lost much of its value, is as true as it is unfortunate. Nothing can tend more to the diffusion and prevalence of a pure Masonic spirit than the right appreciation of the characters of the two Saints John; nothing can better stir us up to the acquisition of that right appreciation than the due and proper observance of their annual festivals. Whether the Saints John were really Masons or not has been a subject of controversy, and is still a matter of doubt. Tradition tells us that they belonged to the sect of the Essenes, according to Josephus, one of the sects into which the people of Judea were divided, and among whom it is said, John the Baptist was brought up, acquiring among them that sturdy force of character, and that simplicity of dress and diet for which he was remarkable. Those Essenes were a secret association, by many held to be the same as the ancient Masons who built the temple, but who at this time had become rather a body of philosophers than of operative architects and builders, and in this respect more closely resembling the speculative Masons of the present day. Although less numerous than either of the others, the Essenes were regarded as being quite as much "a sect" of the Jews as the Sadducees or Pharisees. Josephus tells us that they lived the same kind of life as do those whom the Greeks call Pythagorians. They were a distinct brotherhood, holding their property in common for the common good. The same authority tells us that before any one was admitted to the sect, he is obliged to take tremendous oaths, that in the first place he will exercise piety towards God, and observe justice towards men; do no harm to any one, either of his own accord, or by the command of others; that he will always hate the wicked, and be an assistant to the righteous; that he will ever show fidelity to all men, and especially to those in authority; because no one obtains the government without God's assistance; that if he be in authority he will at no time whatever abuse his authority, nor endeavor to out-shine his subjects either in his garments or other finery; that he will be perpetually a lover of truth, and reprove those that tell lies; that he will keep his hand from theft, and his soul from unlawful gains; that he will neither conceal anything from those of his own sect, nor discover any of their doctrines to others. No! not though any one should compel him so to do at the hazard of his life. Moreover he swears to communicate their doctrines to no one any otherwise than as he received them himself; that he will abstain from robbing, and will equally preserve the books belonging to their sect, and the names of their angels or messengers." The Saints John are said to have been not only members of the Essenian fraternity, but to have been priests and rulers among them; and hence it is, according to some writers, that they became patrons of the order of Freemasonry. Another writer tells us that under the reign of the Caesars, Freemasonry though surviving, languished; there was no system and but little coherence. At this juncture, our traditions tell us, the fraternity feeling the want of a head, under whom, the Craft might be united, called upon St. John, the Evangelist, to act as Grand Master. He replied, that though well stricken in years, being then over four score years of age, as he had been in early life initiated into the Order, he would consent to serve, and since his day, Masonic Lodges which were dedicated to King Solomon, have been dedicated to the Saints John, both of whom, we learn by our traditions, were patrons of the Order, and hence arises our custom of holding our anniversaries upon the festivals of these two Christian Saints. The symbol, as our readers will remember, is the circle bounded by two parallel lines, representing, according to ancient traditions, the limit of the sun's apparent course to the northward and southward of the equator, constituting the winter and summer solstices, or the shortest and longest days of the year. These days fall respectively, upon the 22nd December, and 21st June. Freemasons, professing the Christian religion, being anxious to continue the celebration of those festivals which had become landmarks, and finding that the anniversary of the natal of those two saints fell near those days, and being desirous to connect their names with an institution, whose delight it was to emulate their virtues, they naturally, by allowing the lapse of a few days, came to celebrate the anniversaries of those two saints, and eventually to adopt them as their patrons. But important and interesting as are these inquiries to the studious antiquarian in Masonic lore, with Masons generally it is sufficient to know that in their patron saints, however they came to be recognized as such, we have exemplars whom it is our highest interest and our most bounden duty to emulate. In St. John the Evangelist, whose anniversary we shall in a few days be called upon to celebrate, we have the very embodiment of love, and of brotherly fellowship. No one can read his epistles without feeling in the presence of a great and loving teacher. How strikingly does he portray the great duty, the first cardinal duty of the Mason, brotherly love. He that with he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goes, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes. And again, This is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Throughout all his writings the same pure spirit is manifested, the same soft, almost womanly affection, that earned for him the well deserved name of the beloved disciple. But not only do we imbibe from the Evangelist the spirit of brotherly love, we have also the great duty of fidelity, and bold unflinching courage in the maintenance of the right, presented to us in his character. When this holy and intrepid man was singled out by the bloody tyrant Domitian, for proscription and exile, how calmly and boldly did he face his destiny, his spirit undaunted, his spiritual vision undimmed, his faith reaching from earth to heaven, mounting upon the wings of hope to the realms of immortality. His place of exile, the island of Patmos, was just the spot that a cruel mature like that of Domitian would select for the exile home of the good old man. Situated in the Aegean sea, between two continents, it was a picture of sterility and desolation. The winds sang a mournful dirge amid its barren hills. The ocean surge foamed and hissed around its dreary coast. Yet even here the brave, the truly great man improves calamity for his own and his fellow's good. He converted his dreary island home into a temple, wherein became audible to his prophetic ear the voice of the ever living God.

And thence we have those bright visions of a future immortality which are revealed in the revelations of St. John. How grand an example have we in this truly great and good man. How well entitled was he to be selected as the patron saint of an institution whose highest teachings are but a reflex of his own, whose highest ambition is but to emulate his virtues. How worthy the earnest effort of every man and mason, to follow in the footsteps of the holy Evangelist. When we celebrate the festival of his natal day, may we all remember his bright record, and learn to live more and more to attain to the perfection of his exalted virtues.

History of Swope Park Lodge The First 100 Years – Part II

WB Charles A Farris

Master's Trestle Board (cont. from page one)

This is the Lodge's Centennial Year and I am looking forward to a Temple Picnic in the Spring. There will be a rededication of the Lodge in June by MWB Gail Turner, Grand Master of the State of Missouri, in honor of our 100th year. We look forward to his visit and invite all members of the Masonic Family to attend. More information on this event will be forthcoming.

Swope Park Lodge will be the location of the first District School of Instruction on Wednesday, January 19th at 7 PM. This will be the first of five District Schools to be held on consecutive Wednesday evenings. Subsequent school locations are: Ivanhoe Lodge #446, January 26th; Kansas City Lodge #220, February 2nd; Alpha Lodge #659, February 9th; and Country Club Lodge #656 on February 16th. All District Schools will begin at 7 PM. Swope Park Lodge will also be host to a Regional School of Instruction conducted by RWB Randy Jones, Grand Lecturer in May. All Master Masons are encouraged to attend these schools, as they are informative, help us improve our ritual, allow us to make new friends and meet old ones, encourage cooperation between lodges and earn points for the Grand Lodge Achievement Award.

Remember that Swope Park Lodge is not my Lodge, it is our Lodge. If you have a suggestion for an event or project, don't be bashful. Bring it up at Lodge and we'll try make it happen. As you can see, we are becoming more active in the community as a Lodge. Come out and enjoy the satisfaction it brings to your heart. I look forward to meeting and greeting you at the Lodge.

Yours in Faith,

Charlie, WM

A Book Review

The Builders by Joseph Newton

I have been spending time reading and review many of different sources of Masonic history and information. One book that has come up a lot in this process is the book *The Builders*. It is written by a Minister and a Mason that took it upon himself to write a book for the Iowa Grand Lodge to be given out to new Master Masons as a tool and informative guide for them as they reach the start of their true journey in Freemasonry. One of the main things critics point out is that the author was financially supported in the process of writing this book by the Grand Lodge.

When you start this book plan on taking your time in reading this author's words - they are written with great care and from a very wise man of the mid 20th century. I state to take your time because the language usage is from the turn of the century of the 20th Century. Some of it seems slow and cumbersome. I highly recommend if you feel bogged down to just work through it, it will be worth your time. It is a scholarly and approachable look into the Freemasonry that can be enlightening to both a practicing Mason as to just a curious person outside of Freemasonry. I think the best way to describe it is a general study, or better yet survey of Masonry that delves into its origins and Philosophy

(continued column 2, page 9)

The history of the years from 1936 to 1961 is sketchy at best. For whatever reason, possibly due to World War II and the Korean War, record keeping was not the priority of the lodge. Therefore, this second twenty five years of the Lodge is short and sweet.

On May 28, 1936, through Brother L. N. Plank, the Lodge was presented with a silk Masonic Apron by Mr. W. H. Gibbens. Being a direct descendant of Worshipful Brother John Matlock, a Past Master of Masons in Indiana, it had been handed down to him through the succeeding generations by that honorable brother who received it from the Territorial Governor of Indiana in 1815, in recognition of valuable Masonic service WB Matlock rendered in the Territory of Indiana. It was painted by Mrs. W. H. Carpenter of Cincinnati, a noted Indian Artist. It was preserved and hung in the lobby of the Lodge. Over time, the apron was lost, its whereabouts unknown.

Effective September 2, 1944, Swope Park Lodge No. 617, A.F. & A. M., moved from 60th and Swope Parkway to 1115 E. 47th Street. On August 4, 1949, the Lodge dedicated their new hall at 2704 Linwood Boulevard.

On January 1, 1950, dues were raised from \$6.00 to \$7.00 annually. Three years later dues were raised again to \$7.50 annually. January 1, 1960, found the fees for the three degrees raised from \$61.00 to \$76.00 and dues were raised to \$10 annually.

On May 11, 1961, the question was raised as to when Swope Park Lodge was instituted. After considerable research, it was ascertained that the Lodge's Charter was dated September 28, 1911. Being the 50th year of the Lodge's existence, it was decided to hold a proper celebration and invite dignitaries of the Grand Lodge. A banquet was served in the Ivanhoe Masonic Temple, Linwood and Park, Kansas City, MO at 6:30 PM on September 30, 1961. Most Worshipful Brother Robert H. Mann, Grand Master, was the principal speaker.

A Book Review (cont. from column 1 page 9)

Newton takes a rationalist view and stays clear of too much dogma. He starts his journey of examining the historical aspects of Masonry in Egypt and move through the eras up to the early 20th Century when this was published. He takes time to examine the two tier system that would eventually led to multiple tiers and finally to what is now the Modern Freemasonry. The best way to look at this book, from my perspective as a newer member of the fraternity, is he tells our story of freemasonry from our perspective in a way that makes any audience reading it gain a better understanding.

Go on and read this small book from cover to cover. Loan it to a non-mason then and if their life's search leads them to an outer door of a Masonic structure, they will have the courage and knowledge to knock and begin their journey toward enlightenment and wisdom as those of us already involved have.

Contributed by Bro. Mark Schmidt

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