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# THE WAYFARER

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PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. OF MINNESOTA

## OUR SACRED BODY MAKES GOOD MEN BETTER

From: WM Gerry Robison

A lot of you know by now that I get quite a kick out of our Masonic Rituals. I've been fortunate enough to have been able to sit in the East for all three Blue Lodge degrees. It's been quite an experience and an enormous honor. I like pretty much everything about the degrees: the pomp, the ceremony, the history, the Obligation, etc. It's not just the effort that goes into the floor work or working through the cipher that is most interesting, rather it's what I learn from spending the time and effort to try and understand it well enough to, first get the wording right, but more importantly, try to get the feeling of the ceremony right.

On October 14th, Minnesota River Valley Lodge #6 did our first Master Mason Degree in 12 months. I'm very proud to say that all of the parts, 2nd and 3rd lecture aside, were filled by your brothers from #6. First, thanks to those who made the practices, learned the lines, made suggestions, and helped their brothers do the same. It was great to see the progress from the first practice to the degree. To see the ritual morph from a jumble of parts to the solemn Master Mason degree was quite an experience.

Another thing I enjoy about the degree work doesn't even happen during the degree itself.

As our brothers make their comments to candidates, more often than not, they speak about their own view of our fraternity. They talk about it in a way that probably isn't replicated outside of the ritual environment. They speak from their heart, as they try to infuse our newer brother with the zeal and passion that they have for Masonry. I wouldn't presume to try and explain how they say it. Trust me, it's clear that they truly believe our sacred body makes Good Men Better. I challenge each of you to attend some of the ritual work that is done around the metro. Pay attention to the comments made to the brothers while they are being congratulated and advised before the Lodge is actually closed. For me, it's quite an eye-opener.

What comes out of that experience is a deeper understanding of what we are obligating ourselves to. When you read the lines over and over in an attempt to engrain them in your mind, you begin to get a different feeling about the obligations you've taken. You see nuances that weren't there the first forty times you ran through them. And though I make no claim to

any acting proficiency, when you get the lines down and begin to see the picture beyond the back-and-forth of the lines, a story begins to emerge that just wasn't there at the start. What I think I mean is that there is magic in the degrees. Basic life lessons, but magic nonetheless. In the insanity that can dominate our world, what we have in our craft is an island of good intentions, fraternal goodwill, and brotherly support. I encourage everyone to periodically reread your Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason Obligations. After mastering the cipher, see if you can see the deeper meaning. I hope you can.

Finally, I'd like to say thank you. Going through the chairs at MRVL #6 has been a pleasure and an honor. Each year was as good as the previous, culminating in the East. I learned from all of you. From the youngest Entered Apprentice in the Northeast corner to the Masters who have presided in the East and all in between. My year in the East is coming to a close. There have been some hits, some misses, but always much happiness. Through it all, I knew I could count on each one of you to help me and, when necessary, take me by the Peculiar Grip and guide me. Thank you all.

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## OES REPORT

Renaissance Chapter #313 Celebrates With Grand Visitors and Honors Long-Standing Members

On September 21, 2023, Renaissance Chapter #313 hosted an esteemed gathering featuring the Grand Family, where the Worthy Grand Matron, Patron, and the majority of Grand Officers graced the event with their presence. In a heartfelt tribute, Grand Esther and chapter member Josephine Smith were honored amidst accolades and gifts, a testament to her valued contributions.

The chapter's observance of Rob Morris Night, an annual celebration held in September, saw members renewing their obligations in a ceremonious tradition. Adding to the festivities, October 1st marked a special fundraiser at the lodge, headlined

by Mid-America's country music stalwart, Sherwin Linton, and his wife Pam. The event, complete with a pre-show dessert table, was met with resounding enjoyment by an appreciative audience. Continuing the momentum into October, the chapter honored Janice Millford's impressive 50-year membership milestone and the station of Ruth.

Distinguished Ruth's from the past and present were recognized and gifted in a display of deep appreciation. The presence of two past Grand Ruth's further highlighted the meeting's significance, marking yet another chapter in Renaissance Chapter #313's storied legacy.

# From The West: Perseverance vs Obstinace

"The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one comes from a strong will, and the other from a strong won't. This is a thought-provoking quote that can be examined from a Freemason's perspective in the context of our teachings and principles. Freemasonry places great emphasis on moral and ethical development, self-improvement, and the pursuit of truth:

Perseverance and the Strong Will: In Freemasonry, the concept of perseverance aligns with the idea of steadfast commitment to one's personal and moral growth. A Freemason's journey is one of continuous self-improvement, both in character and conduct. This path requires a strong will, driven by a desire to become a better individual and contribute positively to society. Freemasons believe that by persevering in their efforts to live virtuous lives and uphold their moral principles, they can make a positive impact on the world around them. This perseverance stems from a deep-seated determination to follow the Masonic values of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

Obstinacy and the Strong Won't: Conversely, obstinacy represents a rigid and inflexible attitude that Freemasonry discourages. Freemasons are encouraged to be open-minded, to seek knowledge, and to be willing to adjust their beliefs and actions when confronted with better ways of living virtuously.

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## Time Flies When You're Having Fun

This has been quite the year and it's kind of amazing we are already planning for next year. Time flies when you're having fun. And boy has my year been filled with fun. Youngest graduated high school. I had a cruise in the Caribbean at the end of winter, visited Europe this spring and traveled to Wisconsin, Iowa, and Portland this summer and then visited Philadelphia for my XXth reunion as autumn arrived. Kind of glad to sit in Minnesota for a few minutes.

Not that I got to do a lot of sitting last Saturday morning as we raised two new Master Masons. Friendship and Brotherly Love are two of the important lessons in this degree and it was on display after the degree was conferred when one of the newly raised Brethren turned to the other and said he was glad to go through it with another as his other degrees had been solo.

I was struck by this as I had gone through the degrees solo and so it was all I had ever known until I joined Lodge #3 in Philadelphia and saw my first multi-candidate degree. I had never thought of going through a degree with another candidate as being desirous one way or the other. Not that I think less of "sharing" a degree but it never occurred to me that sense of Brotherhood which can grow out of such a shared experience.

Indeed, shared experience is the basis of so much of what we do. We all experienced the degrees and have some common ground. We all try to exemplify the principles of Freemasonry, and that is also common ground.

As we are coming to the end of the year there are a lot of opportunities to share even more experiences. We have the Table Lodge coming up as well as the Installation of Officers as we end the year. We have some important votes coming up in the Lodge as well. It would be nice to share that with all of you.

Br. Jay Moran

The strong won't can prevent them from evolving and adapting, which goes against the core Masonic values of growth and enlightenment.

Balance and Wisdom: From a Freemason's perspective, finding the balance between perseverance and obstinacy is essential. Freemasonry encourages its members to exercise wisdom and discernment in their pursuit of moral and ethical growth. This wisdom allows Freemasons to distinguish between situations that require unwavering commitment to their principles and those that call for flexibility and adaptation.

So, The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one comes from a strong will, and the other from a strong won't is a reminder to Freemasons that the path to moral and ethical development is a journey of perseverance driven by a strong will, tempered by an open mind, and balanced by wisdom. It emphasizes the importance of remaining committed to one's principles while being receptive to growth and change when necessary, avoiding the trap of obstinacy born from a 'strong won't.'

Br. Joe Andrus

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

<u>Full Name</u>	<u>Anniversary Date</u>	<u>Years of Masonry</u>
Dean Brunkow	11/22/1978	45
James Heyda	12/8/1998	25
Jay Moran	11/7/2008	15

## FROM LABOR TO REFRESHMENT



Mason Wine tasting (L-R) WM Gerry Robison, Past Master Dan Ploenzke, WB. Paul Bergevin



## Masonry In The Media

Movie/TV  
Recommendation

On Netflix: **Bodies**



In our latest newsletter's recommendations for Masons seeking captivating entertainment, there's a fresh addition from Netflix that will surely pique your interest: "Bodies," a riveting new mystery thriller series. This show seamlessly intertwines elements of a crime thriller with a dash of science fiction, promising a truly engrossing viewing experience.

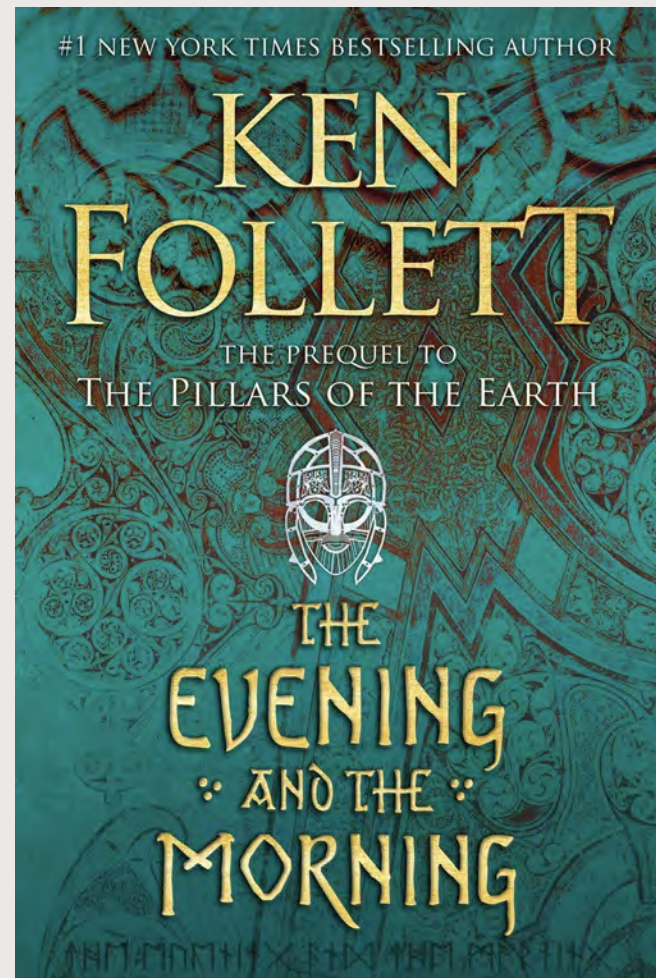
The narrative unfolds across four distinct eras, all centered in London, and involves a quartet of police detectives. Each detective is tasked with unraveling the enigmatic circumstances surrounding a death in the same shadowed alleyway. But the twist that sets "Bodies" apart is the singular, chilling constant in all the cases—the victim remains the same man, irrespective of the era.

To amplify the suspense, the series injects a time-sensitive dilemma: a bomb threat looms over London, poised to obliterate the city, which dials up the tension in the detectives' quest for answers.

"Bodies" boasts an intricate plot that's both intellectually stimulating and thrilling, much like the meticulous work of a skilled Mason. The series is also anchored by stellar performances that bring this enigmatic tale to life. It's an exemplary blend of cerebral puzzle-solving and edge-of-your-seat storytelling that I highly recommend for our brethren seeking an intriguing diversion.

Reader's Corner  
Recommendation

**The Evening and The Morning - Ken Follett**



Journey back to the twilight of the Dark Ages with Ken Follett's sweeping saga, "The Evening and the Morning." This masterful prequel to the renowned "Pillars of the Earth" series unveils a tapestry of ambition, power, and struggle, set against the stark yet stirring backdrop of a developing England.

In the year 997 CE, England faces attacks from Welsh outsiders and Viking raiders. Amidst this turbulent end to the Dark Ages, three individuals cross paths: a young boatbuilder, a noblewoman, and a cunning monk, each striving to overcome the bindings of their birth and the harsh realities of their time. Their dreams and dilemmas lay the foundation for the community of Kingsbridge.

Follett's evocative prose brings to life a time of profound change, where people are desperate to elevate their lives and secure a future for their community. They fight against the merciless nature of the era, seeking to construct a world marked by honor, revenge, love, and the relentless pursuit of power and influence.

"The Evening and the Morning" is a historical epic that captures the perilous journey of a nascent England. Brothers who appreciate intricate storytelling, richly developed characters, and the meticulous reconstruction of a historical period will find themselves engrossed in the relentless ambition and resilience of Follett's world. Witness the dawn of a new age as darkness gives way to the light of progress and human potential.



# HAPPENINGS AROUND THE LODGE

## HIRAM AWARD DINNER



Congratulations to WB Paul Bergevin on his Hiram Award. He will be celebrating on November 24th, 2023.

## MRVL TABLE LODGE



Minnesota River Valley Table Lodge will be held this December at the Lost Spur Event Center. Be Sure to RSVP.

## NEWLY RAISED MASONS



New Master Masons - Br. Matt Dundee & Br. Dylan Cartwright @ MM Degree - 10/14/2023

## Upcoming Events

- Volunteering Event: Feed My Starving Children - November 16th, 2023 (Eagan)
- Masonic Coffee - November 11th, 2023 @ 7:30am (Dunn Brothers)
- Steering Meeting - November 28th, 2023 @ 6:00pm (Lodge)
- Widow Baskets - December 2nd, 2023 @ 10:00am (Lodge)
- 2024 Officer Installation - December 16th, 2023 @ 10:00am (Lodge)



## Word of The Day: Wayfarer

**Definition:** A wayfarer is someone who travels, especially on foot. The term conjures images of an individual journeying through various terrains, experiencing the breadth of what the world has to offer. It's a timeless word that harkens back to a period when travel was about exploration and self-discovery, not just the destination.

**Etymology:** The word "wayfarer" has its roots in the Old English words "weg," meaning "road, path," and "faran," meaning "to go, move, travel, journey." It's been in use since the early 15th century, capturing the essence of travelers and pilgrims throughout history.

**Masonic Connection:** In Freemasonry, the concept of the wayfarer can be metaphorically aligned with the Masonic journey. Masons may see themselves as intellectual and spiritual wayfarers, traveling not just in the physical sense but also through the landscape of morality, philosophy, and enlightenment.

**Usage in Masonic Context:** "The Mason, a true wayfarer, seeks light upon the path of self-improvement, navigating through the symbols and allegories of the Craft to discover the deeper truths hidden within."



## From The Editor

As the editor of our esteemed newsletter, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all who contributed their insights, stories, and events for this edition. Your offerings are the lifeblood of our publication, and it is through your shared experiences that the Masonic spirit thrives amongst us.

With this issue, we embark on a new journey—much like the wayfarer, we travel not just through the pages of a publication, but through the shared journey of Masonic life. It is my hope that the fresh feel of our newsletter will resonate well with you all.

In the spirit of the wayfarer, where nothing travels faster than word, let us allow the information, stories, events, and accomplishments to traverse to the hearts and minds of our brothers, regardless of the physical miles that may lie between us. May our collective journey through these pages enrich and enlighten, bringing us closer in brotherhood and understanding.

**Fraternally Yours,**  
Br. Dylan Cartwright



*Let the improvement of yourself keep you so busy that you have no time to criticize others. - Roy T. Bennett*