

Homewood Herald

Report from the Master

Greetings Brethren

This month we will be presenting Bro Callum with his Master Masons certificate after posing the relevant questions in the third degree. Then we will have a history of Lodge Homewood presented by VWBro Warwick Metcalfe.

One of the fascinating parts I find of freemasonry is the new vocabulary that we learn. Words and phrases which seem to stick in the mind which when I think of them relate of course back to the symbolism of freemasonry.

Here are some of those from the first degree:

The word that first struck me and created a light bulb moment for me was "allegory" The meaning from the dictionary is "a story, play, poem, picture or other work in which the characters and events represent particular qualities or ideas that relate to morals"

Seems to nicely sum things up I feel!

Here are a few from the Working tools which again stick in my mind;

"knock off all superfluous knobs and excrescences from the rude material" referring to the rough stones from the quarry and moulding into shape but looking at the meaning of;

Excrescences a distinct outgrowth on a body or plant, resulting from disease or abnormality, an unattractive or superfluous object or feature.

Superfluous knobs, this refers to the use of the gavel to remove the "superfluous" bits of stone to produce the rough ashlar.

Indefatigable, always determined and energetic in trying to achieve something and never willing to admit defeat

Of course, the symbolism of the working tools is so pertinent: "that knowledge grounded in accuracy, aided by labour, and sustained by perseverance, will finally overcome all difficulties"

Armistice Day

After four terrible years, the First World War finally ended with the signing of an armistice between Germany and the Allied Powers on 11 November 1918. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the guns famously fell silent



Visits:

Wed 7th Ngatiawa-Russell, presenting 60 year jewel and kilt evening

Wed 7th Te Puni, 2nd Degree Bro Callum is attending

Sat 10th Aorangi EC Installation

Wed 21st Wellington EC 1st Degree

I am away a bit this month, so it's a shorter list but there are a few initiation ceremonies which are worth considering including Aquarius on Tuesday 6th

As this is our last meeting for the year, I would like to wish you and your families all the best for the Christmas period, stay safe and I will see you in the new year.

Ahdut Coah Hi
Worshipful Master
Craig Fraser





Movie review – A Few Good Men

Film Review: by WBro David Ryan

This is a film that for some reason I missed when it first came out in 1992, which is surprising since it stars Tom Cruise, one of my favourite actors, and of course many people tell me that I look very much like him.

Anyhow, A Few Good Men is about a military lawyer defending two soldiers accused of killing another soldier at the US base in Guantanamo, Cuba. Demi Moore is also a member of the legal team and there's some attraction between her and Tom Cruise but, unfortunately, no interesting scenes, if you know what I mean. The base commander is Jack Nicholson who comes out with the famous line 'You can't handle the truth'. The film has

some degree of mystery and intrigue but we all know right from the start that Tom will win the case and nasty Jack will get what he deserves. I'll give this film 3.5 stars out of 5.

After watching the film, I was intrigued and decided to investigate why the US has a 120 sq km base in Cuba. The US started leasing the site from Cuba in 1903 when the US and Cuba were on amicable terms. The lease has no fixed expiration date.

By David Ryan

Editor's note – this film received 4 nominations for Oscars, 5 at the Golden Globes and won numerous awards at the several other awards ceremonies. The editor also wonders what rock you had to hide under to have missed this film, hoping David has seen The Hunt for Red October.



Famous Freemason – Oscar Wilde

Wilde was an Anglo-Irish novelist, playwright, poet and critic, and a celebrity in late 19th century London.

Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde was born in Dublin on 16 October 1854. His father was a successful surgeon and his mother a writer and literary hostess. Wilde was educated at Trinity College, Dublin and Magdalen College, Oxford. While at Oxford, Wilde became involved in the aesthetic movement. After he graduated, he moved to London to pursue a literary career.

His output was diverse. A first volume of his poetry was published in 1881 but as well as composing verse, he contributed to publications such as the 'Pall Mall Gazette', wrote fairy stories and published a novel 'The Picture of Dorian Gray' (1891). His greatest talent was for writing plays, and he produced a string of extremely popular comedies including 'Lady Windermere's Fan' (1892), 'An Ideal Husband (1895)' and 'The Importance of Being Earnest' (1895). 'Salomé' was performed in Paris in 1896.

Drama and tragedy marred Wilde's private life. He married Constance Lloyd in 1884 and they had two sons, but in 1891 Wilde began an affair with Lord Alfred Douglas, nicknamed 'Bosie'. In April 1895, Wilde sued Bosie's father, the Marquis of Queensberry, for libel, after the Marquis has accused him of being homosexual. Wilde lost and, after details of his private life were revealed during the trial, was arrested and tried for gross indecency. He was sentenced to two years of hard labour. While in prison he composed a long letter to Douglas, posthumously published under the title 'De Profundis' . His wife took their children to Switzerland and adopted the name 'Holland'. Wilde was released with his health irrevocably damaged and his reputation ruined. He spent the rest of his life in Europe, publishing 'The Ballad of Reading Gaol' in 1898. He died in Paris on 30 November 1900.

Wilde was an enthusiastic mason, spending a fortune on masonic gowns and it was this extravagance that would end his involvement with the masons. He was expelled from one lodge for owing another member money for the gowns, and then failed to pay his subscriptions to the Churchill Lodge, which saw him expelled altogether. A short but eventful masonic career.



Recipe – Chicken Pot Pie



Ingredients

- 1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breast halves – cubed
- 1 cup sliced carrots
- 1 cup frozen green peas
- 1/2 cup sliced celery
- 1/3 cup butter
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon celery seeds
- 1 3/4 cups chicken broth
- 2/3 cup milk
- 2 (9 inch) unbaked pie crusts

Method

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C.)
2. In a saucepan, combine chicken, carrots, peas, and celery. Add water to cover and boil for 15 minutes. Remove from heat, drain and set aside.
3. In the saucepan over medium heat, cook onions in butter until soft and translucent. Stir in flour, salt, pepper, and celery seed. Slowly stir in chicken broth and milk. Simmer over medium-low heat until thick. Remove from heat and set aside.
4. Place the chicken mixture in bottom pie crust. Pour hot liquid mixture over. Cover with top crust, seal edges, and cut away excess dough. Make several small slits in the top to allow steam to escape.
5. Bake in the preheated oven for 30 to 35 minutes, or until pastry is golden brown and filling is bubbly. Cool for 10 minutes before serving.

Credit : Allrecipes.com

Meetings

November 29th Third degree certificate and Lodge History

History - Reno Masonic Hall



By 1905, the old Masonic Hall on Commercial Row was no longer adequate for the growing membership and responsibilities of Reno Masonic Lodge No. 13. The new building commanded a prominent position at the northwest corner of the new Virginia Street Bridge, formerly the site of a livery stable. It was yet another expression of Reno's growing maturity. The officers of the Grand Lodge of the State of Nevada placed the cornerstone on the building on September 16, 1905. The Temple was an elaborate two-tone, three-story Romanesque structure. The members must have swelled with pride when they attended their first meeting on December 8, 1906. In addition to serving as the Masonic Temple, the building housed retail stores on the ground floor. A four-story expansion wing facing West First Street, designed by architect Russell Mills, was completed in 1955.

On August 15, 1965, a fire broke out in the Nevada Bank of Commerce, which was housed in the Masonic Temple. Smoke and water affected other shops in the building, and ultimately, the Masons decided the damage was too severe to be repaired. The old building was razed in 1966 and a new building constructed on the site. The style of the new building conformed to the spare, modern design of the 1950s addition. The \$850,000 rebuild project included commercial units on the ground floor, offices on the second floor, and the Masonic lodge facilities on the third floor. The Masonic Temple building was back in service by April 1967. The Reno Masonic Center spans both buildings with an address of 40 W. First Street. Freemasonry has played an important role in Nevada's history. Lodge No. 13 was Reno's first. Today, there are six lodges in Reno and one in Sparks.