

Homewood Herald

Report from the Master

Greetings Brethren,

This being my penultimate Herald, I was thinking back to my wishes and agenda of my Mastership. I was hoping (like a lot of us) that in this new covid/vaccinated world we wouldn't be as hampered, as we had been in the past two years - sadly that wasn't the case, far from it. I was hoping we would have had a few more social activities in the mix this year, to include all members and families as well. The ones we did have were great opportunities to bring friends along as we are always looking for new members and I thank the members who used these chances.

I would like to thank you all for your support in the previous meeting and those who took up positions at short notice. I know with the change of date, it meant some were not able to attend as they wished, and a few winter/covid ailments prevented others from joining as well. It has been a challenge with several meetings having to be changed at a relative short notice. I am very appreciative of the members who stepped in and helped.

We had a special winter solstice dinner, Scottish themed, organised by WBro Craig Fraser. My daughter was enthralled with the girls from The Thistle Highland Dancers and will be having her first lesson later this week. It was great to have family, friends, and Brethren to share the evening with bagpipes, haggis, and whiskey. We all took part in some Scottish education from Bro Callum Fraser in the form of a quiz.



The night was made extra special to have Worshipful Brother Zane Milburn, Master of Lodge Te Puni No. 315 attend for their fraternal visit and present the travelling gavels to myself and SW Bro Barnes.

On Tuesday the 19th of July I will be Visiting Lodge Tawera O Kapiti No253 attending their 100th installation of the lodge, incoming Master WBro Malcolm Harfitt PM.

This month we will be doing the opening/closing in all three degrees and a bit of business in preparation for Bro David Barnes so we have all the T's crossed.



Ahdut Coah Hi
Worshipful Master
Warwick Henty



Famous Freemason Davy Crockett

Born August 17, 1786, eastern Tennessee, U.S. (died March 6, 1836, San Antonio, Texas), American frontiersman and politician who became a legendary figure.

His father, having little means, hired him out to more prosperous backwoods farmers, and Davy's schooling amounted to 100 days of tutoring with a neighbour. Successive moves west to middle Tennessee brought him close to the area of the Creek War, in which he made a name for himself from 1813 to 1815. In 1821 he was elected to the Tennessee legislature, winning popularity through campaign speeches filled with yarns and homespun metaphors. In the legislature an opposing speaker referred to Crockett as the "gentleman from the cane," an allusion to the dense canebrakes of western Tennessee, where Davy hunted bears and raccoons during the winter. This image of the rough backwoods legislator caught the

popular imagination during Crockett's lifetime and continued to do so after his death.

Following a second term in the state legislature in 1823, Crockett ran for the U.S. House of Representatives. He lost in 1825, won in 1827 and 1829, lost in 1831, barely won in 1833, and suffered his final defeat in 1835, owing to the concentrated opposition of the party of Andrew Jackson. He then headed west to Texas, joined the Texan forces, and died along with the entire garrison of the Alamo when it was overrun by a Mexican army under General Santa Anna on March 6, 1836.

During his first congressional term, Crockett broke with Andrew Jackson and the new Democratic party over Crockett's desire for preferential treatment of the squatters occupying land in western Tennessee. The Whigs early courted and publicized Crockett in the hope of creating a popular "coonskin" politician to offset Jackson. In 1834 Crockett was conducted on a triumphal speechmaking tour of Whig strongholds in the East. From the many stories appearing in newspapers and books during his congressional years, the legend rapidly grew of an eccentric but shrewd "b'ar-hunting" and Indian-fighting frontiersman.

Actually Crockett engaged in several business ventures and delivered his speeches in fairly conventional English. A series of Crockett almanacs, appearing from 1835 to 1856, developed the legend along the lines of Old World folk epics. Crockett's Autobiography, written in 1834 with Thomas Chilton, a U.S. representative from Kentucky, played up the backwoods scene and said little about politics. It helped introduce a new style of vigorous, realistic writing into American literature.

The Weakly Lodge of which Crockett is said to be a member burned during the Civil War which destroyed all of its contents and records. However, the Apron remains unharmed today, it having been inherited and preserved by the Sheriff's nephew.



Davy Crockett's Apron

Masonic Poem

Let's Go To Lodge Tonight

My brother, let's go to Lodge tonight;
You haven't been for years.
Let's don our Lambskin Apron white
And sit among our peers.

I feel a kind of longing, see,
to climb those creaky stairs;
I know it'll be a thrill for me
to lay aside my cares.

We'll meet the Tyler at the door
and though he'll hesitate,
we'll hear him say just as before,
"Come in or you'll be late."

I'd like to get out on the floor--
Come on, let's get in line;
I want to face the East once more
And give the same old sign.

I want to hear the gavel rap
the Craftsmen to attention
and see the Master don his cap;
a night without dissentation.

So come! Pass up that picture show,
or your wrestling bout or fight;
Switch off that TV set! Let's go!
Let's go to Lodge tonight.

Recipe – Baked Cheesy Polenta with Fennel Salami



Ingredients

6 cups milk, or use half milk, half water
3 cloves garlic, crushed
2 teaspoons sea salt
1 teaspoon ground fennel
ground pepper
350 grams instant polenta
1 cup freshly grated parmesan
2 tablespoons butter
2 cups purchased, thick tomato pasta sauce – use your favourite flavour
250 grams mascarpone
finely grated zest 1 lemon
2 cups grated mozzarella
80 grams thinly sliced fennel salami, roughly ripped
½ cup basil leaves
extra parmesan, for serving
Equipment: Lightly grease a 33cm x 24cm shallow baking tin and a small roasting dish or baking dish.

Method

- Preheat the oven to 200°C fan bake.
- Heat the milk, garlic, salt and fennel with a good grind of pepper in a large saucepan. Bring to the boil, then drizzle in the polenta, whisking constantly until thick. Cook for 3 minutes until very thick. Remove from the heat and stir in the parmesan and butter. Tip into the shallow baking tin and spread evenly. Place in the fridge for 30 minutes to cool.
- Tip the polenta onto the bench and cut into two slabs (see Cook's note). Spread half the pasta sauce in the base of the small roasting or baking dish and top with one piece of polenta. Spread over the mascarpone, lemon zest and half each of the mozzarella and salami, plus all the basil. Top with the second piece of polenta. Spread with the remaining tomato sauce, mozzarella and salami. Add a generous grating of parmesan and season with salt and pepper.

- Bake for 25 minutes, until golden and bubbling. Scoop out into dishes and serve with a big green salad.
- Cook's note: You can cut the polenta into pieces to fit whatever size baking dish you have. It will all hold together when baked.

LITTLE SHADOW

At Little Shadow we offer affordable counselling and support for parents experiencing perinatal distress, including baby loss and infertility. (Perinatal means anything to do with pregnancy, birth and the first years of a baby's life.) We provide you with a safe, non-judgemental space to seek healing, resilience and empowerment.

We also offer affordable counselling to Midwives and provide services for Workplace Wellness.

Our collective of counsellors are professionally trained to help you navigate those tricky times in life. From depression to grief, loss, anxiety and trauma and managing life's changes. Our team also have specialist training and professional development to help support those in the perinatal period. Our counsellors genuinely relate – many have experienced perinatal or other life periods of distress, and all of them are parents.

The cost of our counselling for Parents and Midwives is subsidised by our generous donors, fundraising events and grants.