



Trestleboard

A monthly bulletin of information for the members, families and friends of
Blackmer Lodge #442, Free and Accepted Masons, California, USA

June, 2006

Volume XCIII, Number 6

THE WIDOW'S SON

"He was a widow's son of the tribe of Naphtali, ,,,,"

1 Kings 7:14

It is typically held within Masonic circles that Hiram Abif, the original architect of King Solomon's Temple, was actually the son of a widow of the tribe of Naphtali, who probably married a man of Tyre after the death of Hiram's father. In that Hiram enjoys such a position of imminence in Freemasonry, it is also believed that the natural reverence Masons bestowed upon the memory of his widowed mother was the basis for Freemasonry's later devotion to the support of the widows of all Masons. The earliest recorded Masonic rituals dating back to the late 1600's include passages demanding that all good Masons make a special effort to care for such special women. Yet, as is true of most symbols in Freemasonry, that of the "widow's son" is also very relevant to man's relationship to the Deity.

In Grail lore, certain ancient writers, such as Sir Thomas Malory, explored the connection of Jesus' family to the hereditary line of King David and beyond. The stories that were associated with the rich King Arthur legends were expressed as such to protect "believers" from being accused as heretics and possibly suffering horrible deaths as a result. It is believed that tarot cards originated for the same reason and thus are also a part of the concealed expression of belief that Jesus and his family may be traced to David and Abraham.

Freemasonry's Hiram Abif is also identified in Grail lore as the Son of a Widow, personified in the character known as Percival, one of the Grail champions Malory identified together with Lancelot and Sir Galahad. Percival is also

sometimes identified as a grandnephew of Joseph of Arimathea, whom some believe is none other than Jesus' own brother James. Thus, for Grail adherents, the stories establish nothing less than a bloodline traceable to directly to Divinity.

The original Widow of the Grail bloodline was Ruth the Moabite (heroine of the Old Testament book of Ruth), who married Boaz and was the great-grandmother of King David. Her descendants were called "Sons of the Widow." In this context, Hiram Abif is revealed as a descendant of Ruth, whose ancient forerunners included Tubal-cain, the first artificer in metals. Can this be the purpose for deliberately incorporating the phrase "widow's son" into essential Masonic ritual?

The true Mason is an ardent seeker after knowledge. He knows that Freemasonry has not selected its symbols for idle purposes, but to teach valuable and important lessons about God, brotherhood and charity. The chance selection of the "widow's son" as symbolism is as likely as was the chance selection of the square and compasses. Masons are told very little about Hiram Abif and it is rather odd that such a central person should nowhere appear in the Holy Bible. Some will point to various passages and report they have there found Hiram, but nowhere is there a man named Hiram Abif who is also referred to as the "widow's son."

If we accept the Grail lore interpretation, we also acknowledge that the Grand Master Hiram Abif is as important a character as is King Solomon, whom we also know from Old Testament scripture to be a son of King David. If we

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contact us
Lodge Office
619-291-0465
FAX
619-291-1364

FROM THE SECRETARY

We hope everyone had a great Memorial Day!

We sure would like to see more Brothers and their Ladies at the Stated Meeting Dinners.

It is the same old story of a few members forgetting about their dues. As has been stated many times before, if your dues card does not say paid through 31 December 2006, you are in arrears. Please take a few minutes and send in your dues check. Remember your obligation and maybe even send in a little extra for the Masonic Homes Endowment Fund.

Faternally, Johnny Johnson, Secretary

ANNUAL FLAG DAY BREAKFAST

9:00 a.m sharp
Sunday, June 11, 2006
The 79th Annual Flag Day Observance and breakfast at the Scottish Rite Center

If you shop at Albertsons and would like to help a Masonic Youth Group, contact Coren Andrews at ctandrews@comcast.net for details. It doesn't cost you a thing and is as easy as handing the clerk your regular Albertsons card.

FROM THE EAST

“True knowledge of Freemasonry is when we realize that Masonry is a way of life to be lived, not a formality of rituals which only the gifted can comprehend.”

Brethren I feel compelled to put before you some thoughts that, not long ago, Very Worshipful Ralph H. Head expressed in the California Freemason Magazine.

He was introducing the term APPLIED FREEMASONRY by saying Masonry was brought to America from England in the year 1730, when a Masonic Lodge was formed in Philadelphia. The Craft had crossed the channel to England from Europe about 300 years before, and in the process, transformed from an Operative to a Speculative Order.

As we see, Freemasonry may enter a third stage called APPLIED FREEMASONRY as it begins to serve the human race, its true destiny. Masonry has not yet achieved this goal partly because of complacent satisfaction in its superiorities and the atmosphere created by rituals and fraternal friendships. These are beneficial, but Masonry is not a secret society or a social club. The changes which will accompany Masonry's transition to the third stage, when Masonic principles are put into practical and helpful use, will not hurt the values which Masons hold so important and immutable.

Much of our Masonic secrecy seems to be no longer needed. Any information anyone would like to obtain is freely accessible on internet, including all ritual work and secrets. People today are generally not enchanted with secret societies, and there is nothing secret in what Masons do. The more the general public knows about Masonry, the more useful the fraternity will become. Masonry must be more universally understood, both inside and outside, as a way of life, which has a helpful, practical supporting purpose.

There are five stages of life in every organism: birth, growth, use, decay and death. This applies to life groups, nations and races. It applies to religions and systems of government. The stage of usefulness should start during the stage of growth. Masonry is at the end of its growth stage, and it must now turn to the stage of usefulness. Masonry should inspire all Masons to live a Masonic life. How

a Mason lives outside the lodge, is much more important than what he does in it. Taking another degree, another oath, learning a new sign, does not necessarily evidence forward steps in Masonic living. We need not change our rituals. What we need is the change of the understanding of them. We need not change precepts or doctrines, or duties. What we need is to recognize their significance and how to apply them in practical and useful ways in our daily lives.

We seem to have taken the first step in APPLIED FREEMASONRY with the adoption of an outgoing, aggressive program of support of the education of our children in the dangers of alcohol and drug use. Masons, individually and collectively, must lead the way in demanding higher standards of education, greater citizen participation in government: at the local, state and national levels. Work for a cleaner environment, preservation of the Bill of Rights, and morality and ethics in government and business.

Historically, Masonry resists change. But Humanity is changing, and like it or not, Masonry, consisting of human beings, can not divorce itself from human life. I don't think that change from Speculative to Applied Freemasonry, will harm Masonry any more than the change from Operative to Speculative did. For Masonry to live on in the future, it must demonstrate its usefulness to mankind. Today, right now, looks like a great time to start.

Mihailo O'Zdravkovic, Master, 2006

Blackmer Lodge

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reject that interpretation, we are back to square one: what does Freemasonry mean when it alludes to its most central character as a Son of a Widow? Perhaps the phrase is derived from another religious source.

Manicheanism was founded by the Persian sage Mani in approximately 240 AD. His followers believed that the world was divided into kingdoms of light and darkness, good and evil. Those followers, like the descendants of Ruth, were called "sons of the widow," which was an allusion to the Ancient Egyptian Mysteries. In the Osirian mysteries, Isis was widowed when Typhon killed her husband. Typhon was a symbol for darkness and evil, while Isis and her husband were regarded as the female and male principles of light and virtue – the condition God originally intended for His human creatures.

In the New Testament of the Holy Bible, yet another reference to a "widow's son" appears in Luke 7:11-17. There, Jesus has revived the dead son of the Widow of Nain. This woman thereafter proclaimed publicly that in Jesus, God has visited His people.

In his book entitled *The Burning Bush*, Edward Beaugh Smith observed that the phrase "widow's son" appears frequently throughout the Holy Bible, recounts the Manicheanism story and leans strongly upon the Osirian legend as the source of that phrase. Smith's premise relates to what he calls an Evolutionary Epic – a time during which the consciousness will have established in the successors of the "Sons of the Widow" that evil must be overcome by charitableness. Here, Masons at last find the primary lesson intended by this specific symbolism – charity is Masonry fundamental goal, as fundamental as knowing that our Grand Master Hiram Abif is the "widow's son."

May the Great Architect of the Universe Bless You
John R. Heisner, PM



DINING OUT

Once again we will venture to a new and wondrous eatery for our June Dining Out night. We shall once again enter the fine city of El Cajon and meet at the Greek Town Restaurant Buffet at 6:30 p.m. The promise of tickled taste buds should surely draw a substantial gathering for this get together. The address is 345 W. Main Street, El Cajon and phone number is 619-441-9708. See the map and call Harry if you have any questions of need additional information.



BULLETIN BY EMAIL

We want YOU to get your Bulletin by email. It comes as a PDF file and can be read on your screen or printed for leisurely reading. A growing number of your fellow members are taking advantage of this opportunity. Why not you? To join in, just drop an Email note to the editor, Coren Andrews at ctandrews@comcast.net to begin receiving your Bulletin in an Email.

Be on the cutting edge, contact Coren Andrews at ctandrews@comcast.net.

BIRTHDAYS

James Mills	6/2
Sy Brenner	6/2
Earl Noll	6/2
August Dale	6/3
Howard Johnson	6/3
Donald Nutter	6/5
Evan Rose	6/5
David Magin	6/5
Max Amster	6/5
John Warner, PM	6/6
Jeffrey Merrick	6/10
Neil Simpson	6/13
Rolando DelosReyes	6/14
Edwin DeBolt	6/16
Harlod Dodds	6/17
Fred Kaufman	6/18
Dusan Martin, Sr., PM	6/21
Nestor Bala	6/22
David Bing	6/24
Scott Pearce, PM	6/26
Leonard Starbeck	6/27
Alex Bedoya	6/27
Harold Weiss	6/28
Gary Clare	6/29

Happy Birthday to these Brethren! We would like to wish you a happy birthday in person at the Stated Meeting dinner of your birth month. Please do join us and remember that your dinner is on the Lodge.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

Average age 67.8
youngest 32
oldest 96
7 of 24 are under 60 years old



**SUPPORT YOUR
LODGE AND ITS
PROGRAMS.**

**YOUR
ATTENDANCE IS
NEEDED AND
ENCOURAGED!**

PLEASE CHECK YOUR DUES CARD. IT SHOULD SAY "PAID THROUGH DECEMBER, 2006.

Please be considerate and make your dinner reservations early. If you are going to come to one of our dinners, make reservations. Two days in advance is sufficient, but please reserve.

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United We Stand, Together we can
Make a Difference,
The Family of Freemasonry

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JUNE 2006 CALENDAR

June

Thurs 1st **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Reservations must call 619-291-0465. **Business Casual**
Mon 5th **DINE OUT NIGHT at Greek Town Restaurant Buffet**
(see article), 6:30 p.m.
Thurs 8th Officers' Practice, Second Degree, 6:45 p.m.
Mon 12th Officers' Practice, Second Degree, 6:45 p.m.
Thurs 15th Dark
Mon 19th Dark
Thurs 22nd Officers' Practice, Third Degree, 6:45 p.m.
Mon 26th Inspector's School of Instruction - Blackmer works Third
Degree, first section, 35 hosting - 7:00 p.m. - All officers
to attend unless excused by the Inspector, call him at 619-
461-5724
Thurs 29th Officers' Practice, First Degree, 6:45 p.m.

July

Mon 3rd Dark
Thurs 6th **Stated Meeting** at 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Reservations please call 619-291-0465.
Mon 10th Dine-Out Family Night

JUNE STATED MEETING DINNER MENU

Stuffed Bell Peppers and BBQ Chicken
Baby Red Potatoes and Grilled Mixed Vegetables
Spring Mix Salad with special additions
Double Scoop Ice Cream
Beverages and Assorted Breads



You must call your reservations to Johnny at 619-291-0465

