

MIZPAH



BULLETIN

1124 South 48th Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68106

September
2024

omahamasons.com
mizpah302sec@gmail.com

FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

It's been a busy and exciting past month for Mizpah.

We started August with our business meeting at the Nebraska Masonic Home. We enjoyed a wonderful meal and tour of the facility before our meeting, and we were joined by two brothers living at the home. What a wonderful evening!



The following week, we held the annual Mizpah family picnic at the lodge. The turnout was incredible, and it was great seeing so many of you. I'm proud to have presented certificates to several brothers reaching milestones in the craft. Thank you all for attending and making this a great event!

Later in the month, several Mizpah brothers attended a Master Mason degree at Bluff City Lodge #71 in Council Bluffs. Congratulations to brother Vincent Johnson on being raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, and thank you to Bluff City Lodge for your hospitality!

As you can see, there's always something going on for Mizpah. Look for pictures of these events in this issue of the trestle, and consider joining us for future events. This is YOUR lodge, and I want you to feel at home when you walk through the door. Please note also that the lodge is available for other events, such as birthday parties, anniversary parties or other small group events. Reach out to myself or Secretary Jeremiah Jones for more information.

Coming up: We'll be attending the Morton Meadows Boulevard Bash on Sept. 15 to mingle with our neighbors and spread the word about what Masonry is all about. We'll also have our annual Halloween party in October -- more information to come.

Fraternally,
Patrick Smith
Worshipful Master

"May the Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another."
Genesis 31:49

Officers and Committees



Elected Officers

- Patrick Smith (Amanda) (402) 770-1271
Worshipful Master
- Terry Winter (Laura) (402) 649-7524
Senior Warden
- Michael Duffy (Jane) (402) 709-0713
Junior Warden
- W.B. Dalton Kock (Bri) (402) 719-0942
Treasurer
- Jeremiah Jones (Kimberly) (402) 507-7190
Secretary

Appointments

- W.B. Darren Malott (Paula) (402) 216-3455
Chaplain
- Matthew Poast (Kristin) (402) 990-8106
Senior Deacon
- Mat Wright (712) 797-4000
Junior Deacon
- Michael Bosaw (Rebecca) (402) 214-1141
Senior Steward
- Kyle Barchus (402) 203-3068
Junior Steward
- Charles Davis (531) 270-3174
Tyler
- Trustees W.B. Steve Barchus,
W.B. Greg Carlson, W.B. Mike Stuhr

Committee Chairs and Coordinators

- Audit W.B. Steve Barchus
- Education W.B. T.J Brumfield III
- Membership Terry Winter
- Fellowship W.B. Jim Schmidt
- Masonic Relief W.B. Patrick Smith
- Templecraft Mike Bosaw
- Community Outreach Matthew Poast
- Technology W.B. Dalton Kock
- Communications Patrick Smith / Blake Ursch
- GROW Coordinators W.B. Jim Schmidt / Jeremiah Jones

Facebook, Instagram,
Slack and more. Scan
to find Mizpah online.



From the Secretary's Table

Brethren,

Once again, dues season is right around the corner. If you have moved since the last dues season or if you have had trouble receiving lodge mail, please verify your address with me. You can email me or leave me a voicemail; either will work. This will help ensure that dues notices and dues cards reach each brother.



Contact me at mizpah302sec@gmail.com and (402) 558-0666 for all lodge business. If you are contacting me by phone, it is important that you leave a voicemail.

Fraternally,
Jeremiah D. Jones
Secretary

Grand View Fun Fact

Did you know that you can add your spouse as an emergency contact in Grand View? If you do, her name and birthday will be added to the birthday section below. Additionally, she will receive a signed birthday card from the lodge. This not only helps ensure that the lodge has an emergency contact for you, but it also provides your loved one with a special gesture of appreciation and connection to our fraternity.

Birthdays

Richard Barber	9/2	Harry Searle	9/20
Walter Lowry	9/3	William Gordon	9/21
Ryan Grazier	9/5	Alexander Elliott	9/22
Joe Williams	9/5	Marlin Palasek	9/26
Philip Bodanske	9/6	Brian Ault	9/27
Arnold Nelson	9/8	Christopher Prokop	9/27
Andrew Nehls	9/9	James Turpen	9/27
Jeremiah Jones	9/14	Kevin Miller-Conley	9/30
Kimberly Jones	9/18	Gary Scarpino	9/30

Masonic Anniversaries

Scott Falcone	38
Glenn Fletcher	56
Philip Keetle	52
Dustin Knabe	15
David Knutson	43
Christopher Prokop	20
Kenneth Sciford	69
Kenneth Stutzman	8

"May the Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another."

Genesis 31:49



“INDIVIDUALITY AND CONFORMITY” BY CELIO B. SANTOS

Individuality is defined as the particular character, or aggregate of qualities, that distinguishes one person or thing from other. Conformity, on the other hand, is defined as the process whereby people change their beliefs, attitudes, actions, or perceptions to more closely match those held by groups to which they belong or want to belong or by groups whose approval they desire. Individuality is essential for a person’s character to be fully expressed. Additionally, that genuine expression of Self is necessary to achieve and maintain true freedom and happiness; on the other hand, conformity while necessary in certain circumstances, such as preserving harmony and other socially favorable standards, can prove to be an annihilator of self-expression, which in turn is a hindrance to free will. I shall explore the pros and cons of both as best as I can.

Our character, our personalities are very influenced both by our nature (our genetic pedigree) and the world around us (society), there is really no way around it at this point in time. We start our social lives very much as conformists. Heavily influenced by the first contact we have with society, which is contact with our family, the nucleus of civilization. That is where we learn to establish the foundations of our character, especially learning socially accepted norms and behaviors. And while this process is important and necessary, there comes a point or at least there should come a point in a human’s life where some of our beliefs, ideologies, etc. are put into

questions, discarded or refined, and it is through this process of refinement that we start developing our authentic self, our Individuality.

Without this process taking place in some form, we unfortunately remain conformists and our true Self remains unexpressed. Not having thought about our beliefs, our perceptions, the reason(s) why we have them and so on, we cannot say that they are the fruits of our reflections. Not that there is anything wrong with the way you or I were educated necessarily, but those are things to think about as I am sure we probably do not agree with everything we’ve been taught at home or in society at large. How many opinions and perceptions do we hold, that are not even ours and that affect our daily thought processes and our interactions? I have done the exercise of thinking about these things and I have found plenty. That is when I decided to start putting my thoughts and opinions into question and do an exercise I enjoy. It consists of trying to pinpoint the origin of certain beliefs, attitudes, and opinions of mine. It is not always possible to do so, but when I do and if I judge it necessary, I reflect on them and determine whether they are still relevant to me, logical and in other cases, in harmony with certain personal sets of principles; these principles could be values that one hold dear or other criteria, which vary from one individual to the other.

In Freemasonry, we accept via our obligations to conform to certain rules by performing the requirements of,

and avoiding the things prohibited by Masonry. And we are even exhorted to behave in certain ways, with the goal in mind of making us better men and better members of society. This is conformity, the type of Conformity that has provided, and continues to provide harmony and strength to our organization. We conform in a way where we do not necessarily have to change our character if it already matches the expectations of Masonry, but there may be some sort of adjustment(s) and change(s) in our thought processes during the journey, as some of the concepts may not be familiar to us in the way they are put together. Now let’s take this a step further, when a group of individuals like us agree to conform to certain rules we create somewhat of a uniformity. That uniformity gives to Masonry as an organization, its individuality if you will, a collective one and that individuality we should maintain and never lose; think of the point within a circle, in this analogy the point represents Masonry as whole. As individuals, we must maintain that which distinguishes us from others, even in the face of ignorance and especially not to satisfy external expectations. Both conformity and individuality can have positive and negative aspects. A person’s individuality, if in complete opposition with morally accepted rules and conventions (Conformity) will be detrimental, and conforming to what is generally accepted could at times be wrong. Human history can provide us many examples of both possibilities.

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“May the Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another.”

Genesis 31:49



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However contradictory this may seem, it is not. To find balance between the two is the key and to be intentional in our decision making is also important, in function of context and circumstances.

Let's conclude with a quote from Aristotle, which encompass the intention of this presentation: "Freedom is obedience to self-formulated rules."

How can you work on preserving your individuality and embodying it?

Have you ever been in a situation where conforming caused more harm than sticking to your individual opinion?

If so, how can you avoid it in the future?



Brothers honored at the Mizpah Family Picnic and pictured are, from left: Terry Nelson (10 years), Chad Nelson (10 years), WB Gary Volentine (35 years), Dan Waldron (10 years), WB Patrick Smith (10 years), WB Darren Malott (15 years), WB Bill Stone (20 years) and WB Tyler Goodman (25 years).

"May the Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another."

Genesis 31:49



Nebraska Masonic Home Visit

We had a big turnout for the August business meeting at the Nebraska Masonic Home. We also enjoyed a wonderful meal and tour of the facility before the meeting. Two brothers who are residents of the home joined us for our meeting in the chapel.



Across the Missouri River

Several Mizpah brothers traveled to Bluff City Lodge #71 in Council Bluffs on Aug. 21 for a Master Mason degree for Brother Vincent Johnson.



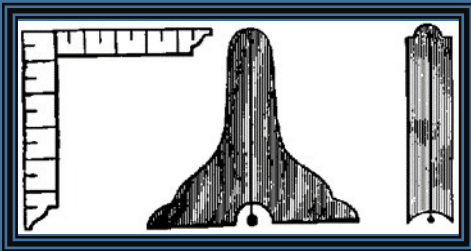
*“May the Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another.”
Genesis 31:49*



Ladies Night
 In the lodge dining room.
 Sept. 26 at 7 p.m.
 All are welcome to socialize.
 Book: "Grave Peril"
 by Jim Butcher



GROW
 Leadership and
 development series
 Third Wednesday at 7 p.m.

*"Making men better through
 leadership development, civic responsibility,
 and Masonic knowledge."*

Chartered June 4, 1919

September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri day	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Potluck 630 pm Meeting 7 pm	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Likely EA practice	12	13	14
15 Boulevard Jam 4-7 p.m.	16	17	18 GROW discussion 7 pm	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Possible EA degree	26 Ladies Night/ Book Club 7 pm	27	28
29	30					

For more area activities, see the following websites:

Grand Lodge..... www.gln.org OESwww.neoes.org

Scottish Rite www.scottishriteomaha.org

York Rite www.nyorkrite.org

Tangier Shrine www.tangiershrine.com

Job's Daughters ... www.jdne.org

DeMolay..... www.nedemolay.org

Rainbow www.nebraskarainbowgirls.com