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Mt. Moriah Lodge #292 F. & A. M.
Wayne Heimsoth, Secretary
PO Box 33242
Los Gatos, CA 95031-3242

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
January, 2014

Calendar	
www.calendarwiz.com/calendars/calendar.php?crd=mtmoriah292	
Feb 06	(Thursday)
6:30 PM	Dinner
7:30 PM	Stated Meeting
Feb 13	(Thursday)
	TBA
Feb 20	(Thursday)
7:30 PM	TBA
Feb 24	(Monday)
6:30 PM	OAM San Jose #10
Feb 27	(Thursday)
6:30 PM	Hall Association Meeting

Changes Happen!
Call the Lodge Hotline: (408) 502-NEWS (6397)



Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 292 F. & A. M.

Trestleboard



Volume 19 Number 2

<http://www.mtmoriah292.org>

February 2014

Is your info current?

- Notify Secretary Wayne Heimsoth of changes in address, email, or phone numbers

Send email to:
secretary@mtmoriah292.org

- Send snail mail to:
PO Box 33242, Los Gatos, CA 95031-3242

- Request email copy of trestleboard to:
secretary@mtmoriah292.org

- Saves postage costs



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Peter Verbica First Degree

From the East

Brethren,

The year is off to a great start. Please join me in welcoming Brother Peter Verbica to our Fraternity. In addition, we have several Entered Apprentices studying for their proficiencies so look forward to several Second and Third Degrees soon.

You may notice that the Birthdays list is no more. Sadly, we have been forced to eliminate the birthdays list due to the new privacy policy enacted by Grand Lodge last year. We cannot publish the names, likenesses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, or any other identifying information of any member unless a written consent form is on file with the Secretary. With nearly 400 members this would be impractical to implement for the Trestleboard. Please contact the Secretary if you would like a consent form.

Lastly, please note that the Lodge Hotline number has changed. The new number is (408) 502-NEWS (6397). If you're the type of person who prefers to call and find out about upcoming events rather than getting it online, this is the number to call.

Fraternally,
Jeff Powell, *Master*

Jeff Powell
Phone: (408) 476-8476
Email: jeff@jeffpowell.com

What Fortitude Achieves**I. Heroic Fortitude**

Fortitude is a quality of courage that is best understood by contemplating those who have displayed heroic fortitude. President George Washington and the signers of the Declaration of Independence showed their willingness to risk their property and their lives for freedom. Emanuel Leutze's painting of Washington Crossing the Delaware on the Day Before the Battle of Trenton, 26th December 1776 illustrates a leader with abundant fortitude. On that December night, General Washington's whole demeanor is a study in fortitude.



Throughout the long days at Valley Forge, Washington demonstrated a Masonic virtue that time and patience will accomplish all things. His persistence, single-mindedness, and bravery embodied heroic fortitude. Great leaders are true to their ideals. They persist even in trouble and show their courage when most needed. Our First President is a model for fortitude in action.

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To a lesser extent, the mind is also associated with fortitude. The mind can be fickle; it wanders, prevaricates, or rationalizes lies and cowardice. A man with fortitude masters his fickle mind. He stands for truth and does not suffer his own cowardice lightly. He enters his future bravely, whatever that future holds.

A door is functional as well as symbolic. We open doors to gain entrance to dwellings or symbolically to our future. We close doors to keep some things safe or private. An EA candidate must decide by his own free will to enter the Lodge through a door. After entering, fortitude is associated with the first point of our entrance. Fortitude teaches Masons to have the strength of heart and mind to persevere in all noble endeavors.

VI. What Fortitude Achieves

Fortitude is an earnest enthusiasm that is disciplined by reason and ennobled by sincerity. It is a dynamic quality that is essential for all great achievement. Men with fortitude reject temerity and timidity. They have courage to match their convictions. They inspire confidence, invite action, and generate progress. Temperance, prudence and justice lose much of their effectiveness without the driving force of fortitude. The greatest achievements of man are tributes to the blending of these virtues.

When we practice fortitude in little ways we will be better able to call up great fortitude when we most need it. By standing firm for truth and growing in courage, we will also be improving in fortitude. As we achieve greater fortitude, we become better men. Growth in fortitude fosters leadership roles for us in our homes and workplaces. We become leaders who embody heroic fortitude in good times and in bad. Let us demonstrate our courage and fortitude so that our actions match our convictions.

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TRESTLEBOARD

is published by

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Stated Meetings: First Thursdays
Lodge Hotline: (408) 502-NEWS (6397)

Secretary: Wayne Heimsoth
(408) 353-3298 home

In Memoriam**James D. Horn**

Born September 23, 1935

Entered into Rest December 22, 2013

Initiated March 13, 1958

Passed September 18, 1958

Raised May 14, 1959

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II. Seven Moral Principles

The EA degree introduces candidates to seven moral principles, which we group into three tenets and four Cardinal Virtues. The tenets are brotherly love, relief, and truth. These tenets are key to any organization, but especially to our fraternity. Relief is practiced through our Masonic charities as an expression of brotherly love. If we are to become better men, we seek truth and enlightenment. These tenets are supplemented with four Cardinal Virtues of temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice.

The idea of four Cardinal Virtues comes from Plato. 'Cardinal' is derived from the Latin word *cardo*, which is a hinge on which a thing turns. All moral virtues hinge on these four virtues. Plato writes in *The Laws*, (Book I, 631): "Wisdom is the chief and leader: next follows temperance; and from the union of these two with courage springs justice." Our present-day four Cardinal Virtues map directly into Plato's quartet with wisdom (or Sophia) being associated with prudence, courage with fortitude, and the other two being kept intact.

Although all seven moral principles deserve our full consideration, let us concentrate on fortitude. Fortitude is a virtue to which we aspire. Perhaps we should assess where we currently stand in terms of having fortitude. Social scientists use questionnaires to measure beliefs, attributes, and preferences. To measure our response to the statement, "I have fortitude," they would use a seven-point Likert scale. What number from 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest) do you give yourself using the following scale?

1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7

Very Strongly Disagree.....Neutral.....Very Strongly Agree

To be a better man, we would want to improve in several dimensions: fortitude is just one dimension. The image of a limited amount of fortitude is inappropriate, as we have untapped fortitude that only becomes necessary in times of great trial. Nevertheless, we may find ourselves saying we are only a "4" or a "5" on the scale of having fortitude. It should be one of our goals to achieve a greater reservoir of fortitude for when we will need it.

III. Why Fortitude and Not Other Virtues?

Fortitude is clearly an important virtue, but we may well ask why this moral principle was included in the four Cardinal Virtues and not others? There are many valuable moral principles in life. Some biblical virtues include compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, patience, righteousness, and long-suffering.

Biblical virtues are often viewed as gifts or fruits given to us. Fortitude is not listed as a gift of the Spirit; indeed fortitude does not appear in the Bible at all. On deeper introspection, it appears that some virtues are learnable and capable of being improved. As we seek to become better men, fortitude is a manly virtue that we should work to inculcate. It is not given as an inherent quality, but one that a lifetime of practice can perfect.

IV. Cardinal Virtues Symbolized

Masonry uses visual symbols to teach moral principles. The square and compasses are the most prominent Masonic visual symbol. But the four Cardinal Virtues are sometimes illustrated in human form.

The four figures, at first glance, appear to be goddesses or Mus-es. But, as with most symbols, careful examination reveals hidden truths. Beginning at the far right figure, we see Justice with two key symbols. Justice holds a scale. The scale assures fairness in all actions. In the marketplace, a businessman gives fair value and a true accounting. But resting by her side is Justice's sword. Injustice should meet swift and sure punishment.



Temperance Fortitude Prudence Justice

To the left of Justice is Prudence.

She displays several complex symbols. Prudence wears a helmet, which crowns her as being wise. Wisdom and prudence are associated: we are also to be wise. Her helmet further is seen as a mask with eye openings. A wise person uses prudence in secrets that have been given us. At her feet is a bush, which Masons would recognize as an Acacia. Acacia reminds us of our own mortality and our being raised as Master Masons. Prudence further wraps her outer garment around her to encourage us to practice prudence with others.

On the extreme left stands Temperance. She pours a measured amount of refreshment into a cup. It may be water or wine, but her careful attention displays temperance, reserve, and moderation. Temperance provides a balance to the more dynamic virtue of fortitude.

The second figure from the right is Fortitude. On quick analysis, she seems to be rather vane as she examines herself in a golden mirror. The mirror, however, is itself a symbol. Vampires allegedly cannot see their reflection in a mirror as they have no souls. But we see ourselves in the mirror. We know who we are. We learn to reflect on ourselves: Will we have sufficient fortitude when calamity strikes? Around her waist is tied a black cinch to hold her garments together. Should Fortitude need to travel, she is prepared for action. She will not be held back to secure other garments. In her arm, Fortitude nestles a staff from which new leaves of an almond tree are budding. This recalls the Book of Numbers, Chapter 17, wherein Aaron's rod miraculously blossomed as evidence that God chose him as High Priest. As the wand of leadership, Fortitude is holding the same symbol that Kings and Queens hold as scepters and a College Marshall holds during Commencement as the college mace. Lodge officers similarly wield rods and wands as symbols of leadership.

We see that fortitude is essential for true leadership. Without fortitude, no one can succeed. Life sometimes gets difficult. There is always the temptation to give in or to give up. When we show fortitude, we learn to "stick it out" and overcome obstacles to accomplish goals.

V. The Strength of Heart and Mind

The organ most associated with fortitude is the heart. We realize, of course, that courage or fortitude must reside in the brain. Nevertheless, the heart is viewed classically as the seat of courage, determination, and fortitude. The heart beats faster when adrenaline races through the blood system. Our faces flush in the danger-flight response. But those with fortitude do not flinch. They persevere in the face of danger.

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From the Secretary's Table

From the Grand Lodge, it is now necessary for us to have on file the release form so that we can show your name, address, email, or photo in the Trestleboard. For example, the birthday list cannot be printed this time, as the brothers who are on there have not returned the form. I emailed them out to those members who have email. They will be included in this month's Trestleboard.

Fraternally,

Wayne Heimsoth *Secretary*

Wayne Heimsoth
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From the West

Brethren,

On January 16th we performed a First Degree for Peter Verbica. Congratulations to our new brother. Brother Allen Diamond gave a good lecture. There were a few sideliners. I hope to see more at our future degrees.

Fraternally,
Nick Schilling *Senior Warden*

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From the South

Brethren, the dinner menu for our February Stated Meeting will consist of a green salad, stuffed rolled roast beef, mixed vegetables, and a baked potato. In honor of Valentine's Day, dessert will be red velvet cake. The cost of the dinner will be \$10 per person. For now, in an effort to refrain from having to increase the per person cost of the dinners, I am requesting that all who are intending to attend the dinner please RSVP no later than the preceding Tuesday, preferably by email, to dialdice@gmail.com. You may also RSVP by phone, at 408-550-5039. I will use that count to plan for how much food to prepare, so that I do not have a lot of leftovers. A lot of leftovers equates to a waste of money. As usual, if you have any suggestions for a future dinner this year, please let me know. Also, any help, especially with taking money at the door or cleanup afterwards, would be greatly appreciated.

Fraternally,
Allen Diamond *Junior Warden*

Allen Diamond
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