

2022 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master: WB Steven Dinkins
Senior Warden: WB Kevin Reid
Junior Warden: Br Abby Bereket
Secretary: MW Jim V. Mendoza
Treasurer: WB Robert M. Starowski
Senior Deacon: WB William A. White II

Junior Deacon: Br Peter Abler
Senior Steward: Br Kris Lockrem
Chaplin: Br Jeff Abrams
Marshal: Br Ed Yaguchi
Tyler: WB Michael Beasley

JANUARY 2022

VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 1

Frank S. Land No. 313

WASHINGTON FREEMASONS
2022

HIGHLIGHTS

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FROM THE EAST

From the Desk of Your Worshipful Master,

Well, here we go yet again! Setting off on another exciting year with much ahead to accomplish and enjoy. We all look forward to our Crab Feed on Saturday, March 26th which will set the financial tone for our term, while our Silver Anniversary Celebration in November will cap our year with yet another epic FSL event.

Allow me to take a moment and talk briefly about our March Crab Feed. Now here's an event participated in and staged by over 40 of our members. And yes, there are a myriad of different ways to participate. BTW, our charity for 2022 will be the Seattle Children's Hospital.

Prior to the Event:

Sell tickets! No matter how much we might talk about everything else, it only becomes successful if we have attendees in the room participating, right? Sell a minimum of 1 table (8-10 tickets). Be star supporter and sell 2 or more tables. Be aware though, the configuration of the venue only allows 450 or so. And, we do operate on a first come, first served basis. Last count I heard we have over 200 tickets sold already.

Coordinate and donate an item worthy of our Live Auction. We'll work with you to set the minimum bid and then auction it off on behalf of the lodge. This can be something of yours, something you coordinate through a family member, or even something your company has (like Diamond Club Tickets to the Mariners, etc). However, you have to be brave enough to stand up and ask those that own these items. So don't be shy.

Ask about timeshares they're not using, 2nd homes in the mountains or on a lake. Be creative.

Help set up the night before. Much focus and young muscle needed for that. Us old guys wear out quickly!

Donate a dessert for our Dessert Dash.

Something creative always goes over well with our attendees.

Help with the shopping the kitchen will need to have done.

Donate wine for our wine pull.

During the event: So many things to assist with: Front desk, selling of Heads or Tails beads, take a Bartending shift, assist in the kitchen, or assist with the wine pull section. Heck, you could even jump up on stage and assist with our live auction. Step up and volunteer a portion of your time in some way during the event.

After the event: Front desk closeout as our guests depart, clean-up committee (which ensures we get our deposit back). This involves moving the tables and chairs back. Many hands make for quick work, right? Consider staying for 45 minutes after the last auction item has been won and assist your lodge.



This is our signature event brothers! A true labor of love. But it will only continue to be so if we each are willing to step up and do our part. Reach out to our chairman Drew Baker or myself and let us know where you might be able to assist this year.

Steve Dinkins

Worshipful Master
Frank S Land Lodge N0. 313



The Past Master

Unknown Author

FROM THE WEST

FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR WARDEN

The Secretary and Treasurer of the Lodge

In a previous edition of our Treastleboard I wrote about the appointed officers and how important it is for the well-being of the Lodge to have a dedicated line of appointed officers that step up to the next station in line each year and learn and prepare for higher office; and how the most junior member of the line only serves that WM for one year, but his most important service is years after his initial appointment.

In this issue I would like to highlight the importance of both the Lodge Secretary and Lodge Treasurer, both of whom for FSL #313 are outstanding examples of their respective offices.

The majority of their duties are accomplished not during the Stated Communication of the Lodge, but throughout the month to receive monies, pay them out as required, and record transactions and proceedings and report those to the Lodge as well as other entities such as Grand Lodge. Unlike some of the appointed offices that only perform the duties of their office during a Stated Communication or a degree, the Treasurer and Secretary both attend meetings and perform duties outside meeting times. They have much more on their plates than most members realize.

Both of these offices require a high degree of diligence and fidelity as the success of the Lodge depends in a great part to their ability and faithfulness to carry out their duties both timely and with accuracy. As I have had the pleasure to be appointed to the Audit Committee for the past several years, I have seen first hand how diligent, trustworthy and attentive each of these Brothers are to their duties.

Who's the stranger, Mother, dear?
Look, he knows us - ain't that
queer?

Hush, my son, don't talk so wild -
He's your father, dearest child.

He's my father? It's not so!
Father died six years ago.

Dad didn't die, Oh love of mine,
He's been going through the line.
But he's been Master now so he
Has no place to go you see -
No place left for him to roam.
That is why he is coming home.
Kiss him, he won't bite you child.
All Past Masters are quite mild

The Secretary receives all money due to the Lodge, provides a receipt for said funds, and hands those funds over to the Treasurer, and receives a receipt from the Treasurer. A paper trail of all money from the Secretary's desk to the checking account is carefully documented to protect the Lodge as well as the Secretary and the Treasurer. I have audited the books, viewing receipt books, minutes, account transactions and checks paid and our Secretary and Treasurer fulfil their duties timely and with accuracy, an Auditor can ask for no more than a clean paper trail.

The Grand Lodge of Washington permits Lodges to combine the duties of both of these offices into a Secretary-Treasurer. I am adamantly opposed to the combination of these two offices into a single office. While a Mason has taken an oath to not cheat or defraud a Lodge, the potential for malfeasance increases without the double checks that were originally built into Lodges. I see no good reason to combine these offices and I will advocate against the combination of the Secretary and Treasurer. While I may be biased due to having earned a CPA license, I do not see any benefit to a Lodge to combine these offices.

Brothers, take a moment to consider the many duties performed by our Secretary and our Treasurer, know they are performed well, and if you have a moment, thank them for the tremendous jobs they do for you.

WB Kevin Reid
SW F.S.L. Lodge No 313



*Smart people learn from everything and everyone,
average people learn from their experiences, stupid
people already have all the answers.*

- Socrate

He who acts upon the Square
Will always well with all compare.
The Mason uses tools of love
To build a Temple planned above.
The Gauge he constantly employs
To measure work and limit joys.

Labor
Silas H. Sheperd

The Plumb imbues his soul and heart
With love Divine and sacred art.
The Level guides his daily act
And makes good fellowship a fact.
If we employ these tools each day
A beautiful Temple will be our pay.

JUNIOR PAST MASTERS ARTICLE

As we near the end of 2021 I hope that all my brothers in Frank S. Land are well and getting to spend their Christmaas and New Years among friends and family. At our Tacoma Stars event I was reminded of why I enjoy being a part of this organization and more importantly with FSL #313. We are very much a family. It was nice to gather around a table at Mama Stortini's and hear conversation, stories, and more importantly laughter. We have been dealing with, and continue to deal with a world of Covid and uncertainty, but to gather as friends and share a meal was a special time. I hope all who attended the Stars game enjoyed themselves, more especially enjoyed spending time being social with their brothers and extended family members.

I look forward to our installation of officers on January 8th. It will be a special time to gather and start our new year. We continue to strive to get back to a normal direction and it will only be a short time before we are once again putting on the Crab Feed and auction. Hopefully you all feel the tug on your cable tow and answer with willingness and a "how else can I be of service" attitude because it takes all of us to get this event done seamlessly.

I appreciate every member's support for this last term. I know Brother Dinkins will be grateful for the support of the Lodge as well.

Thank you brothers for all that you do.

Michael Hesner

Junior Past Mastter Frank S. Land #31



Servant Leadership

Labor is leadership in the Masonic Lodge. It's often said of Masonry that 'what you get out is in direct proportion to what you put in', and such is certainly true. Masonic labor takes many forms; a Mason progressing through the chairs, improving themselves through learning to lead as they learn their ritual; a coach working with a candidate on the side-lines as they learn their posting lecture (and reflecting on the lessons he learned through the process); a Lodge Historian expressing their love of the Craft by sharing how their lodge was present and active throughout their city's history. And that labor is its own reward through each Mason's growth in knowledge along the way.

Servant Leadership also extends further. Many of our Brothers volunteer their time for a multitude of laudable pursuits, from leadership for our youth in DeMolay, Rainbow or Job's Daughters; volunteering with Boy Scouts of America; community outreach in one of our appendant bodies (supporting Shriner's Hospitals or the Scottish Rite Scholarship Foundation), organizing donations to local charitable efforts, and so much more. Masons engaged in and giving back to their communities reinforces how we keep Freemasonry a legendary presence in not only our experience, but that of our friends and neighbors.



FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY

From the Keyboard of the Secretary

Have you ever noticed that we refer to our lodge as Frank S Land No. 3-1-3 and not three hundred and thirteen? Yes, we were assigned that number because it was the next one up (the last lodge chartered before us being Silverdale No. 312), but I submit that our lodge number has significant meaning.

Whether it's for family, for role models, for our faith, or the people around us, numbers create a sense of connection. They bring us together in unexpected ways and can be positive platforms for change. Consider something as simple as a number on the back of an athlete's jersey.

Numbers often become synonymous with a player's identity and as a result, many choose to attribute meanings to their numbers. For athletes at all levels, the number worn is a source of pride and a form of deeper self-expression. Perhaps their father or mother wore that number in their athletic day.

For many players, numbers can also be a way to pay homage to role models. 21 was my favorite number growing up as I was – and remain – a big fan of Roberto Clemente. His skills on the baseball field notwithstanding, it was his humanity that inspired me the most.

Paying tribute to role models creates a sense of connection to them, not just to how they played on the field or on the court, but to who they are as people.

Numbers are rooted in religious meaning as well. Former NBA superstar Dwayne Wade wore number 3 to represent the Holy Trinity, for example. Oberlin College baseball player Ben Borzekowski didn't get to choose his number, but finds comfort in the fact that his number connects to his Jewish heritage.



I wear number 40 because it represents the 40 years the Jewish people had to endure in the desert. Those 40 years were a harsh learning experience for my people, but the lessons learned during that time are eternally valuable. I think that struggle and learning from suffering to create success is an important life lesson I bring with me every time I take the field.

The religious meaning of numbers is an inspiration for many people's athletic journeys. However, numbers can make an impact in other aspects as well. They have the power to not just inspire individuals, but to inspire all of us to incite positive change in our society.

For example, every year Major League Baseball hosts Jackie Robinson Day, where all players wear number 42 as a gesture of solidarity for the struggles he went through as the first African American to play in the major leagues. On that day, the numbers remind us that the battle against racism is far from over and that we must continue to strive for equality at all levels.

The namesake of our lodge is Frank S Land, the founder of the Order of DeMolay – an organization that played a significant role in the lives of many of our membership. Around the altar that sits in the center of a DeMolay chapter room are seven calendars, symbolic of the seven cardinal virtues of a DeMolay. The candle at the center of the seven (that means that there are three on either side) is called “Comradeship”, which just happened to be one of the names considered for our lodge. That is why our lodge number holds special significance, and that is why we say “3 – 1 – 3”.

Jim Mendoza
Secretary

Brethren Dwelling Together in Unity

This phrase from Psalm 133, for me, speaks volumes about what makes the Masonic experience legendary. In this phrase we find so much we hold dear, and sacred, about Masonry. In it we find the concept of being ‘on the level’ with the Brothers of our Lodge; all equal, including our elected officers, as ‘some must, of necessity, teach and rule’. The phrase is reminiscent of our Closing Charge, as we reflect that ‘every human being has a claim’ upon our kind offices.

This is not only a statement of being, but a call to action for all Masons. Brothers of our lodges come from all walks of life, all backgrounds, all vocations, and more. Our Lodges and our Brothers are symbols of unity, especially when we carry our Masonic values from our Lodges out into our communities.



PAST MASTERS ARTICLE

The new generation and does the flag mean the same to them as to us?



The American Flag has always meant and been a significant part of my life and of my daily belief of and about America. I was born and raised during that time when in my opinion and belief there was true allegiance in the American Flag. It was the dominant symbol and a way of life for us all. I do not remember anyone refusing to go into the Armed Forces unless it was because of religious beliefs. They all seemed to echo words of our forefathers about defending the Flag, Country and what they meant to us all during those years. Their sacrifices and families at home had positive attitudes and a belief in their country. There seemed to be no refusal when called to duty in the Armed Forces during WWI, WWII, Korean conflict, Vietnam, or the Gulf War. They all seemed to understand a sense of pride running through them in upholding the honor and integrity of the United States and our flag. However, today there seems to be changing attitudes and ways of thinking. We know every day we are running into new beliefs and constant thoughts of changing and making shifts in the old ways and beliefs.

The new wave is called millennials and the unprecedented place of importunate seems to be the new importance of the Internet. It seems to have that instance bridge to propel us into facts and figures, and forms needed to keep records for businesses and all other interests of the times, statistics, global news, all the world grew considerable smaller due to this computer ability. It also seems that today's generation has become a society of GenX, computer geeks. With all the technical knowledge that this generation has been given they do not understand the simplest things. In earlier days we were seeing the wonders of science. Today the youth only know that music is played on compact disks. They do not know right from wrong but only that it is different. Does this mean that they do not view the country the same way as their forefathers? Does the flag mean the same to them as it does to older Americans?

What we have to maybe understand is that the Millennials, Generation X or whatever they may be labeled as today, have not been through the past history as our forefathers and we have. The representation of the flag does not make nearly the dramatic impact as it did in the past. The flag does not seem to go beyond being a symbol that represents the United States of America. Ideals like patriotism, pride in country, heroism, sacrifice, causes to rally around, all of these are weak or pale in light of a general apathy that seems to exist in the greater world. More important issues like the cost of living, crime and violence in the streets and so many things in today's society. What can we do about this? Is there something we can do as an individual?

Education is the key to solving problems that exist simply due to lack of experience. If we will only take the time to pass on knowledge of what the flag means to us, perhaps we can improve the world and possibly help someone better understand. Relate stories of what it was we felt like to see the flag waving over one's encampment in a country that staying alive was the objective of the day.

Talk about privileges, life's experiences, of being one who made the world a little safer, a little more blessed with freedom, a little more open to new possibilities, because of all we have discussed here, I think those who do not understand and or pay the respect to this country and flag will so seek for this information. This may be due to their beliefs pushing them to know more about the world.

My real father served during WWII, died in battle, my Brother-in-law was a Sea Bee's during WWII (that is the construction division of the Navy), My foster Brother served during the Korean conflict, I myself served in Viet-Nam, and my son served in the 1st encounter in the Gulf war. What I have written is a compiled listing of thoughts I have in listening to young people today when they expound on how hard and tough it is out there for them. When I see young people not standing for our National Anthem or not respecting their elders. I hear young people talk about what their families, their jobs, this country owed them. Their ideas of what is real and not real, most of the time simply amazes me. I am reminded what my dad (foster Dad) would tell me when I would complain about something.



He would say “you do not know how easy you have it, just wait till you get on your own you will see just how hard life is”. You know what? He was so right as I found out that complaining as a kid was nothing compared to being an adult with responsibilities. I learned quickly just how good we Americans have it even if we do not think we do. When you are in a bad position and more on the bottom of life as you think you are, when compared to other countries and people in the same sort of position, then I saw what my dad was talking about. That being just how good we in the good old USA have it pretty darn good, Again as my dad use to say “the worst day, position or condition in the US was better than the best day anywhere else”. In my travels around the world through the military I found that statement was sadly truer than I had believed it could be.

The flag is more than an embroidered piece of cloth. The flag is not just for Americans but a banner to the truths that individuals are exactly that, individuals. That the U.S. Constitution was written with wisdom, that the Declaration of Independence is not for the world unless they so choose to adopt these principles. Our flag is a proclamation to the sprit of life itself. There are many nations on this old planet, but just seeing the red, white, and blue of “Old Glory” makes me stand a little taller as I see our flag displayed with the dignity it so richly deserves. I well up with pride and have even shed a tear or two at times when I hear the Star Bangle Banner. At my age and what I have seen, accomplished and been through in my life as well as having family around me in support and teaching me about what it is to live in these United States of America, I feel so proud and very privileged.

My family was a part of history in a way as was everyone who served and those who did their jobs during those times in towns and cities all over these United States. I have always said that you do not have to serve in the military or be a part of the government to be in your town's or cities history. When we looked into our past we find that our families have all been a contributing factor in one way or another. In everyday life we have all become a part of and made history for this is what history is. Everybody in every part of this great country, The United States of America.

Tell your story and see what your history looks like and just where it fits in the puzzle of history itself. As history is just all these stories put together. Everyday living in every city and state. That to me is History and when you read about history it is always the people in those cities and states doing their jobs. I think that you might feel more pride and look to the flag with a better understanding than ever before. You may even find yourself thinking and understanding what it means the “Grand Old Flag“ - like the old guys do.

WB Gerald P. Murphy
Frank S. Land Lodge #313

WORSHIPFUL MASTER INTERVIEW

Kris Lockrem, Senior Steward

As part of a special in each Trestleboard, I thought it would be fun to meet your elected officers of the lodge. Below you will see some questions that I posed to our new Worshipful Master, Steve Dinkins.

What made you decided to become a Mason?

My father was a Mason and so I was exposed to DeMolay (and masonry) in my youth. I grew up in a strong chapter (Bellevue) that provided many opportunities for leadership and growth. When I went off to WSU, I joined a fraternity and experienced that bond yet again.

However, after returning home from college, I never really thought of becoming a Mason. In my mind, those were men a lot older than me that I didn't feel I could relate to (or wouldn't relate to me). Until the night two ex-DeMolay brothers of mine (Jeff Brunson & Drew Baker) invited me out to dinner to talk about a new lodge they were creating. A young lodge focused on innovative and creative fun ideas. Well, after a nice dinner and lengthy conversation, I didn't think I had much to lose, so I joined. The rest as they say, is history.

When did you become a Mason?

1997 (went through the degrees with Bob Starowski).

Do you have family members that are in the fraternity?

My father Byron (deceased) was a member of our lodge. He was the individual that sat down and crafted the idea of the Crab Feed with me. He then assisted us in producing it for our first 6-7 years.

Being that this is the second time you have been the WM of our lodge, what made you decide to step into the line a second time?

It's been 17 years (2005) since I proudly served as Master of our lodge. Encourage by several of our members, I saw an opportunity to step into the officer line and mentor several officers who had not yet served as Master. Further, while we have accomplished a great deal in our first 25 years as a lodge, I felt it was once again time to be bold and raise the bar yet again. We've talked about a 2nd fundraising event for many, many years now, it's time to make that happen. We've talked about doing some more creative and exciting things with our existing events, it's time to make that happen.

What is your biggest goal for this term?

Money & Members. No reason to be shy here, right? Our financial goal is to **raise \$50k** via our 2 fundraising events. A hefty goal during these COVID times, huh? True enough. However, if accomplished, that would set a new high in fundraising for our lodge. And, from a membership standpoint, our goal is to **attract 6** new members and **activate 50** of our existing members in our work.

Where do you see FSL in the next 20 years?

As one of the most financially sound, active, and influential lodges in our Grand Jurisdiction. And due to that financial stability, one of the lodges that will continue to support their community and charities in a multitude of ways. A lodge that continues to be bold and push the envelope with our events and activities. Bigger, different, better.

To be one of the few lodges that will never say 'No' when called on by our Grand Lodge to serve in any capacity.

However, here's the challenge I believe we all have. Ask yourself (as I do on a fairly consistent basis): Is there something about our lodge that you'd love to see improved on? An aspect that if improved, would make you get more involved? If the answer is yes, then I have to ask, have you acted on that? And not just complained, but shared an idea or two for improvement with an officer? Identifying the issue is the first step in improving our lodge. Every month, every term, every 5 years. Please don't be shy.

If you could give one piece of advice to any of our brothers or friends that may be reading this, what would it be?

The more you put into Masonry, the more you'll get out! Certainly nothing new here, but couldn't be more true today. The relationships you'll build, the contacts you'll make, the fun you'll have simply multiplies the more engaged you become in our work. But take note, you can't just show up. You have to get involved.

What do you feel is your biggest achievement in Masonry to date?

The creation, yearly development and improvement of our Crab Feed Event over the past 20 years is something I've taken a great deal of pride in. The original goal was to create an event that would fund every term's budget AND be able to contribute to our long-term financial strength (for a rainy day like COVID). And, due to the continued focus on the growth of this event, our charitable contributions continued to grow to a multitude of different organizations. An event that raised just over \$1,000 in its initial year, raised over \$40,000 in its 19th year. I think we all firmly believe that this event, well managed, will be an event that will continue to grow and serve our lodge for many, many years. Along with all of you, this is the legacy we are creating and leaving to those who will follow in our footsteps.

The Road
Carl H. Claudy

So many men before thy Altars kneel
Unthinkingly, to promise brotherhood:
So few remain, humbly to kiss thy rood
With ears undeafened to thy mute appeal
So many find thy symbols less than real
Their teachings mystic, hard to understand
So few there are, in all thy far flung band

To hold thy banner high and draw thy steel,
And yet immortal and most mighty, thou!
What hath thy lore of life, to let it live?
What is the vital spark, hid in thy vow?
Thy millions learned, as thy dear paths they trod,
The secret of the strength thou hast to give
I am a way of common men to God.

MASONIC BIRTHDAYS



Master Mason Peter Abler	January 3, 2013
Master Mason Walter Collins	January 3, 2013
Master Mason Christopher Sanderson	January 3, 2013
Worshipful Brother Dennis Norton	January 18, 1975
Master Mason Russel Lent	January 20, 2011
Master Mason Robert Thompson	January 28, 1993
Worshipful Master Virgil Maier	February 6, 1968
Most Worshipful William Miller	February 19, 1959
Master Mason Clarence Carter	February 25, 2014
Worshipful Brother Wilfredo Garcia	February 25, 2014
Worshipful Brother James Taylor	February 28, 1976
Master Mason Kenneth Flournoy	March 6, 1999
Very Worshipful Jeffery Brunson	March 15, 1988
Master Mason Jeffrey Abrams	March 15, 1996
Master Mason Richard Boman	March 25, 1998
Worshipful Brother Frank Rinehart	March 30, 1979

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 8	FSL Installation of 2022 Officers
February 12	FSL Meeting Business Attire
February TBD	Sweethearts Event- Bill White
March 12	FSL Meeting Formal Attire
March 26	Annual Crab Beed - Drew Baker

Exemplary Ritual

A course of moral and philosophical instruction; this is one of the first ways Masonry is introduced to a new candidate. And how does the new Mason learn how to chip off the corners of their own rough ashlar, if not through the lessons learned in our Rituals? The mystery of the lessons taught and learned during Masonic degrees is one of the truly legendary things about Masonry, and indeed a legend which spans hundreds of years.

Each time we experience a degree, practice a bit of memory-work for our position or for a degree, or coach a candidate as they navigate their own progression and learning, we reinforce one of the most important aspects of the Masonic experience. Through applying ourselves to our Craft, we continue to learn and improve, both within our Lodge and in our communities

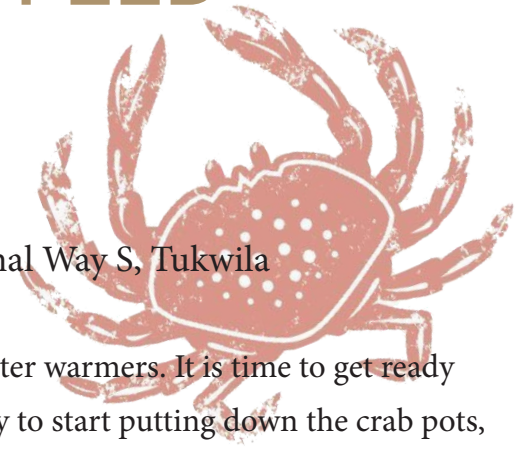
ANNUAL CRAB FEED

Save the Date!

March 26, 2022

Frank S Land Lodge #313 Crab Feed!

Seattle Police Athletic Association Pavillion | 11030 E Marginal Way S, Tukwila



All I want for Christmas is a set of new crab crackers and butter warmers. It is time to get ready for the return of “THE EVENT! After a two year hiatus we are ready to start putting down the crab pots, baking up the potatoes and gathering many great auction items to help support Children’s Hospital and of course the activities of Frank S Land Lodge #313 for the next year. It has been a long Covid season that kept us from the fellowship and fun that this event helps to foster. While the committee starts to inventory our supplies, it is time for all of us to inventory our friends and family and get them to purchase tickets to this annual bash.

Back this year will be the Donations only Bar, Live and Silent Auctions, The Fabulous Wine Pull, Dessert Auction, Raffles, Heads and Tails and more! Please come and partake, enjoy the camaraderie of you brother Masons, their families and bring along your friends and family. If lodge members just made the small commitment of having one table (8 tickets) sold for this event, our event could be the biggest and best of all time.

By the way did I mention that we will have all you can eat fresh mouth-watering Dungeness Crab caught and cleaned with-in 24 hours of our event. We are also attempting to procure Live and Silent Auction items. If you have any time shares, extra Kraken tickets, Husky or Seahawk tickets yes even Cougar tickets we would love to make a nice package event around those items. Donations of fine wines, cheeses, home made cutting boards make a great wine and cheese basket. Be creative and put together a great gift basket or nice gift that can earn some bids for the charity we are working for this year.

This event is not possible without the outpouring of Love and support of our members and their family and friends, but we could always use more. Some of the areas we need help with are at the check-in table, the bar and kitchen. We also need Coordinators of the Silent Auction and the Raffle and always with setting up and tearing down. Volunteers please reach out to drew@dabappraisal.com or call (425) 417-3739 and we can find your special niche.

Thanks for your support and the future support of our activities and charities which give us heart. Please be a supporter this year and let us kick this off with a bang after two years of rest and refreshment. Don’t forget the 26th of March. Tickets are \$40.00 if paid before the 1st of March and \$50.00 if paid thereafter. The doors open at 4:00PM and dinner is served at 6:00PM. Hope to see you all there.

MASONIC HOURGLASS

It would be amiss to describe the hourglass as a Masonic symbol. More accurately, it's a symbol that is used within Freemasonry. The hourglass, in essence, is a device that has been used to measure the passage of time and was prominent long before watches and clocks.

But when used within Freemasonry, does it represent something deeper than just time? In this post, we take a look into the history of the hourglass as a symbol and ascertain how and why it is used within the Craft.

The Hourglass in Ancient History and Beyond

Although the precise date of origin of the hourglass is unclear, it is widely accepted that the device first appeared in antiquity. A water clock similar to the hourglass was used in both Babylon and ancient Egypt and can be traced as far back as the sixteenth century BCE.

Some eight centuries later, a Frankish monk named Liuptrand documents his use of an hourglass in Europe. This is the first record of such a device being used in Europe, and it can be traced to a cathedral in Chartres, France.

But it wasn't until the fourteenth century and the Middle Ages that the hourglass began being used commonly. In Ambrogio Lorenzetti's depiction of the Allegory of Good Government, a royal is seen holding the hourglass, which is a sign it was used from 1338 onwards.

Marine Sandglasses in the Middle Ages

From the fourteenth century onwards, the Marine sandglass was used to measure the passage of time. Written records suggest that the sandglass was used regularly on European ships, as logbooks document their use. They were popular aboard ships as they were deemed to be the most dependable way of measuring time from the water.

Unlike water measurements that were used previously, the motion of the ship didn't affect the sandglass, therefore giving a much more accurate measurement of time. But it wasn't just on ships that sandglasses gained popularity in the Middle Ages.

They were regularly used in churches to indicate the beginning of services and various events when society accepted that there was a need to keep track of time. They grew in popularity as they were inexpensive and relatively easy to produce.

From churches, they quickly became used in homes as well as places of work. It was with the sandglass that people started monitoring labor, as well as various other chores and daily activities that were previously carried out irrespective of time.

The Emergences of the Mechanical Clock Reduced the Need for Sandglasses

As mechanical clock technology was introduced after 1500, the sandglass [or hourglass] became less useful. The clock made keeping time much easier, and as is the case with many inventions, it changed the way in which things had been done previously.

That being said, the hourglass still serves a purpose today and is put to various uses across society. The oldest known hourglass stands in the British Museum and is a testament to its longevity.

The Symbolism of the Hourglass

The hourglass as a symbol is particularly interesting. In some instances, the hourglass serves as a reminder that human existence is fleeting and that 'the sands of time' will eventually run out for every human being on earth.

It represents the fact that death is the great equalizer, and is something that will meet us all at some stage. Due to their representation of fate and death, the hourglass was often placed on coffins and gravestones in certain parts of Europe to signify that a person's time had finally passed.

Most commonly, however, the hourglass is used simply to represent time. Although timepieces have evolved remarkably since the invention of the hourglass, it's still universally understood as a mechanism by which one can tell the time.

The Hourglass within Freemasonry

The Hourglass is a Freemasonry symbol that represents a variety of things.

Time and death are the two most important symbols for Freemasons. This brings us to the Level, another Masonic symbol and, some may argue, a Masonic principle.

The hourglass, which represents time, can have a variety of meanings. One is that we are all moving forward in time and are unable to reverse the sands up the glass. The sand continues to migrate from the top of the glass to the bottom of the glass, regardless of our station or position in life or how much wealth we may amass. In this regard, we are all equal or on the same footing.

Death is another allusion in the Hourglass. The Hourglass is sometimes depicted with a scythe, emphasizing the theme of death. The scythe has a long history of depicting the Grim Reaper or the Angel of Death, especially in Europe and the Americas. It's also linked to the legendary figure of Father Time. Death, the great leveler, is mentioned in this metaphor. Death will come for us in the end, regardless of our station in life or the money we have amassed.

This is most likely one of Freemasonry's darkest references. It can, however, be turned around by believing in the soul's eternal existence. It is true that time passes for all of us and that death arrives for all of us. It is through the belief that

leading a good, honest and true life that we will be able to one day turn the hourglass on its side, stopping the flow of time as our good works here on Earth are recognized.

Closing Thoughts

The hourglass, then, is another interesting historical symbol that has been incorporated within Freemasonry to encourage brothers to see the world in a particular way while remembering some of life's important lessons.

It's just one of a plethora of intriguing symbols that make up the complex teachings of Freemasonry and serves as a pertinent reminder that life here on earth isn't eternal, and brothers must do everything they can to live a true and meaningful existence.