

District 7 News



Editor: WB John Gebhart
District7News@Gmail.com

June 15, 2018

Brothers Fight

I grew up with an operative brother, Kirk (we lost him in 1992). We used to fight constantly but I can't remember what we fought about. And I have two much younger operative half-brothers, Gerry and Chris, whose battles were far more intense than those between Kirk and me. My Father told me that once they even got into a fight about which one started the most fights (I swear I'm not making this up). I never tangled with either of them, which is good. I probably would have lost.



Kirk, age 11, demanding that I leave his room in the midst of a heated discussion during the Summer of 1968

My Dad was frustrated and worried about Gerry and Chris' frequent altercations. But his concerns eased on the day that he told me that they joined forces and picked a fight with him. He doesn't like to lose anything, but that day he let them win.

On the phone line I could hear his smile when he said, "I don't care what they were fighting about. I was just happy to see them working together on the same side".

WB John Gebhart

District 7 Month-at-a-Glance

June 18	Monday	West Gate #128	Stated
June 21	Thursday	Myrtle #108	Stated
June 25	Monday	Renaissance #312	Stated
June 28	Thursday	Kirkland #150	MM Degree
June 30	Saturday	Lakeside #258	MM Degree
July 19	Thursday	Myrtle #108	Stated

DDGM schedule at more-out-there.blogspot.com

Myrtle #108

By WB Brian Thomas

Myrtle Lodge and IMBC passed resolutions that members would participate in and help sponsor the **Experience Fitness Project 2018**, an outdoor activity event for developmentally challenged children and adults – similar to Special Olympics but local.

The event will be Sunday, September 16, 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., at the Issaquah High School athletic field. Allison Yocum, the organizer of the event is delighted we will participate. We have agreed to loan and deliver 10 tables and as many chairs as needed on the day of the event. We also have agreed to have at least 3 volunteers help set up and stay through the 3 hour extravaganza.

If we just volunteer and bring tables we will be acknowledged in the race-day "passport" and receive a verbal acknowledgment at the event. If we are judged to contribute in cash and services in excess of \$500 we will get a small logo on the 100 T-shirts that are distributed to participants, plus the passport and verbal acknowledgment and a "thank you" letter. If we are deemed to have contributed more we get more recognition.

Beyond the recognition, this is a very worthy cause and it is a big plus to have a Masonic label on it.

Brats, Burgers and Beers at Myrtle #108

It is with great pleasure that the District 7 News announces that **Myrtle Lodge #108**, one of two D7 Lodges that does not go dark in the Summer months, will

continue its tradition of Brats, Burgers, and Beers (in moderation) before its Stated Communications, starting on Thursday June 21st.



WM Chad Reece harbors no unrealistic expectations but would still greatly appreciate your **RSVP for dinner at damnthings@gmail.com**. Brothers with any dietary restrictions must eat somewhere else.

Renaissance #312

At the next Stated Communication of Renaissance, Monday, June 25th, the Lodge will honor its Ladies. Lodge will open at 6:30 p.m., at which time Brother Troubadours Stamper and Gebhart will entertain the Ladies in an acoustic set while the Brothers of Renaissance will dispatch the business that my regularly come before them. The Festive Board will commence at 7:30 p.m. and will feature good food, good drink and a good discussion of Character and Morality.

Please plan to attend and bring your Lady or guests. **RSVP (required) for dinner (\$25/pp) to VWB Bill Werner at bigwer1@hotmail.com**, specify prime rib or salmon. Payment may be made in person or via the Lodge website, <http://www.redmondmasons.org/paypal>.

West Gate Lodge #128

Attendees at West Gate's Stated Communication on May 21st were treated to an excellent salmon dinner prepared by VWB Ray Lavadia and WB Nelson Aquino. Visitors that evening hailed from Unity #198, Mill Creek #243, Yancey C. Blaclock #265, and LuzViMinda #317.

A highlight of the evening was the receipt of a custom built apron cabinet made by master woodworker, WB Jonathan Seaton.



Of less importance, but still cool, WM Earl Lara was seen proudly modeling the Lodge's new cooking aprons.



Mercer Island Lodge #297

Junior Scholarships – On May 30th representatives of the Lodge caught up with this year's second Junior Scholarship award winner.



Lodge Mentor VWB Dean Quigley, Chris Elliot, and WM Dan Taylor

Chris Elliot was awarded \$500 that will be forwarded to his college next year after he graduates. Senior awards were also distributed on June 6th.

BC Lodge Visit – On June 6th WB Gebhart visited United Peninsula Lodge #24 in Sannich, British Columbia, and received the warmest of Masonic welcome.



WB Peter and VWB Malcolm flanking WB Gebhart

The Lodge assigned two Brothers, WB Peter and VWB Malcolm, to WB Gebhart to ensure that he stayed inside the guard rails during an unfamiliar ritual. Mercer Island Lodge is entertaining thoughts of a cross border road trip later this year.

Fireworks - Mercer Island Lodge will again partner with the Mercer Island VFW Post and the Mercer Island Kiwanis Club for its principal fund raiser, the **July 4th Fireworks** sale. Operating hours for the sale are:

Thursday, June 28	11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday, June 29	11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 30	11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 1	11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Monday, July 2	11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 3	11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 4	11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

The sale will take place on July 28th through July 4th in the north end Rite Aid parking lot at the corner of 78th Ave. SE and SE 32nd St. Follow this link [Island Fireworks](#).

Kirkland #150

Kirkland Lodge will confer the Master Mason Degree on Thursday, June 28th. Lodge will open at 6:30 p.m. One courtesy degree is available. **For further information contact SW Bryan DeNosky at bryan@denosky.com.**

Lakeside Lodge #258

Lakeside Lodge will confer the Master Mason Degree on Saturday, June 30th. **For further information contact Secretary WB Dean Markley at wdeanm@gmail.com.**

Bellevue Assembly Rainbow Girls

By Mother Advisor Jean Dankberg

Lodge Visit - Mercer Island Lodge #297 hosted the Bellevue Rainbow Girls who shared about their service projects, “Give Kids the World” for the local assembly, and Fred Hutchison Cancer Centers as the Grand Service project for the jurisdiction. The girls have made 25 Chemo Care packages and have donated to a local cancer center. It was a wonderful evening of fellowship and connecting with our Masonic family.



Princess for a Day - Bellevue Assembly Rainbow Girls are hosting a “Princess for a Day” event Sunday, June 24th. This is a very fun event for girls ages 8 and up where the girls will be pampered by the Rainbow Girls, and dressed up in our sparkly formal dresses! We would love for the girls to have a fun afternoon, and be introduced to Rainbow Girls and Rainbow! This membership event has always been a huge hit with the younger girls. 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Eastside Masonic Center. Please

bring your daughters, granddaughters, nieces, and friends! **Contact Mother Advisor, Jean Dankberg with any questions jean@dankberg.com or phone 425-868-9944.**

And please join Bellevue Assembly Rainbow Girls at their Installation of Officers, July 1st at 1:00 p.m. at the Eastside Masonic Center. We would love see you there!

Concordant Body Meetings at EMC

<i>Lakeside OES</i>			
June 21	Thursday	Stated Meeting	6:30 p.m.
<i>Bellevue Rainbow Assembly</i>			
June 24	Sunday	Princess for a Day	11:00 a.m.
June 28	Thursday	Stated Meeting	7:00 p.m.
July 1	Sunday	Officer Installation	1:00 p.m.
<i>Bellevue DeMolay Chapter</i>			
June 27	Wednesday	Stated Meeting	7:00 p.m.
<i>Job's Daughters Bethel</i>			
June 17	Sunday	Stated meeting	2:00 p.m.

Deadline

Submissions for the June 30th issue of the **District 7 News** are due **Sunday, June 24, 2018**. Early submission is encouraged.

Letters to the Editor

Welcome WB Donn Castro (May 15, 2018)

John,
 I'm sure we weren't there, La Honda, 1964, but we were in 1972 or so when the Angels took over the town. The police stayed out of the way. Thad, Vance and I rode our British bikes into La Honda and had a beer at a bar where the girls (cycle mommas) were fighting, not too much blood. We left thinking sooner or later the cops were going to move in. Oh yes, those were the days. Thad's sister, Joanie, was the girlfriend of Oakland Angel leader, Sonny. This was about the time drugs took over the Angels' lives.
 Love, hugs,
 ~Dad

Dad,
 I thought I was cool because Jimi Hendrix gave me his autograph ... twice. But after reading your letter I realize I'm just a poser.
 Rock on,
 ~John

Hey WB John!
 I saw that little bit of sell out in the District letter, but there was also an admission of the same offense... LOL!
 Yeah, I want to get out and about, but the Baby and work keep me busy. Glad all is well with you my Brother and hope we can sit and share some fellowship soon.
 ~WB Donn Castro



WB Donn Castro holding living proof that he's been busy

We've Been Here Before (April 15, 2018)

WB Editor,
 Do we have a membership crisis? What does it mean that it's a crisis? We have a lot of Baby Boomers traveling to the Celestial Lodge, and we're not replacing them quickly enough. Is a dramatic drop in numbers a crisis? To be sure, a loss of attendance is bad news, and more so if a lodge consequently closes or has to merge. That's absolutely a big problem for lodges and districts, but how shall Freemasonry itself endure if the trend continues? Maybe we're approaching the realistic membership numbers of our time. If this is the case, we should have a contingency plan for accepting those numbers and plan accordingly. If there really are fewer people who are

Masons in their hearts, then I think I would rather have the fraternity shrunk than be diluted.

Is Freemasonry still relevant today? I think so, but much of the public probably disagrees. The secret teachings we hold are worth preserving and sharing, but there are alternative means to this education. There are so many ancient and esoteric books, online forums, Facebook groups, more occultic groups, etc. that Freemasonry has a lot of competition. Despite our teachings being timeless, interest in a fraternity that espouses a system of morality is waning overall. What we continue to bring to the table that the public can't get elsewhere is fraternalism and being a part of a group of men (in real life) with similar ideals and goals (without religious ties). That BS about making good men better isn't what Freemasonry does; this happens incidentally in all fraternities of good men. Any good man who wants to be better, and strives to do so in a group setting with similar men, makes himself better his own virtues. The virtues of joining a fraternity in which members want to become better men be what we tell people who ask why they should join.

One of the concerns we try to address is how to make lodge more interesting to its members so that we have a better retention rate. There are dedicated members who don't need to be motivated to be active in their lodge because they are Masons in their hearts. But as with any organization, a large number of us need a constant give-and-take, and that's only fair. The largest commitment to Freemasonry is arguably our time, and a lot of Brothers who have difficulty coming to Lodge don't find it worth their time to come just to sit through lodge business. If a member has to choose between spending a few hours a month with his brethren or with his family, the choice may depend on whether or not he thinks attending lodge makes him a better Mason, or even if it helps make his lodge a more successful lodge. Ultimately, that choice will determine the level of time and effort invested in ensuring the success of his lodge. There are members who may come to stated meetings consistently, but not make the extra effort to help out with degrees, and that's okay too. But we need to identify these Brothers and ask them why they're only half-committed to the lodge. I suspect each one of them will have different answers. Commitment to any fraternity can be tiring, and we don't want members to burn out either, but if we make

attendance worthwhile and run lodges efficiently, no one should get burnt out. Then there are members whom I'll call the Guardians of the fraternity. They have an intellectual or emotional interest in the future of the lodge, and need no other motivation to assist their lodge than because they can, and they will preserve their lodges.

We also have members who are not Masons in their hearts. When everybody knows everybody in town, it's easier to know a man's character. In these times, where we don't even know our neighbors, we need to change how we let in new members. The "Six steps to initiation" are a great guide, but I think they should be mandatory. If we hold our fraternity in high regard, wouldn't we want to safeguard its future to people we know and trust, not just any 18-year-old who can help boost our membership numbers? Getting new members solves a short-term problem, but bringing in good men solves the long-term problem of not having enough Brothers. If we make it harder to join, we'll attract the best of the best.

It also used to be easier to know whether a man is a Mason. Advertisement is good. We can still advertise who we are and what we do without recruiting. We certainly don't want to recruit because Freemasonry belongs to seekers, but advertising some open meetings to the public (e.g. in the newspaper, billboard) might help, not just with a notice on door at a location the public may not know exists. Prospective members also need to know who we really are, not just what they see in the movies. We're not advertising enough what we do in our community, or we just not doing enough for our communities (and that's okay). We are not a service fraternity, but we provide services, sometimes. We're not a charity, but we are charitable, sometimes. But if we want others to bring in more members of our local community, they need to know we exist, and each lodge should figure out their own way to do this. Can we get numbers to show what the impact of scholarships and Bikes 4 Books has on new membership? If we know good men in our lives who are not Masons, we should ask them why they're not Masons. Maybe one of them is a seeker too.

We have Masons who probably need more mentoring between degrees. At Lakeside, we used to schedule degrees before the candidates had proved proficiency, and were perhaps lenient on them when we tested them

within a half hour before opening Lodge. We had Brothers who attended lodge regularly for over a year as Entered Apprentices before they became Fellowcrafts, and were rushed to become Master Masons. Any experience and education they gained during their long trip to the Second Degree didn't help them to be better Fellowcrafts, and without further mentoring, certainly didn't help them become more engaging Master Masons when they were raised shortly thereafter. If we wait until after they've proved proficiency before even scheduling a degree or rushing the new Masons, it might give them more of a sense of accomplishment, and they might less likely take the degrees, or membership, for granted. Some of the members who were just "passing through" Lakeside that I've gotten to know either weren't Masons in their hearts, had different expectations about what it means to be a Mason, or just weren't afforded the time to see the wisdom, strength, and beauty of Freemasonry.

A lot of Brothers say they want good educational programs when they come to lodge, and I can appreciate this common complaint. But I dare say that all the Master Masons in our district have plenty to teach in lodge. If we're getting new EAs, FCs, and MMs throughout the year, lodges could perhaps put together an educational series where one night can be dedicated teachings from each of the 3 degrees. Not only would any information presented be useful for the new Masons, but would be useful review for older members as well. In Christianity, we the liturgical calendar is on a 3-year cycle, and specific verses from the Bible are prescribed for reading and study every day of the year. If you attend Church for 3 years, you'll have heard most of the good parts of Bible. After that, there's nothing new, and even priests will reuse their sermons from three years ago, but that doesn't mean it's still not relevant. Church members typically don't stop attending after 3-years. I think the same can apply in Freemasonry. Seeing a degree again and listening to the degree lecture and the charge, we can learn something new, and re-learn something we've forgotten, and try to renew our efforts and apply ourselves, remembering what it means to be just and upright Masons, and to ever walk and act as such. It doesn't have to be someone looking for a new topic to present to the Lodge, and we don't need special presentations from visitors to make an educational

program relevant. A lot of our lodges have had lots of educational programs in the past; I think it's okay to present the same again each year. And getting an education from these programs isn't the only way to enjoy them; our more learned Brethren should strive to be teachers in their own lodges (and district) and guarantee the next generation of members is armed with the necessary tools to lead the lodge after them. Not everyone is comfortable being a teacher, and most of the Brothers I know give back in different ways. But a lot of members are eager to take, and not all want to rise and give back. I wonder how many of our members really feel that educational programs are lacking (and whether they're an active or inactive member) or otherwise lacking. I think a short online survey to the district could yield some actionable results.

I don't think education starts and ends in lodge, however. There's a lot of self-study required of a disciplined student of Freemasonry. The Standard Work should be read cover to cover, which I know rarely happens. I think putting in this effort proves, to himself, that the Brother wants the light he claims to want, and will empower him to be a more active, more interested member. Growth happens in groups; we can't master the teachings without sharing our ideas in Lodge, but everyone's first step should be the Standard Work and other education material provided by Grand Lodge to each member.

I'm proud to belong to a moral and philosophical fraternity with such a rich history that can claim the membership of a lot of men who have done good things for their lodges and their local and national communities. Or maybe I just have a romantic idea about what it means to be Mason. As long as there are seekers who want to share their knowledge, Freemasonry will persist, even if over time our membership continues to shrink. All those things I mentioned above might help to grow our numbers, but the ideals of Freemasonry will remain, and the Guardians of our fraternity will protect our craft.

Fraternally,

~ Bro. Phu Huynh

General Correspondence

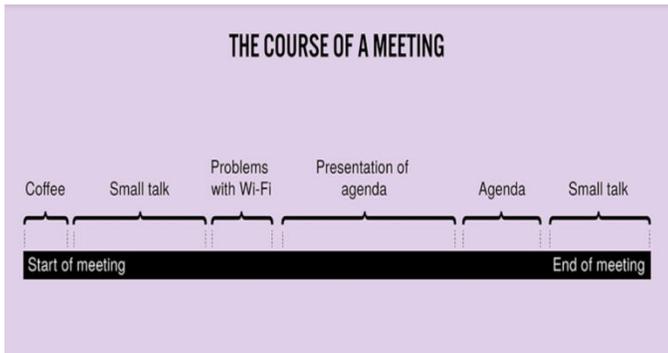
Brothers All,

I truly wish more Brothers would add their personal insights and commentary on the thought provoking

articles that our editor, WB John Gebhart, labors over so diligently in the spirit of enlightening and stimulating our Craft. It only takes a few minutes to respond to his newsletters and add your opinion on the state of our Fraternity and our world. I for one enjoy reading the comments sent in ... and I am sure many of you enjoy the same. I have rare opportunities to meet and enjoy Lodge together with many of you. Let's interact and promote dialogue over this private social media! This is what will make us BETTER MEN!"

~ WB Dan Taylor

Effective Meetings Section



Square Meals

Myrtle #108 welcomes Masons and friends to breakfast at the Gas Lamp in Issaquah every Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

Goose and Gridiron, Nest 0 meets Mondays for lunch at the Longhorn restaurant in Auburn.

Falls City #66 Sticks & Stones meets on the last Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Lit Cigar Bar in Snoqualmie Casino. Consumption of solid food at this "meal" is not customary.

Fern Hill #80 Past Masters welcome Masons and friends in South King and Pierce counties to breakfast at Angleas Restaurant just south of E. 72nd St on S. Portland Avenue (behind Safeway), Saturdays, 8:00 a.m.

District 7 Stated Communications

Lodge	Address	Meeting Times	Contacts
Falls City #66	4304 337th Place Southeast Fall City, WA 98024 www.fallcitylodge.com	2nd Saturday, 1st Saturday June; dark July & August. 7:30 p.m. except January, 7:00 p.m.	WM: David Hisel davidhisel@outlook.com Sec: Nick Michaud nickalan@comcast.net
Myrtle #108	Street Address: 57 West Sunset Way Issaquah, WA 98027 Mailing Address: PO Box 766 Issaquah, WA 98027 www.myrtlelodge108.org	3 rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. (The lights stay on in the Summer months)	WM: Chad Reece damnthings@gmail.com Sec: Brian Thomas bjt19@comcast.net
West Gate #128	8561 Willows Road NE Redmond, WA 98052 westgatelodge.org	3rd Monday except July, August. 7:30 p.m.	WM: Earl Lara earllara@westgatelodge.org Sec: Donn Castro - donncastro@yahoo.com
Kirkland #150	702 1/2 Market St. Kirkland, WA 98033 www.kirklandmasons.org	2nd Thursday (3rd Thursday June) except July, August. 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.	WM: Brian Clubb bclubb@Outlook.com Sec: David Pearson dpearson@gmail.com
Unity #198	119 North Bend Way North Bend, WA 98045 www.unity198.org	1st Wednesday. If Holiday, 2nd Wednesday except July, August. 7:30 p.m.	WM: Matt Roalkvam webmattr@hotmail.com Sec : Dean Markley wdeanm@gmail.com
Lakeside #258	8561 Willows Road NE Redmond, WA 98052 www.lakeside258.org	2nd Monday, except July & August. 7:30 p.m.	WM: Vincenzo Sainato vsainato@me.com Sec: Dean Markley wdeanm@gmail.com
Mercer Island #297	1836 72nd Avenue Southeast Mercer Island, WA 98040 www.mercerislandmasons.org	1st Thursday; 2nd Thursday if Holiday or Grand Lodge, dark July & August Open bar 6:00 p.m., catered dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7:30 p.m. RSVP for dinner, \$20.	WM: Dan Taylor dantaylor@msn.com Sec: Scott Anderson papabear120@hotmail.com
Renaissance #312	11440 Avondale Road Northeast Redmond, WA 98052 www.renaissance312.org	Last Monday of February, April, June, August, October and December; if holiday, next available Monday that is not a holiday. Meeting at 6:30 p.m., Table Lodge at 7:30 p.m. RSVP for dinner, \$25.	WM: Joe Oates joates_48323@yahoo.com Sec: Bill Werner bigwer1@hotmail.com

District 7 Officers

District Deputy of the Grand Master: VWB Doug Stamper dstamper@outlook.com,  @dstamper

	Falls City #66	Myrtle #108	West Gate #128	Kirkland #150	Unity #198	Lakeside #258	Mercer Island #297*	Renaissance #312**
WM	WB David Hisel	WB Chad Reece	WB Earl Lara	WB Brian Clubb	WB Matt Roalkvam	WB Vincenzo Sainato	WB Dan Taylor	WB Joe Oates, Jr.
SW	Br Joshua Bushman	Br Laurence Lance	VWB Ray Lavidia	Br Bryan DeNosky	WB Jonathan Seaton	WB Jim Groves	WB Thomas Aquino	WB Todd Pike.
JW	Br Robert Coats	Br Gerry O'Brien	VWB Henry Fletcher	Br Steve Preston	WB Ernest Jenner	WB Mike Campbell	Br Carl Bronkema	VWB Gene Ulrich
Sec	WB Nick Michaud	WB Brian Thomas	WB Donn Castro	WB David Pearson	WB Dean Markley	WB Dean Markley	WB Scott Anderson	VWB Bill Werner
Treas	VWB Henry Fletcher	WB Brian Thomas	WB Donn Castro	WB Bill Reynar	Br David Bach	VWB Gene Ulrich	WB Paul Hoeffler	VWB Bill Werner
SD	Br Noah Phillips	Br. Brett Meyer	Br Arjay Protacio	Br Ron Quartel		Br Dirk Benisch	Br Brent Fleckner	Br. Sheraz Malik
JD		WB Goeff Joosten	Br Karl Egts	Br Rod Beacham	Br David Bach	WB Todd Pike	Br Dane Shaffer	WB Brian Wheeler
Chp	WB Matt Roalkvam	WB Jeff Craig	VWB Mark Williams	WB Dan Chadrow		Br Max Box	VWB Roger Barnstead	Br Mihai Manolache
Mrsh		Br Thomas Monds	WB Jim Nash	Br Gary Weber		VWB Henry Fletcher	Br Stephen Burns	
Mu			Br Bert Bertram				WB John Gebhart	
SS				Br Jorge Coronel		Br Kevin Ward		
JS				Br Zach Carpenter				
T	WB Frank Schumacher		WB Henry Castro					

* VWB Dean Quigley is Mentor

** Br Andy Precious is Master of Ceremonies for the Festive Board