



A N O K A M A S O N I C L O D G E # 3 0 A . F . & A . M .

Address: 1908 3rd Ave. Anoka, MN, 55303 Phone: (763) 421-3357

Greetings from the East..... by way of Brooklyn Park!

“And now, my friends, a dragon’s toast! Here’s to life’s little blessings: war, plagues, and all forms of evil. Their presence keeps us alert, and their absence keeps us grateful” T.A. Barron

I tried this month, I really did. As all of you know at this point, we are faced with something that most of us (not all of us) have never had to deal with in our lifetime. There are so very few who lived in the 1918 timeframe in our history, when the “Great Flu” was ravaging the world, and those of us who were not, don’t remember personally the tragedy of that time.

We do not remember the death tolls of millions who died from the Flu in this time. We don’t remember, first hand at least, what the bleak and hopeless look of our families when faced with death after death. And we don’t know in our own history what this did to those families. I can tell you now, though, if you just turn on the TV, even if you are trying to get away from all of this even for a moment, we all are barraged by it all.

Meetings are canceled. Grand Sessions are canceled or moved to a virtual meeting. We can’t even gather to mourn the passing of friends, families and Brothers together. That last one... that last one is what strikes me most this morning.

WB Al Nemchik passed away a bit over a week ago as a consequence of his Parkinson’s disease. I got the call from WB Jerry Oliver, and I remember hanging up the phone, and sitting there in my living room. I told my wife, and then, like WB Jerry, I got on the phone and started to make my calls to our Brothers. There was a sense of shock, a sense of loss and longing over his passing. I went to look for a letter that I had received from WB Al over a year ago, and I re-read it.

The contents don’t matter much, they were about my eventual installation and the Officers of the Lodge. What mattered were his words. WB Al had a way of conveying much, without wasting words. It was a simple, typewritten letter, about 2 pages, front and back. Not a mistake in the words, not a word wasted. It was a mastery of simplicity and elegance.

On that day, after I had called our Officers, I literally could feel a hand on my shoulder. While every Past Master says, “If you need anything, just call”, his saying it meant more. He was one of the men who came to my Investigation to join the Lodge. He told me why HE was a Mason, and why I should be one too. His smile was infectious, and it definitely touched me deeply.



I will miss WB Al's counsel, and I will miss his words, and his jokes. I will miss seeing him in Lodge with us, in the South West corner where he sat. I will miss seeing him at dinner, taking to the other Brother's with gusto, making them laugh and smile. I will not, though, miss his gentle presence in the Lodge as we perform our Degrees or hold our meetings. He's there as much as the paint on the walls is there.

My Brothers and Sisters, the Dragon's toast is appropriate for us all. Without rain, there can be no rainbow. Without darkness, there can be no star decked sky. Without this modern-day plague, we may not have gotten the message "slow down, experience life, revel in the simple things"

I leave you with one final quote that fits what we, as Anoka Lodge really are... Family.

"The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but one of respect and joy in each other's life. Rarely do members of one family grow up under the same roof." Richard Bach. While we may not have grown up here, we certainly have grown under this roof of Anoka Lodge.

Be safe, be healthy, and feel the guiding hand of our past that will lead us to our future. And in time, when we meet again, I will look forward to sharing my memories of you personally.

**Brian Dimatteo,
Worshipful Master**

Brian K. Dimatteo 6709 Edgewood Ave N Brooklyn Park, MN 55428 brian.dimatteo@yahoo.com
(612) 709-4406



Warmest wishes from the West

As I sit and write the article this month, I was starting to write about the gloom of not being able to come to lodge and socializing with everyone, but I changed my thinking. I am saddened by the passing of our Lodge brothers in the past few months, but I have said goodbye to them in my own way. Being home as a non-essential worker has provided me with ample opportunity to get some much-needed projects done around the house and yard. Spring is here and the weather is beautiful. The trees, grass, and flowers are coming to life again, well not so much my grass, but one of the projects this year is getting to get my grass to grow. I have been able to get in the yard as social distancing is not an issue for being in the yard. I am happy to get outside again, aside from the occasional trips to the grocery store or pharmacy, which yes I do wear a mask, and some people give me strange looks, but oh well I don't need to get this crud going around, or pass it on if I have it and don't know it. I cannot wait to get back to lodge and see all of you. I miss not being able to do fundraisers, like the shrimp dinner, it is so weird not being able to go to lodge and converse with others, have a degree, or just make improvements like we had planned. A wise man once said, lodge will always be there. It will be there when we can return and be better than ever. We will always remember this time in our lives and tell stories to future generations about that time in the year 2020 when the world was put on pause for a few months. Be safe out there Anoka Lodge family we will meet again shortly, and like the kids when they come off summer break, tell our stories of what we did during this break. I wish you and your family all the best and I will see you at the lodge.

**Peace and Love,
Tim Galvin
Senior Warden**

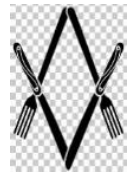
If you would like to come to Lodge, but don't have transportation please contact me or anyone of us. I am just a phone call away (763) 442-2176
We meet the 1st (First) Wednesday of the month for business, and the 3rd Wednesday of the month for degrees.



Greetings from the South!

Stay Safe Everyone,

**Julio A. Herrera
Junior Warden**



Stewards Corner

Until we can break bread together!

In Brotherly Love and Foodship,
 Bro. James Surratt
 Bro. Brent Merritt
 Bro. Jason Mevissen

Your humble steward,
 James Surratt

NOTICE

When you are the last one leaving the Lodge building, PLEASE check to make sure the doors have shut and are locked. Last week, the elevator room door was found open. Just give it a tug, to make sure it has latched.

Thank you.



Anoka Coffee Clutch

Please join us on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month for coffee, donuts and fellowship at the lodge. We will be meeting at 9am and stay till the 1st leaves.

Cancelled for now!

It is a time to get up for fellowship and conversation. All are welcome to come and join us!

Please contact WB Dave Emery at 763-755-2431 for more information.

Upcoming Anoka Lodge Events:

No events planned until further notice.



No traveling for now!



If you or someone you know in our Masonic Family needs support, please contact Dave at (763) 755-2431 or Gary at (612) 598-8682.

In brotherly love, we need to reach out to those in need.



The Bones Brothers have been busy cooking and delivering food to those in need in our Anoka Masonic Family. We will continue to do so for as long as we can. We still have some food in the freezer, so if you're in need, please let us know.

We offer a variety of meat ready for freezing or reheating, to those in our Anoka Masonic Family that need it at this time, those most at risk from this virus that should not be leaving their home if at all possible. We are also offering it to those who may be financially struggling because of this pandemic and the businesses that have temporarily shut down. The food is beef, pork, and poultry, nothing too fancy. It's all cooked, and vacuum sealed in one- or two-pound bags. It's free of charge. If you want to donate, that's ok. If we end up making a profit, that money

will be donated to the [World Health Organization COVID-19 Response Fund](#)

We are sending this communication electronically only. If you know of someone in our Anoka Masonic Family who could use this, please submit a request on their behalf.

We have set up a Google Form for you to submit your request. We will contact you through the email you send using the request and use that for all future communications. Please use the following link:

[Bones Brothers Food Request Form \(https://tinyurl.com/rt7skc3\)](https://tinyurl.com/rt7skc3)

If you have any questions, please email them to contact@bonesbrothers.org or call Scott Franz (612-396-5401) or Jeremy Hill (612-412-2649) and we'll reply as quickly as we can.

Sincerely,

Scott Franz

President, The Bones Brothers



Sisters, Brothers, and Friends of Martha Chapter:

As I noted near the end of my article last month, I believe our community is our strength. To that end, we have been holding weekly Thursday evening Zoom sessions from 7:30 to around 8:30. For those of you that have joined these sessions, thank you! It is terrific to see your smiling faces and hear your voices as we share our “stay at home” activities with each other. For those that have not been able to join us, please consider these video conference calls. We do not have any ritual or business discussions. However, some weeks we try to sing “This Little Light of Mine” and we always say the “Mizpah Benediction” together before the call ends.



With the extension of our stay at home orders and keeping the health and welfare of our members in mind, Jordy and I have not yet shared an updated schedule for this term. We are planning a video session with our Trustees and Elected Officers for early May so we will include any updates from that session in next month’s article.

Our phrase of focus for this term is that “the principles of our Order should shine with undiminished lustre through our lives.” This month, I have selected a different part of the Five Lectures by Drid Williams as published in 2011 for your consideration. From pages 15-16, Drid summarizes her research on the colors of our emblematic star.

- Blue: Adah’s color was utilized by early Christians because it signified divine intelligence and mental capacity. Blue can be used to symbolize dignity, sadness, or serenity and is the color of the sky that embraces our entire planet.
- Yellow: Ruth’s color connotes sincerity, affection, and glory. In the Bible, we find this color associated with divinity, anything that is precious and pure. The rays of the sun are yellow, producing wheat – the golden grain that sustains life.
- White: We call Esther’s white a ‘color’, but it really is not. White is the *absence* of color, reflecting *all rays of light* but absorbing none. White was used by early Christians to signify the Lenten season and to many peoples of the world, both ancient and modern, white symbolizes purity and peace.
- Green: The green ray of Martha represents Nature and its never-ending cycle of growth, death, and regeneration. Evergreen trees, ferns, plant life in general – everything in Nature that appears to die but continues again and again. It is familiar to us through this color and therefore the color green symbolizes hope, immortality, and regeneration.
- Red: Electa’s color is often used as a symbol of fire and many other things: blood, passion, hatred, cruelty, and sacrifice. The Chinese use red as a main color in weddings. Crusading medieval knights wore red crosses on white tunics that signified their willingness to undergo martyrdom. Catholic priests still wear red vestments when they celebrate the lives of martyred saints.

From this summary, I hope you find serenity, sincerity, peace, hope, and passion during these challenging times. In my experience, it may be difficult to feel all of this at one time (particularly now) – but throughout your days, perhaps you can focus on one or two.

In addition, I hope we are each able to enjoy sunny days and blue skies which will encourage the greening of our natural world during this season. As always, please keep those that are in service to others in your prayers and shine on.

**Star Love,
Beth Brown
Worthy Matron-elect**



Greetings from Bethel #48



To our Anoka Masonic Family-

We are all making adjustments in our lives due to the COVID 19 restrictions-which means Bethel 48 (just like everyone else) is having to adjust how we “do business”. Luckily, our Daughters (and most of our adults) are adept at using the various online meeting tools (Zoom and Webex) as well as staying in touch with SnapChat, Facebook Messenger, Google Hangouts and texting.

During April, we have stayed in touch a few ways:

- On the day before Easter, BG Wendy dropped off surprise activity baskets for each active member-this involved almost five hours of driving since our girls are kind of widespread. Part of the basket included a canvas, brushes and a selection of acrylic paints-and a request that each girl should post their creation to our Facebook page. We've seen most of them but are still waiting to see a few. Our girls are very creative!
- We held not one, but TWO online game sessions-our first was a wild game of Tenzi. If you've never played Tenzi, you should look into it! The second was a virtual scavenger hunt. This led to several houses being overtaken by girls running full speed through the hallways, down the stairs and into the garage as they sought out the requested items. Some of the girls (I won't say whom) were VERY competitive, while others just enjoyed watching the mayhem! This idea (along with the list) was also borrowed-and improved upon- by other Bethels. We appear to be trendsetters!
- We also held a regular meeting in a virtual format (which meant some things had to be eliminated) but it gave us some sort of normalcy as we are used to our Monday nights being “Jobie night”.
- We are coming up on the required time for holding elections for the next term, and Council position appointments- we are also looking at alternate ways of accomplishing them, since we are unable to meet together to do them.

Many of you know that Grand Bethel was cancelled-at least in the format we are all used to seeing it. Plans right now call for Grand Bethel, along with Miss MNJD pageant, to be held as part of the Grand Guardian Council's annual session in mid-June. Fingers crossed that it is able to happen!

While no one takes pleasure in the current social situation or the reason for it, it is refreshing to find everyone looking outside the box, at things that “have always been done this way”, and finding ways to make them happen in alternate formats. It is, after all, about the girls!

On behalf of the Daughters and Adults of Bethel 48,

Wendy Dimatteo, Bethel Guardian

Hello Masonic Family!!

I hope everyone is doing well! I know that things are getting boring and that things are hard during these uncertain times but, I hope that you all have been keeping yourselves busy. Although I am not able to travel, I have been keeping myself busy! I have been doing school work, cleaning, binge watching tv shows, hanging out with my family and putting everything together for Supreme Session this summer!

What have you been doing to keep busy?

Hang in there, we will all be together again soon!

**Jobie Love,
Gabbi Dimatteo SBHQ**



ANOKA DEMOLAY

No article submitted.

Greetings from the Scottish Rite,

As we continue in the depths of this dreaded Coronavirus Epidemic, and the Temporary suspension, and I say Temporary because it is still the plan of the Powers that be at the Minneapolis Valley to finish at least the Terminal Degrees as soon as we are allowed for the Spring Class.

We had also had to Postpone/Cancel the Ceremony of Remembrance & Renewal and as we continue our separation from each other in lodge and our Appended



bodies life does indeed go on.

What else goes on is the loss of our Brethren and here at Anoka we have lost several Brothers as of late. One of which who will now be remembered at the Rite when we meet again was a 53 Year member and a "True Mason" WB Al Nemchik.



WB Al Receives his 50 Year Certificate!

It was at the Feast of Tishri 2017 that WB Al got his 50 year award. This is just one more of his numerous achievements in his Masonic career, but if you know Al at all, you know that none of these things mattered to him.

He was a truly selfless and unassuming Brother, and one who's generosity and good will showed through at every meeting with him. (Along with his bad jokes) He always had a kind word or a message of encouragement to all those he knew. The hole left as his passing will be felt year after year and many things will never be the same!

As stated prior, we will let you all know as soon as activities continue and for now enjoy the quiet time, be well and be ready to get back in the Quarries when we go back to normal!



Greetings from Anoka Shekinah #104

As with all aspects of life, the Covid 19 Pandemic has prevented the Companions of Anoka Shekinah #104 to gather or do much of anything and though we hope to be able to hold our regular meeting at the end of May the prospects are not looking well.

Looking towards the Future and brighter days we do hope to hold our Grand York Rite Session June 25th – June 27th.



Our Grand High Priest James Luchsinger II will lead us in conducting the business of the Chapters and many awards and other presentations will be performed, so you will not want to miss it.

This year it will be held in Alexandria Minnesota and where our session will culminate with (Tradition Prevailing) Grand King Carl Lindstrom taking the mantle of Leadership.

As we get more information on meeting once again we will keep you all informed, tell then stay safe and stay healthy!

Greetings from the companions of Zabud Council #10!

No article this month.

T.I.M. Tony Heimer
Zabud Council #10

**Anoka Lodge #30 A.F. & A.M.
1908 Third Avenue South
Anoka, MN, 55303**



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Until we meet again,

Stay safe, stay well!