



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

Salutations from the East.....

In continuance of our “getting to know you” articles, here is one from a WB who has been riding the Masonic train for quite some time.

From Brother Gary Mohn.....

It is at the request of WB Tim Galvin that I’m writing this. He requested it be about “getting to know me”. My position at Anoka #30 is Assistant Chaplain. I am Father Thomas Bigelow’s backup, he’s the real Priest, I’m not. I took this position in roughly 2015 when I joined Anoka #30 by transferring from Lake Harriet Lodge.

The two single best things I have ever done for myself are easy to list. First, I married the love of my life, a most wonderful woman named Debbie. We have been married 44 years this year. The second-best thing I did is I became a Mason. That was even before I met my Wife.

I was born and lived in Minneapolis. In 1970, after graduating from the University of Wisconsin Stout, I took my first job of teaching in Racine Wisconsin. It was Racine that I was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason in 1973. Life was good in Racine, but my father needed help with his own business, and I returned to Minneapolis. We moved up here into Nowthen in 1991 and since it is a long drive to Lake Harriet Lodge from here, I seldom went. As my retirement neared the yearning to be active in Lodge returned and after attending several, I choose to become a member of Anoka #30. There I found total acceptance, friendship, and brotherhood at my first meeting. Anoka #30 is a Lodge I love, and I am proud of being a member.

My Masonic history is rather lengthy. My Great-Great-Grandfather was a Master Mason and Past Master. My Grand Father was also, as was my own Father. I joined Lake Harriet DeMolay in the 1960’s while still in high school and went through the chairs. Upon my return to Minneapolis, I joined Joppa Lodge #300. It was located within a block of the Scottish Rite and was a great very active lodge. I went through all the chairs and was elected Master in 1979. It was a great year that I am proud of. I can say I have held all office’s, except Secretary and Treasurer, and given all lectures. In 2003 Joppa was forced to move from the building they rented, and they merged with Lake Harriet Lodge.

This will be my 48th year as a Mason. Through Masonry I have changed my own life for the better. I have met a multitude of close friends and men who I respect. Through Masonry I have learned the importance of honesty, dignity, hope, faith, and brotherhood. It has been a journey of self-growth that no man can achieve alone, but by surrounding yourself other good men – that growth is possible. The secret to life in Masonry is involvement. To all our members, especially our newest, I stress get involved. Volunteer to help when you can. In the kitchen, event setting up, event clean up. It’s during this involvement that you meet new friends, learn about Masonry and start your growth.

I have not attended or been able to be active at Anoka #30 for about a year now. We blame it on the Covid Virus. A person does not get to be this old by being dumb. My wife and I have followed all the rules, we wear our masks, and we stay home. We recently finally got our Covid Vaccine shots. For us the future is now looking brighter. In the future as our vaccines “kick in”, I will be returning to lodge and a more normal life. Thank you.



**Much Love and Peace,
Tim Galvin,
Worshipful Master**

(763) 442-2176

Warm wishes from the West

It appears that Mother Nature has finally decided that Spring shall officially start. The singing of the birds in the morning is one of the earliest signs that Spring is coming. Unlike last year, when we all had to hunker down to slow Covid-19, we are now getting the vaccine out and putting this pandemic behind us. However, we can not let our guard down. We must still stay safe, wear masks, and adhere to social gathering limits. Once we get most of the country vaccinated, we can finally get back to somewhat normal gatherings.

On a somber note, we had two very tragic events that happened in our country in the last two weeks. I am a user of the app TikTok and I would like to share an audio clip that is being used.

"Hey, I love you girl!"

Love me? You don't even know me.

"That's okay, if people can Hate for no reason, why can't we Love for no reason?"

I like this audio clip because it speaks to our current environment. There is too much anger and hatred that is being spread around. One of the best examples is the mistreatment towards Asian Citizens. They have been and still are being extremely mistreated from the beginning of the pandemic. We need to come together and stomp any negative attacks on our Asian Citizens. We need to let the world, and ourselves, know that we will not tolerate any hatred. I'm not a religious person, however I do like one saying and that is "Love Thy Neighbor". We need to get back to this, so that we can leave our future generations a better world than what we currently are experiencing.

So, I leave you with this. Stay safe, Spread Love, Not Hate.

Reminder: Please get vaccinated, when and if you are able.

**Fraternally,
Julio Herrera
Senior Warden**



Greetings from the South!

Minnesota Masonic Charities Community Scholarship applications are now available on our website (AnokaMasons.com) for the 2021 MMC Community Scholarship Awards. Each year Anoka Masons award three scholarships of \$1000 to three deserving students and the Grand Lodge of Minnesota matches that amount allowing us to present each recipient with a check for \$2000 to help with their education expenses.

If you know of a Senior that is going to attend an accredited 2 or 4 year institution, please consider having them apply by downloading the PDF on the AnokaMasons homepage (MMC Scholarship link) and returning it to the Lodge. We will be closing submissions on June 1st and will forward submissions to the selection committee and will announce the scholarship winners as soon as they are selected.

**Regards,
Daryl Warmack
Junior Warden**



Upcoming Anoka Lodge Events:

Wednesday, April 7th – Stated Meeting
Meeting 7:00 pm

PLEASE NOTE: Due to restrictions on the number of people we can have, we request you RSVP to the event so we can keep the number of members to the prescribed limit. RSVP to 763-421-3357 OR anokasecretary@gmail.com



Stewards Corner

Welcome to 2021!
Brothers, I look forward to working with Brothers Aaron Brendel, Jr. Steward and Brent Merritt, Lodge Chef, to continue the fine dining when we are able to.

Respectfully,
Jason Mevissen, Sr. Steward



Coffee Clutch

We are back meeting at 9:00 for fellowship on Wednesday, April 7th and April 21st. Remember your masks and practice social distancing.

Officer Spotlights of the Month.....



Jason Mevissen, Senior Steward

So, my journey began when my parents moved into their new house. It was a long sales process for them and during that whole process, they kept talking about the nice older guy next door that was mowing the lawn to keep it looking nice. After my parents moved in, my dad told him about my physically handicapped daughter Madisyn. As soon as brother Kent Swedberg heard, he welcomed us with open arms, literally with big hugs and tickets for the Osman Shrine Circus. After having an amazing time, I felt compelled to help and volunteer. I started working the circus and found out more about the Shriners and the Masons. I loved the fact that we were all there for the same purpose of helping the kids and the fact that we were treated like family from the first hug. So I joined our beautiful Lodge. Since then, we met so many welcoming and lovely people. After a few years of hanging around Lodge and helping out when I could, I was asked to join the officer's line. We made the family decision to join. After a year in the Tyler's chair, I proceeded moving up the line. Shortly after our installation in the Jr. Steward spot, my world turned upside down with the passing of my daughter. Once again, our Masonic

family was there. Between Father Tom coming to the hospital, WB Jerry Oliver taking the care of the service, lovely Peg Oliver and the OES family for the beautiful luncheon after, and everyone else that I might not even know about. Then COVID hit, what more can I say about that. So as things start getting back up and running, I look forward to all the hugs we missed out on and finding ways to help keep our second home going strong. I also am looking forward to the circus, because it meant so much to Madisyn and we, as Masons and Shriner, can not forget about kids in need. Your Sr. Steward, Jason Mevissen

Aaron Brendel, Junior Steward

I grew up the only child of a single mother. I didn't have any relatives who were Masons. I don't think I even knew what it was. Yet here I am a Free Mason for the last 29 years!

When I was 14, unbeknownst to me, my neighbor, Virgil Sellers, was the Grand Commander of the Knights Templar in Iowa. Virgil was the kindest old man who would always stop and say hello to me when he saw me outside playing. I often would see him coming home in his regalia and I always asked to see his funny feather hat and sword every time! One day, my Mother and I were outside raking leaves and Virgil comes out to talk to us. He tells me that he knows of a club for young men that I might like and asks if I would be willing to have one of the members and an adult advisor come over to the house and tell me all about it. A few days later, a friend I knew from school and an Advisor, the man who would years later sign my Blue Lodge Petition, stopped by the house and told me all about DeMolay. How had I never known this existed? Why had I been missing out until then? Sign me up!

I took to DeMolay like a moth to a flame and helped expand it locally to the point that nearly every young man in my High School was a member. I did everything. I was a ritualist at heart and competed in several national competitions as well as attended the DeMolay International Congress sessions twice. I lived and breathed DeMolay! During my time as an Active DeMolay, I served as Master Councilor of my chapter twice and served at the State level as the State Senior Councilor for two years. I was honored with the DeMolay Chevalier, which to date is my most prized possession and memory. My Chapter Dad, Gary Shaulis, was my mentor, role model, and friend so it was only natural that when I turned 18, I petitioned his Lodge, Equity #131 in Janesville, Iowa. He signed my petition, guided me through the process and raised me.

Technically speaking (shhh, don't tell anyone this as I think it was against the rules), I petitioned lodge before I was 18 so that my petition could be read, investigated, and voted in enough time so that I could take my 1st degree as close to after my 18th birthday as possible. Why not just wait a couple more months, you ask? Because I was scheduled to be speaking to the Grand Lodge of Iowa at the Annual Communication only a few weeks after my 18th Birthday! What a memory that was, standing in front of hundreds of Masons addressing them not only as a DeMolay, but as a Brother!

In my early 20s, Bridget and I decided to move to Minnesota and started our family. I worked with Minnesota DeMolay for a short while, but as the pulls of home and career grew stronger, I dropped off the Masonic map for awhile as I focused on what was most important. I still maintained my membership to Equity Lodge #131, but I had not transferred to a Minnesota lodge until about 15 years ago when I found my way to Anoka Lodge. It may not be my first Masonic Home. But Home it is!

Also, when I found my way back to Lodge, I found my way back to DeMolay as well. I started working with Robbinsdale Chapter and eventually was instrumental in bringing DeMolay back to Anoka Lodge. In 2014, I was nominated and elected to become a Deputy Member of the DeMolay International Supreme Council, which is the governing body for DeMolay International comprised of only Master Masons. I served as a non-voting Deputy for a couple years before being asked to take on the position of Executive Officer of Minnesota DeMolay, which I am still currently serving as.

And while I often get called "the DeMolay guy" my service to youth doesn't end there. I am also very active as an adult in Job's Daughters, Bethel #48 in Anoka. I currently am serving as the Associate Bethel Guardian and have

previously served as the Guardian Treasurer and the Director of Promotions. I have served on several Grand Guardian Council committees, and I was blessed to be allowed to coach the 2019 Minnesota Messenger Team as they competed in Kansas City.

In my years as a Master Mason, I have come to realize this; The values we hold as Freemasons are designed to build our life into a metaphorical temple. We each take our rough ashlar, chip away at them so that we can build a solid building that is our life. But all buildings need a strong foundation if they are to stand the test of time. Brothers, there is absolutely "No Stronger Foundation" than that of our Masonic Youth upon which one could build their life upon. I am so incredibly blessed that Virgil Sellers shared DeMolay with me. That one conversation he had with 14 year old me while I was out raking my leaves changed my life! It was the spark that lit my flame and led me down the path that gave me my Anoka Masonic Family.

Thank you Virgil!

Fraternally,
Aaron Brendel



Greetings Brothers and Friends,

The Bones Brothers decided to meet in March as we have several things starting in April. Our first event is going to be a food truck service at Cub Foods Riverdale on Sunday, April 18th. We don't have exact times yet, but suffice to say, early afternoon we'll be open for business for sure. Keep your eyes on our Facebook page for further updates. It's shaping up to be a busy year for us, hopefully COVID restrictions will allow that to happen. Looking forward to a year of "normal". It will be great to actually be able to see everyone in person again!

Our stated meetings are online the second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. We'd love to have any Brothers interested come and join us!

Be safe, be well, be well fed,

**From the pit ...
Scott**



Greetings Brothers,

As we all know, COVID has hampered many an activity of the lodge, the Traveling Man program being one of them. With the sloooooow return to normal, I am hoping to start arranging travel in the last quarter of 2021. However, I have decided to start making a few solo trips. To that end, last Wednesday March 17th, I accepted an invitation to attend Lodge at Minneapolis 19.

Arriving a little early, I was conducted to the office, introduced to several brothers and engaged in small talk before moving into the Lodge to prepare for the meeting. While lightly attended, the meeting was lively and jovial. This

meeting was the roll out of their “learn about a brother” in which one brother takes 10-15 minutes to give his Masonic journey and other personal stories. It appeared to be well received and sparked a further discussion on brotherhood and reaching out to learn more about others. After all business was conducted, the meeting adjourned. Minneapolis 19 likes to liquid lodge at The Lowery on the other side of their parking lot. I look forward to more outings. If you would like to meet me at one, email me and I will give you details on my next excursion.

In Traveling Brotherhood



SW Bro. Black III, me, WB Bauman, JW Bro. Moehing
James Surratt,



From the Trustees.....

Greeting to All,

I can not believe it is April, time for Spring and Summer. I feel we have an optimistic summer ahead, the last one was the craziness of Pandemic uncertainty. With no Lodge or any of the other bodies meeting in the building it has been very hard for a lot of us. We are back at Lodge, have OES, and the other bodies are starting to meet in our building again also. Better days are ahead!!

It is time to get working on our Lodge Building again! I will be back and, at the Stated Meeting, with a plan on what we will do first and where we start. The Trustees and Building Committee will then finalize our intended plans.

Stay Optimistic and Grateful,
John Antl

Sisters, Brothers, and Friends of Martha Chapter,

Oh yes – the weather is getting warmer, the flowers and trees have started to bud, and we now have more sunlight to enjoy! Spring is here! A new season where everything is coming back to life!

As Mother Nature is bringing spring to us, Martha Chapter is starting a new term with a new Corps of Officers. Installation was held Thursday, March 18, 2021 in the Chapter Room at the Lodge. It was a great feeling being back “home” and to see everyone in person. Everyone was happy to be there and a great evening was had by all those attending. All necessary precautions were taken with touch-point sanitizing, distancing, face masks and hand sanitizing as required. No refreshments were served.

Our first meeting is on April 1st and will be by Zoom. Call in information will be sent out a few days before the meeting. It is not necessary to have a computer for this call. You can call in by cell phone also.

Our second meeting is on April 15th and will be an in-person meeting at the lodge. We will be honoring our Junior Past Matron, Patty Meehl and Junior Past Patron, John Antl. Please join us if you are able. We understand that not all will be comfortable attending in person.

Martha Chapter has several fundraising plans that are tentative at this time. Hoping as time goes on that will change. Please continue to wear your face mask, practice social distancing, wash your hands and avoid large crowds so we can all be back together again.

Wishing you all the best,



Sharon Barlow
Worthy Matron



Steve Downs
Worthy Patron



Greetings from Bethel #48

We hope this finds you all well in body, mind and soul!

We are SO EXCITED to say that we will be meeting in person (of course with restrictions) starting April 5!!!

We are limited to 15 people in the Bethel room, so we have taken to requiring registration for our meeting, planning on 12 members, and 3 council members or

CAV adults. While this isn't totally back to normal, it is a HUGE step, and we are anxious to see each other in 3 dimensions once again!

We have been keeping busy, meeting virtually, and continuing to do as much of a regular meeting as we can via Zoom.

In March, we held Go to Church Sunday virtually, by attending Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church in Hanley Falls. Myron Crawford, father of our Majority Member Kacy is the Vicar and presided over the service. We also held a Chopped style challenge (similar to the show Chopped on the Food Network). The girls were given instructions to use THREE ingredients-Ramen noodles, a can of mandarin oranges, and chocolate chips. They had 30 minutes to make one (or more) dishes that utilized the three required ingredients. They created the dish during our video event, and had to have a parent (or parents, sibling etc) available to taste and judge the item. We had Asian, pasta, dessert, and baked goods and the baked good (orange chocolate chip muffins with a ramen brown sugar crumble) won out. It was crazy interesting!

We also held our annual Heggie's Pizza sale, and thank all of you who helped support our Bethel with Pizza orders, or donations. It means the world to us!

The weekend that we all wish we had been able to spend in Brainerd at Grand Bethel was spent at the first annual Virtual Job's Daughters Leadership Summit. We welcomed speakers on being yourself, mental health for Daughters and Adults, how to positively engage youth in this challenging time, Masonic Heritage, finding and securing scholarships, and how to ensure that Job's Daughters survives and thrives and stays relevant for another 100 years.

In April, we are still planning our Easter party to be held virtually and are going to do another culinary adventure. The girls decided they want to do a virtual tutorial on how to make Fruit Salsa and cinnamon tortilla chips. This should be a HOOT!

We are so incredibly grateful for your continued support, and anxiously await being able to welcome you to our meetings once again!

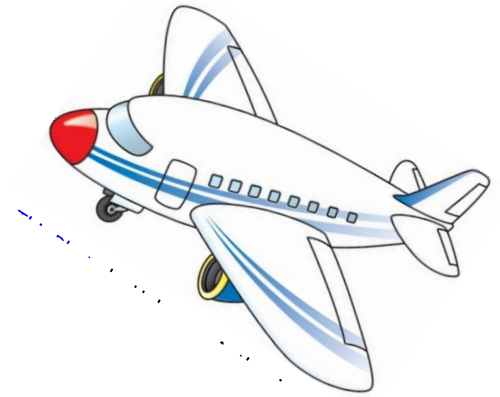
Stay well!

On behalf of the Daughters and adults of Bethel 48

Wendy Dimatteo
Bethel Guardian

In a world where you can be anything, be KIND

Hello, Anoka Masonic family!!



Happy April!

Happy Belated St. Patty's Day! I hope that everyone had a fantastic month of March. I am eager to get back to in-person meetings soon, as are may of you. We just need to remember to keep sanitized and keep our masks on so everyone continues to be protected.

The nice weather must mean springtime is here! I am so excited to spend time outside and just enjoy the fresh air.

**Sending my love,
Gabriella Dimatteo
Supreme Bethel Honored Queen, 2019-2021**

Anoka DeMolay

No article submitted.



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.

Greetings from the Scottish Rite,

If you didn't make it down, we had a wonderful completion of our 30th & 32nd Degrees, bringing over 30+ Brothers in as Masters of the Royal Secret and completing those last two classes shut down due to Covid 19.



A last reminder that I will be holding my Final meeting as Wise Master of the Chapter of the Rose Croix on Thursday, April 15th. This is a simple Meeting at which we also vote in the next Officers for 2 Years and we will be holding their Installation Immediately after said meeting. WB Curt Quast will (Tradition Prevailing) as Wise Master. So come down and show your Support. (Again, no reception and such due to Covid restrictions)

We have also set plans to do a partial set of Degrees Virtually (4th – 14th) beginning on May 6th, with Live Performances of the 18th Degree on May 13th, the 30th Degree on May 20th and Finishing it all up on Saturday, May 22nd. (See more information in the Flyer below) As always, if you need more information or want to get a petition for when degrees begin again, feel free to reach out.

WB Terrance M Schaffer KCCH

**MINNEAPOLIS
SCOTTISH RITE VALLEY
= 2021 SPRING =
REUNION**

**ALL MASTER
MASONS ARE
ELIGIBLE TO
PETITION**

FEES
\$395 Which includes
all Petition and Degree
Fees.

**REGISTRATION
REQUIRED**
Scottish Rite Members
and Candidates please
register at the link listed
below before May 4th.

Register at:
<https://scottish-rite-mn.org/orient/2021-orient-of-minnesota-degrees>

QUESTIONS
Contact your Double
Eagle or call / email the
Minneapolis Scottish
Rite Valley Office with
questions:
612.871.1500
jackie@asarmn.org

**A unique and first time ever opportunity to
become a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason.**

WHEN
**Virtual Online 4th - 14th Degrees presented
May 6th - 7th, 2021 at 6:00 pm each evening.**
18th, 30th, and 32nd Degrees
Thursday, May 13th – 18th Degree
Thursday, May 20th – 30th Degree
Saturday, May 22nd – 32nd Degree

WHERE
Virtual Online – YOUR Computer.
**In-Person Degrees – Presented at the
Historic Minneapolis Scottish Rite.**
More details to follow.

HOW
**Petitions and Fees are Due to the
Minneapolis Valley by April 30th.**



Greetings from Anoka Shekinah #105

No news is good news!!

**Todd Mayer
High Priest**

From Zabud Council #10

. Until next month.....

**Trent Gilbertson
Thrice Illustrious Master
Zabud Council #10**

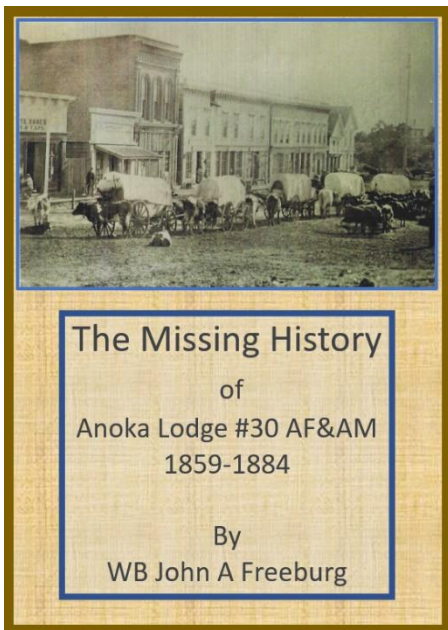


**Anoka Lodge #30 A.F. & A.M.
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Anoka, MN, 55303**



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COMING NEXT MONTH.....

A preview of this book written by WB John Freeburg.
