

**Gray 329**  
**September, 2009**  
**Newsletter**

From the East  
WM. Darrin Pitts:

My fraternal brothers -

It is almost 2010 and if you are not accessing the internet then you are not likely getting my message or any current information about your lodge. The most up to date information on Gray 329's schedules, programs, events, committees, meetings, officers, and other contacts can be found on the Gray 329 website: [www.gray329.org](http://www.gray329.org). Please check in often and certainly email me with any constructive comments - my email is [worshipful@gray329.org](mailto:worshipful@gray329.org). Stated meeting is the first Wednesday of each month and guests are always welcome.

Decisions are almost always made by those that show up or speak up. I understand that participating and even attending Lodge can be uncompromising with all of the many obligations of your professions and families, however you can remain involved with your Lodge through the website and by email. For example if you have any motions, recognitions, appreciations or tokens you want to present, please e-mail it at least a week before any Stated Meeting to Secretary. Remember the Gray 329 officers are here to serve your Lodge, so please let us know what we can do for you.

September is looking like it is going to be exciting and active month. We have a lot going on with degrees and programs. I am proud to point out that we had our annual certificate exam and that two of our line officers renewed their class A certifications and several others will be going to Holland Lodge in November to receive their class B and C certifications. In August we raised one Master Mason and put on two Entered Apprentice degrees. The degree work here at Gray is improving with every degree – an outstanding job being done by all involved, but we want more brothers involved – Thursdays are degree nights (there is food).

If good food is what it takes to encourage a brother's attendance at a Stated Meeting or participation in degree work, well, Gray 329 has it! Our Stewards do a fantastic job preparing the meals for Stated Meetings and Degree nights – thank you Bros. C. Mathews, B. Irish and D. Vukovic.

My appreciation of the month award goes to Gray 329's new secretary, Bro. Butch Boggess (PM) has been putting in countless hours keeping Gray's records and paperwork in order, and I want to get in this note to recognize a too-often thankless job done well (Gray thanks his much better looking other half for the support over the years too!).

So Brothers, whether you are dropping by the lodge for food, paperwork, or degree work or conversation, please stop and take a moment to notice the recently hung chandelier in the Great Hall of the Lodge. This is the Ludwigsburg Chandelier and it was generously "found" and

donated by Gray Bro. Gregory Stephens who recently moved and joined Solomon Lodge No. 822 AF&AM in Stuttgart, Germany. Stuttgart is the sixth largest city in Germany and has a population of around 600,000 people. It is the headquarters of the US European Military Command.

Brother Stephens has written to us that the Secretary of Solomon 822 informed him that the chandelier was willed to the Lodge by a Solomon 822 brother on his passing, but on the condition that it must be used for a Masonic purpose. Unfortunately them, but great for us, the ceiling of the Solomon 822 lodge could not support such a grand, but heavy, piece of intricate brass art and so Bro. Stephens communicated to the secretary of his relationship with Gray 329 and the Houston Masonic Library & Museum Foundation, and now, generously, we have this exquisite art as a tremendous gesture of goodwill between Solomon Lodge 822 and Gray Lodge 329. Bro. Stephens reports that Solomon Lodge 822 is thrilled to be able to see it put to such good use.

The Masonic Temple Building, as it is now known, was completed in downtown Houston in 1923 and is located at 1407 Fannin Street at Clay Street. The building was home for over forty years, from 1923 to 1964, to Gray Lodge. The architect for the Masonic Temple Building, a Master Mason named Alfred C. Finn (1883 - 1964), was raised in Gray Lodge in 1905. Finn's son was also an architect and a member of Gray #329. Alfred Finn's original architectural drawings and specifications from 1923 were found and the supposed location of the time capsule was identified. In early 2009, after some picking, digging and deconstruction from the inside of the building at the street level, and behind the location of the Masonic cornerstone laid in 1923, was found a lead box, exactly as specified by Finn.

The time-capsule will be opened September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and all Gray Lodge Masons are invited to participate in the event. Senior Deacon Randon Reeves and the Houston Masonic Library & Museum Foundation have organized a recreation of the 1923 three-block march in Masonic aprons beginning at 9:30. Gray 329 will gather at 9:30 a.m. on the Plaza in front of the First City Tower corner of Fannin and Lamar at 1001 Fannin, then march approximately 3 blocks to the Masonic Temple Building. The event will be held in the (airconditioning). The march will be led by traditional bagpipes and drums (Gray's own Bro. Ian Martin), then by member representatives of the Scottish Rite, numerous Blue Lodge representatives, York Rite representatives and all followed by the Arabia Shriner's Oriental Band. The public is invited and all Gray 329 Masons are encouraged to wear their aprons. Please contact Randon Reeves ([randon@randon.com](mailto:randon@randon.com)) for more information or go to the Library's website; [www.houstonmasoniclibrary.org](http://www.houstonmasoniclibrary.org).

My Brothers, there is no question that this exciting event will probably be the most tremendous Masonic event in our generation. This is something to be excited and proud to be a part of as the "host lodge" of this occasion. Now, more than ever, do we need a strong showing (a grand photograph will be taken) – please come and join this once in a generation event!

The Tellepsen Construction Company will now lay cornerstones in true Masonic fashion with each new building construction in the Houston area and Gray 329 Lodge has been invited to be the official Lodge of record to lay all Tellepsen built building's cornerstones. At the moment Gray 329 is working to obtain the authorization from the Grand Lodge of Texas to organize a cornerstone laying team which will, for its first cornerstone laying event, lay the cornerstone for

the new Tellepsen YMCA building in Houston, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The public and all Masons are encouraged to be a part of this historic re-event.

So wrapping it for you brothers, I wasn't kidding when I said it was getting busy and exciting around your lodge. Please join us, and even participate, at 10:00 a.m. for the September 8<sup>th</sup>, Masonic Temple Building Cornerstone Time-Capsule Event, on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 for the Tellepsen YMCA Masonic Cornerstone laying ceremony.

Fraternally,  
Darrin Pitts  
WM Gray 329

Gray Lodge No. 329 *circa* 1923

