

Plinth

Issue 18-01

February 2018

Niclaas Soellaart elected Worshipful Master



Blazing Star Lodge 26 held its annual election on the 16th of September 2017 in Amersfoort, the Netherlands. The Lodge chose the Senior Warden to lead a new team in the 2017-2018 Masonic Year.. The newly elected Senior Warden and Junior Warden are Past Masters. The expectations for this administration are high. Deputy Grand Lecturer Ernest Allen Jr presided over the elections and charged the newly elected officers to work hard to make the Lodge the best Lodge it can be and be positive examples for the other brethren

Special points of interest:

-) 45th Anniversary Medal
-) Gala Ball 2017
-) Lodge Picture

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Senior Warden
Charles Wright

The results of the Election were as follows:

- Worshipful Master ... Niclaas Soellaart
- Senior Warden Charles Wright
- Junior Warden Kenneth Grant
- Treasurer Charles Beane
- Secretary Dennis Griffin



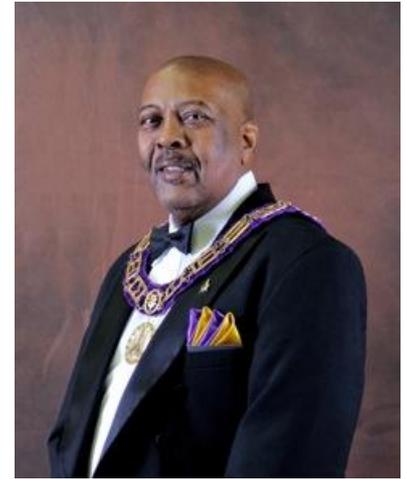
Junior Warden
Kenneth Grant



Deputy Grand Master
R.W. Jeffery M. Coaston



Most Worshipful Grand Master
Hon. Yves R. Maignan



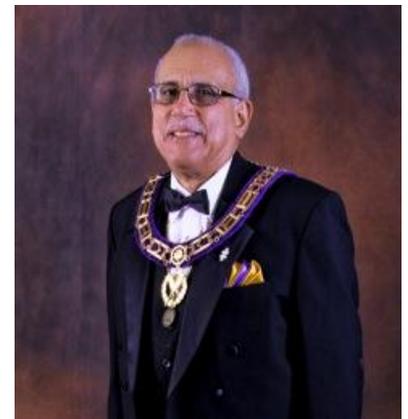
Senior Grand Warden
R.W. Timothy R. Downes



Junior Grand Warden
R.W. Gerald R. Thaxton III



Grand Treasurer
R.W. Ricardo Anderson



Grand Secretary
R.W. Robert J. Parks

226th Annual Grand Lodge Session

The 226th Annual Grand Lodge Session of the MWPH Grand Lodge was held in Boston, MA on 08-09-10-December 2017. Blazing Star Lodge #26 and the 7th Masonic District were represented by RW Bro. Charles Beane, Worshipful Bro. Niclaas Soellaart, and Past Master Randall Scott. The Grand Lodge officers above were reelected for this Masonic Year.



45th Anniversary Medallion

Our 45th Anniversary was on the 4th of December 2017. This medallion was made to celebrate this event and all members will receive one along with their dues card when they pay the current year's dues.



Subject: Nelson Mandela

When Nelson Mandela was studying law at the University, a white professor, whose last name was Peters, disliked him intensely.

One day, Mr. Peters was having lunch at the dining room when Mandela came along with his tray & sat next to the professor.

**The professor said,
" Mr Mandela, you do not understand, a pig & a bird do not sit together to eat"**

**Mandela looked at him as a parent would a rude child & calmly replied,
"You do not worry professor. I'll fly away,"
& he went & sat at another table.**

Mr. Peters, reddened with rage, decided to take revenge.

**The next day in class he posed the following question:
"Mr. Mandela, if you were walking down the street & found a package, & within was a bag of wisdom & another bag with money, which one would you take ?"**

Without hesitating, Mandela responded, "The one with the money, of course."

**Mr. Peters , smiling sarcastically said,
"I, in your place, would have taken the wisdom."**

Nelson Mandela shrugged & responded, *"Each one takes what he doesn't have."*

**Mr. Peters, by this time was fit to be tied. So great was his anger that he wrote on Nelson Mandela's exam sheet the word "IDIOT"
& gave it to Mandela.**

Mandela took the exam sheet & sat down at his desk trying very hard to remain calm while he contemplated his next move.

A few minutes later, Nelson Mandela got up, went to the professor & told him in a dignified polite tone,

"Mr. Peters, *you signed the sheet*, but you did not give me the grade."



Don't mess with intelligent people...

Gala Ball 2017

Blazing Star Lodge #26 celebrated it's 45th Anniversary in December 2017. In honor of this event the Lodge held its annual Gala ball and dinner on Saturday, the 21st of October in Almere, the Netherlands. The Lodge combined this affair with a charity event. The Gala Ball was well attended and everyone had a wonderful time with good food and excellent entertainment. A donation will be given to the Wilbelmina Kinderziekenhuis in Utrecht. We look forward to continuing this tradition in 2018. Look for information on this coming event in the next Plinth.



Why Do Deacons Carry Wands

Well, we know that they use them to form an arch over a visiting dignitary when escorting him into lodge, but what other uses are there.

It was suggested at one practice that the wands be left behind when conducting a candidate as they just get in the way, and I as Director of Ceremonies, very foolishly, was inclined to agree. But everything in the Masonic ritual has a reason or a hidden meaning that we have to root out so that we understand why we do what we do.

On the south coast of England, in the county of Sussex, near the town of Wilmington, there is carved into a hillside, the figure of a man with arms outstretched and in each hand he holds an asherah or staff. The figure is 70 metres high which about 125 feet. Nobody knows who carved it there, but it is known to be several thousand years old.

The word asherah is the name given to the wooden staff, about six feet in length which was carried by the attendants to the high priests in ancient times and was the insignia of their office. The wooden staffs were named for the Goddess Asherah who was the mother of twins Shachar and Shalem who were respectively the God of Dawn and the God of dusk. That is significant as will become apparent later.

The word deacon is a derivation from a Greek word which in translation means attendant. So two deacons with wands are the equivalent of two attendants with asherahs.

In the Junior Warden's lecture it states that a Masonic lodge is situated due east and west for three reasons.

First, the sun rises in the east and sets in the west. Remember Shachar and Shalem the Gods of dawn and dusk, sunrise/sunset, there is a connection there. Second, we'll put that one aside as it has no significance here. Third, the tabernacle of Moses and the temple of Solomon were so situated. We'll take the tabernacle of Moses because he and his followers were always on the move, and it provides a great example of the use of the Asherah.

All holy or sacred buildings at that time were situated due east and west and the tabernacle of Moses was no different except that Moses and his followers were on the move for 40 years. So the tabernacle, which was of course a tent, had to be dismantled and re-erected every time they moved, and at the re-building it had to be situated due east and west.

So Moses and his two attendants, complete with asherahs, would go to the chosen site where the tabernacle was to be erected just before dawn, accompanied by the heavy gang who were going to do the erecting. Moses would then choose the spot where the altar was to be and instruct one of the attendants to place his asherah on that spot. When the sun rose above the horizon, the rays from the sun would strike the asherah and send a long thin shadow towards the west. The other attendant would then place his asherah on the other end of the shadow and that would designate the centre line of the proposed tabernacle. The heavy gang would then move in and erect the tabernacle with the altar at the east end and the entrance at the west end.

Just as an aside, that is the way that all lodges were set out, with the altar in the east directly in front of the Worshipful Master. The idea of having the altar in the centre of the lodge is a fairly recent one and I think is peculiar to North America. However, that's by the way and is of no importance here.

Obviously, the magnetic compass had not been invented at that time so all holy and sacred buildings had to be set out with the aid of two asherahs and King Solomon's temple was no different.

And so, the asherah, being the very first tool or implement to be made use of at the building of the temple makes them of extreme importance from a Masonic historical point of view, and as such should be carried at all times as the insignia of the office of the deacons and in particular when conducting a candidate.

And that brother is why the deacons carry wands.

W.Bro. Bill Douglas, Kenilworth Lodge #29, Grand Lodge of Alberta. Canada.

Bank Info USA has changed!

Blazing Star Lodge #26

Secretary:
Dennis Griffin
Salsastraat 68
1326 NZ Almere
The Netherlands
Tel: +31-36 5348 004
E-mail: djgriff73@hotmail.com

We are looking for articles and or pictures for our next issue. Please send them to the secretary or e-mail them to the following e-mail address:

E-mail: blazstar26@gmail.com

Web site: www.blazingstar26.org

For our brethren who pay their dues and fees in US\$ we would like to inform you that we have a new bank account. You can also pay by way of PayPal. PayPal is the preferred manner of payment for the Lodge.

Electronic Payment Info:

Blazing Star Lodge nr. 26
Santander Bank
Account number: 3291092651
Swift Code: SVRN US 33
Routing Number: 231372691

PayPal method:

Use email account:
blazstar26@yahoo.com

Use option "Send money to friends and family"


We Love You!



**Blazing Star Lodge #26
2017 - 2018**