



CATARACT LODGE NO. 2, A.F.& A.M. CONSECRATED 1852

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From The EAST!

Greetings Brethren!

The summer is off to a great start. On June 12th, we delivered 25 bikes to the hard-working 5th graders of Bancroft Elementary. I would like to extend a special thank you to the Brothers that helped load the bikes in the morning and transport and set them up at Bancroft. We could not have pulled off the event without your generosity. The students were so excited to receive their bikes. We had a large contingent of 4th graders show up for the presentation; I hope we will see them all back next year to receive their bikes.



Prior to our June Stated meeting, we celebrated our annual Scholarship Dinner and Awards Banquet. Thank you to all the Brothers, friends and family that showed up to see the recipients receive their scholarships. This year we were fortunate to be able to award 12 scholarships to deserving students. Our contribution is much appreciated and it is inspiring to hear how we are helping our next generation grow.

Also in June, I had the pleasure to attend Bethel 16's Officer Installation with WB Dave Ott. This was my first time attending their installation and it was a beautiful ceremony. The ladies made us feel extremely welcome and the night was a great success. I look forward to working with the new officers this year. Please congratulate them next time you see them.

July and August are shaping up. On July 11, Cataract #2 and Minnehaha #165 will hold our annual joint Stated meeting and BBQ dinner. This is always a great time filled with laughs and fellowship. Be sure to wear your Hawaiian shirt! I hope to see you there! Dinner starts at 6:30pm and the Stated begins at 7:30pm. August 5th will be the annual Simon Says Give High Five for Supplies backpack event. The event starts at 9am and will be at St. Thomas Academy: 949 Mendota Heights Rd, Mendota Heights, MN 55120. The goal is pack to 10,000 backpacks to support kids going back to school. Bring your friends and family and let's help make this another great success!

So much is happening and we're just getting started! I hope to see y'all at the Stated meetings and our volunteer events. There is so much to be thankful for, and you help make that happen! Please continue to let me know how you would like to be engaged with your Lodge. Remember, there is something for every man in Masonry! I look forward to seeing you in Lodge.

Cataract's Scholarship Presentation Night



**Our Grand Master John B. Studell,
WM Scott Wood and WB Mark Campbell LEO
Addressed The Scholars**

Dan Patch Masonic Club



It was Cataract's turn to host the Dan Patch Club at the Minnesota Masonic home. WB Mark Campbell LEO gave a presentation on the 300th Anniversary of founding of the Grand Lodge of England. There was a lively conversation about the Masonic connection to the Templers and Bannockburn, over coffee and donuts, in good cheer.



I had a chance to speak with **WB Eldon Larson** who is a Past Master and long time Secretary of Bloomington No. 340 & now a member of Minnehaha Lodge No. 165. We spoke about his time in Japan in the Air Force during the Korean War. He showed me the photo below that he carries with him in his calendar. To hear these stories is why I attend events like the Dan Patch, especially the stories of our veterans. —Lee Love Editor



Radarsite in Japan
Dogs were found a "Home"
Upper right corner shows
part of "RADAR" site.
Only the rear corner
shows in photo.
The Radar equipment was
used to control "landings"
+ "take-offs"
The total equipment's monetary
value was pegged at \$10,000,000
and manned by 5 to 6 operators !!

From the West (Via the East)

Indo-American reflection on the occasion of 4th July

Brother Arun, our Senior Warden, graciously gave me permission to reprint his essay he sent out in email to celebrate our Nation's Independence day. He brings fresh eyes to our special holiday-Ed

We are celebrating our Independence Day today to commemorate the declaration by the Continental Congress nearly 241 years ago that the then 13 colonies were an independent nation and no longer part of the British Empire.

My country of birth, India, also celebrates an Independence Day (Aug 15th) almost exactly for similar reasons.

On this occasion of American Independence Day, I was reflecting upon what my adopted homeland (USA) has done for my birth homeland (India)...

In other words, what has the US ever done for India?

I took a step back and looked at the broader contributions of the US to India for the past 70-odd years...

Interestingly there are many areas where the US contribution to India isn't well appreciated - not just by the rest of the world, but by Americans as well:

1. Indian independence - it is a fact that post WW-I, the US adopted a strong anti-imperialist stance; which only solidified around WW-II. Despite stiff resistance from Churchill, the Wavell-Amery declaration made it clear that Indian independence from the British after WW-II was a given; it triggered the Cripps mission that ushered in discussions with the INC (Indian National Congress). Notably the US downplayed its role initially due to fears that U.K. would fall to communism especially after Churchill lost the elections.

2. In 1962, at the height of the Sino-Indian tensions that preceded the War, President Kennedy made it clear that the US would unconditionally back India. The gesture was rebuffed by the then Indian Prime Minister Nehru who wanted to solve the problem bilaterally; But Indians shouldn't forget the Americans were there for India during those troubled times with China.

3. Norman Borlaug - his dwarf wheat was the stuff of dreams, the primary propulsion for India's Green Revolution that helped to achieve (and maintain) food sufficiency.

4. Various Indian Universities and Institutes of higher learning owe their existence to American assistance; with help on curriculum, teaching methods and grading systems. The excellent quality of the Indian education system today is thanks to American munificence.



(continued from previous column)

5. IT Revolution (Silicon Valley's and Seattle's) and its impact on the Indian economy. This will go down in history as a key factor in the transformation of the Indian economy from the late 80s, early 90s.

6. America welcomed me nearly 24 years ago when I aspired and subsequently applied to study and perform Engineering and Scientific Research at her world renowned Universities and corporate institutions.

7. The American Masonic movement in contemporary times since American Independence has been a deep influence as a change agent and more recently as a generous charitable organization. India followed suit by shaking off the English Constitution and forming the Grand Lodge of India framed similar to American masonic guidelines.

8. The framework of the Indian Constitution (for the country) has a lot of similarities with the American Constitution in its tenets of (1) achievement of national unity and stability (2) the promotion of democratic political behavior (3) the protection and expression of general principles and humanitarian sentiments. Freedom of speech, Freedom of religion, Equality for all citizens under the law, democracy at its core functioning etc are identical elements.



So here it is from the bottom of my heart: Happy July 4th, my dear fellow Americans. God Bless

—Brother Arun Natarajan SW

Celestial Lodge

Brother Gerald Wallace Petersen
Born 6/2/1933

Degrees in Richfield Lodge No. 334
Entered Apprentice Degree 4/21/1969
Fellowcraft Degree 5/5/1969
Master Mason Degree 6/2/1969
Entered the Celestial Lodge 7/3/2017



Trestle Board Club

We meet in the Lodge library every 2nd Sunday **Next Meeting Sunday August 13 @ 6:00PM** We are beginning **Robert G Davis's Masonic Words**. Everyone is Welcomed! For more information contact: Lee Love at togeika@gmail.com



(continued on next column)

Calendar

July 11 – Joint Stated Meeting with Minnehaha Lodge
Cataract Hosts Dinner 6:30PM Stated 7:30PM
Aug 1 – Officers' meeting 6:00PM (tentative)
Aug 5 – Simon Says Give Backpack Event 9:00AM
Pick up packs Sunday Aug 6th
Aug 8 – Stated Meeting. Dinner 6:30PM 7:30PM Stated
Aug 10 – Masonic BBQ @ The Scottish Rite 6:00PM
Free for Non-members who RSPV @ 612 871-1500
\$10.00 for Members Scottish Rite/Grand Lodge Event
Aug 13 – Trestle Board Book Club 6:00PM Lodge Library
Sept 5 – Officers' Meeting 6:00PM Lodge
Sept 10 – Trestle Board Book Club 6:00PM Lodge Library
Sept 12 – Stated Meeting. Dinner 6:30PM 7:30PM Stated

Please RSVP all Dinners with our Secretary

From Your Newsletter Editor-

Postal address & phone updates should be sent to Douglas Campbell, Secretary at cataractlodge@qwestoffice.net or by phone at (612) 281-2184.

Please send me email updates, information, articles and announcements for the Newsletter at Lee Love togeika@gmail.com

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