

Florence Lodge #281 A.F. & A.M. Trestleboard

January, 2010

W.. David L. Rose
Worshipful Master, 2010

5903 Maple Street
Omaha, NE 68104

Upcoming Calendar for Florence Lodge #281

- Monday, January 4—Regular Business meeting
@ Florence Lodge #281 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, January 9—Installation of 2010 Officers
@ Florence Lodge #281 at 10:00 a.m.
- Monday, January 11—Opening/Closing practice
@ Florence Lodge #281 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, January 18—Opening/Closing practice
@ Florence Lodge #281 at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, January 25—Installation of remaining officers
@ Florence Lodge #281 at 7:00 pm
- Monday, February 1—Regular Business Meeting at 7:30
@ Florence Lodge #281 at 7:30 p.m.

From the East

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you this year as Worshipful Master. We are preparing for a great year, which will both honor our traditions while moving Florence Lodge forward with fun events, degree work, and strategic planning. I anticipate that we will receive our proficiency from Deputy Custodian Gus Scolaro by the end of February. I plan to hold an outdoor Lodge in the summer time, visit our Brethren at the Plattsmouth Masonic Home, and support the residents at the Omaha Home for Boys during the fall Maintenance Campaign. We will also work to bring new members with new ideas into our Lodge and get them involved in Masonry.

I hope to justify your faith in me for the coming year, and invite you to join my officers as we prepare for a year of growth and fun.

Fraternally,

David L. Rose
Worshipful Master

Albert Pike: A Lesson For Today by W.. Micah I. Evans



I am writing this article on December 29, 2009, the 200th anniversary of Brother Albert Pike's birthday. Brother Albert Pike was credited with reinventing Scottish Rite Masonry. Among his many scholarly publications, Pike wrote *Morals and Dogma*, an incredible work drawing on

philosophy and religions from around the world to describe the teachings of Scottish Rite Freemasonry. As I pause to read a brief biography of Pike, a single sentence sticks out:

He first joined the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in 1840 . . . [and later] joined a Masonic Lodge and become extremely active in the affairs of the organization.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Pike)

Albert Pike joined the Odd Fellows first, another fraternal organization? And yet, we don't read of Pike as having been the genius behind the Odd Fellows growth and prosperity. Why is that?

I surmise that no one stepped up to welcome the new brother, introduce him to members, and acquaint him with the traditions and teachings of the organization. Left to flounder on his own, young Albert Pike lost interest and never returned. Their loss is our gain, for he joined Western Star Lodge #2 in Little Rock, AR a decade later in 1850. He was elected Sovereign Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite in 1859, serving in that position for the rest of his life.

How many Albert Pikes are we losing today, as young men join our Lodge and lose interest? Perhaps the young man who just joined last month could be our biggest, brightest star of this century? If no one takes him by the hand, mentors him, and encourages his participation, he may lose interest and leave. For want of a friendly handshake, we could be losing a Brother possessing all the wisdom and talent of Albert Pike.

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Albert Pike: a Lesson For Today, continued

That unknown Brother who first shook Pike's hand and welcomed him to Western Star Lodge is an unsung hero of Masonry. He should be honored as having been the making of Albert Pike.

Each one of us has that chance today to welcome and mentor the next great Masonic leader. Perhaps he'll be Grand Master in 20 years. Perhaps he'll write scholarly books on Masonry. He may be Master of our Lodge and have ideas that lead to a new golden age of Masonry in Nebraska.

All he needs is a Brother who extends a fraternal arm of greeting, welcomes him, and shows him around. By sharing your positive experience of Masonry, by welcoming new Brothers, by spreading the good word of what we do and what we stand for, you may be opening the door for the next Albert Pike.

Or by doing nothing, you may inadvertently cause this future leader to lose interest and take his talents elsewhere.

The task is yours. Which will you choose?

January Birthdays

David F. Cromling
 C Bruce Hamilton
 George L. Hauger
 James W. McKay
 Bracston L. Olds
 Charles A. Peters
 James L. Stanislaus
 Paul L. Welsch



2010 Officers

W.. David L. Rose.....Worshipful Master/ dlrose@cox.net
 W.. Micah I. Evans.....Senior Warden/ mevans0424@cox.net
 W.. Paul E. Nerz.....Junior Warden
 W.. Paul L. Welsch.....Treasurer
 W.. Dale E. WagnerSecretary/ dewagner@cox.net
 W.. Jeffrey A. Merriman.....Chaplain /frostymerriman@cox.net
 W.. David A. Kipp.....Senior Deacon/ david.kipp@yahoo.com
 W.. Randall A. McFarland.....Junior Deacon/ rmcfar@cox.net
 Bruce Theye.....Senior Steward
 Carl H. Moum.....Junior Steward/ carlmoum2@hotmail.com
 W.. F. Edward LaBreck.....Tyler/ alabreck@cox.net
 W.. Doyle E. Berg.....Marshal

Masonic New Year's Resolutions from Brother Richard Powell's blog *Ars Masonica*

- Improve your ritual work. Attend Schools of Instruction.
- Further your Masonic education. Read more. Attend classes and seminars sponsored by Grand Lodge.
- Attend Masters and Wardens and Grand Lodge leadership workshops.
- Make an effort to attend Masonic funeral services. There is nothing more embarrassing than having only a couple of Brothers show up to a service after a family has asked for it. Freemasonry obviously meant a lot to the deceased Brother and his family because they have asked for the Masonic service. Make an extra effort to show them it means a lot to you as well.