



180 Jaycee Lions Dr.

LaBelleLodge379.org

Greetings from the East



Brethren,



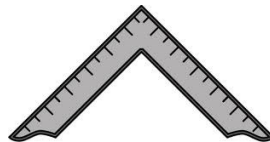
First, let us congratulate Brother George Benjamin on being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on Friday November 17th during the Okeechobee Lodge No. 237 Outdoor Degree. Thank you to the Brothers of Okeechobee Lodge for their work putting on the outdoor degree. I would also like to thank all the members of LaBelle Lodge No. 379 who have helped during this year.

Please make sure to be at our December 12th Stated Communication; elections will be done on this evening.

Officer installation will be open for public installation and on January 9, 2024 — dinner at 6:30pm, installation at 7:30pm.

Dues notices should be arriving in your mailbox shortly, if you haven't received already. Make sure to return them in a timely manner.

Fraternally yours,
Isidro "Izzy" Lopez, PM
Worshipful Master
Phone: (239) 462-2101
Email: offcrplaca@icloud.com




**STATED COMMUNICATIONS
SECOND & FOURTH TUESDAYS**

December 12
6:30pm Dinner
7:30pm Meeting

December 26
6:30pm Dinner
7:30pm Meeting



Merry Christmas!



DECEMBER'S SNOW

By Arthur Conan Doyle

The bloom is on the may once more,
The chestnut buds have burst anew;
But, darling, all our springs are o'er,
Tis winter still for me and you.
We plucked Life's blossoms long ago,
What's left is but December's snow.



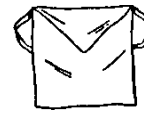
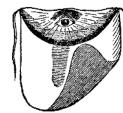
But winter has its joys as fair,
The gentler joys, aloof, apart;
The snow may lie upon our hair,
But never, darling, in our heart,
Sweet were the springs of long ago,
But sweeter still December's snow.



Yes, long ago, and yet to me
It seems a thing of yesterday,
The shade beneath the willow tree,
The word you looked but feared to say.
Ah! when I learned to love you so
What reaked we of December's snow?



But swift the ruthless seasons sped;
And swifter still they speed away;
What though they bow the dainty head
And fleck the raven hair with grey?
The boy and girl of long ago
Are laughing through the veil of snow.



Quote of the Month

“The highest morality may prove also to be the highest wisdom when the half told story comes to be finished.” —Bro. Arthur Conan Doyle



CHAPLAIN'S NOTES



How does a Brother Mason approach a serious discussion about love with his wife, daughter or other female member of his family? The answer may be “very carefully”, and for good reason. However, if such a conversation is eminent, none other than Mother Teresa comes to your rescue.

ABOUT LOVE

“Do not think that love, in order to be genuine, has to be extraordinary. What we need is to love without getting tired.

“How does a lamp burn? Through the continuous input of small drops of oil. If the drops of oil run out, the light of the lamp will cease, and the bridegroom will say, “I do not know you”. (Matt. 25:12)

“My daughters, what are these drops of oil in our lamps? They are the small things of daily life: faithfulness, punctuality, small words of kindness, a thought for others, our way of being silent, of looking, of speaking, and of acting. These are the drops of love.

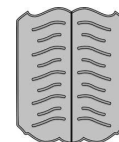
*“Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.”
—Mother Theresa*

Bro. Phil Keyes

Chaplain

Phone: (863) 675-3813

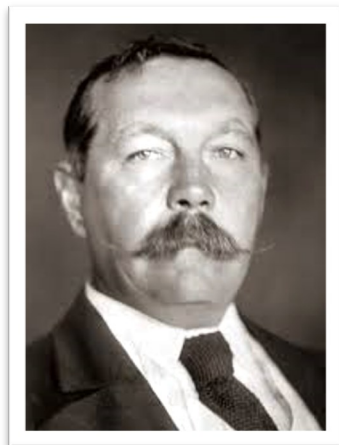
Email: philkeys@embarqmail.com



FAMOUS FREEMASON



Sir Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle



Sir Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle is a British writer.

Doyle was born in Picardy Place, Edinburgh, Scotland on May 22nd, 1859. At the age of 5 the family was dispersed around Edinburgh due to his father's alcohol problems. The family was reunited in 1867. Supported by a wealthy uncle, Doyle attended a Jesuit Preparatory school in Stonyhurst, Lancashire, England. He later attended Stonyhurst College until 1875. In 1875 and 1876 Doyle attended a Jesuit school in Austria. It was there Doyle abandoned religion as a whole declaring himself an agnostic.

From 1876 to 1881, Doyle attended the University of Edinburgh Medical School. While in medical school he began writing short stories some of which were published. After graduating he worked on a whaling ship. He eventually completed his M.D., at the time in England it was an advanced degree beyond medical degrees, in 1885.

For a short time Doyle worked in Southsea a resort area in Hampshire, England. There he practiced medicine with a former classmate. The two did not get along and eventually Doyle left the practice to start his own. His own practice was slow and he wrote fiction to kill the time between patients.

Doyle struggled to get his first Sherlock Holmes stories published. In 1886 he was given £25 for the rights to A Study in Scarlet which later was published in a magazine. Once the public got a taste for the Sherlock Holmes stories more and more were published. In 1891, Doyle was ambivalent toward his most famous creation. In a letter to his mother he spoke of killing off the Holmes character. His mother's reply was "You won't! You can't! You mustn't!". In 1893, Doyle had Holmes and Professor Moriarty plunge to their deaths over Reichenbach Falls. Holmes returned though in 1901 in The Hound of the Baskervilles due to the public outcry over Holmes death. Holmes returned later in other stories when Doyle wrote into the story line it was actually only Moriarty who fell to his death and Holmes faked his death to avoid his more dangerous enemies.

Outside of Sherlock Holmes stories, Doyle's most famous work was The Lost World a story about a team of explorers in the Amazon Basin who discover a plateau with dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals.

After the death of his wife in 1906 and other family members, Doyle became a big supporter of Spiritualism. Doyle wrote fiction and non-fiction books on the subject of Spiritualism. In 1922, he wrote The Coming of the Faeries. In it he cataloged theories about the existence of faeries and spirits. He also defended the five Cottingley Fairies photographs. The photographs depicted faeries interacting with people. The photos were later proved to be a hoax.

Doyle's staunch defense of Spiritualism brought him into conflict with various groups and individuals. Not the least of which was Harry Houdini. In the early 1920's the two men were friends. After Houdini's mother passed away Houdini began debunking the popular spiritualists and mediums of the day. Doyle was outraged and eventually came to believe Houdini had powers himself when a trick, performed by Houdini, meant to convince Doyle the things he had seen were illusions further cemented Doyle's belief in Spiritualism.

Doyle passed away from a heart attack on July 7th, 1930.

Doyle was initiated into Phoenix Lodge No. 257 on January 26th, 1887. He demitted from the lodge in 1889 only to return in 1902. He demitted a final time in 1911.



PAST MASTERS

JAMES PENDRY*	1977-1978	JERRY HUBBART*	2001
CHARLES MACDOWELL*	1979	STEVE POLHEMUS	2002
EDWIN RENOLDS*	1980	GLENN R. MICKEY*	2003
THOMAS K. WOOSLEY*	1981	RUSS BUCCINI*	2004
KENNETH PICKLES	1982	JACK ROSE*	2005
ROBERT P. MIDDLETON*	1983	KEVIN NELSON	2006-2007
JOSEPH H. FUTCH*	1984	HERBERT HOLLENBECK*	2008
WILLARD BRYANT*	1985	CURTIS DODD	2009
ROBERT P. MIDDLETON*	1986	BRUCE ARMSTRONG	2010
GLENN R. MICKEY*	1987	JOHN W. NELSON	2011
EASTON BURCHARD*	1988-1989	M. MATT HECKERT	2012
LEWIS WHIDDEN*	1990	RAY NAVOR*	2013
MICHAEL BOYLE	1991	NICHOLAS FIDANZA*	2014
L.E. RICHARDSON, SR.*	1992	GREG GUNTER	2015
DOUG SCRATCHLEY, SR.*	1993	L.E. RICHARDSON, JR.	2016
J.S. HARRIS	1994	THOMAS BOARDMAN	2017
MIKE GUTHRIE	1995	TONY WEEMS	2018
J. THOMAS PAXON*	1996	ADRIAN SANCHEZ	2019
JAMES JENNINGS*	1997	ED LANHAM	2020
JIM MARSHALL*	1998	BILL MADDOX	2021-2022
CARL W. SWANSON*	1999	ISIDRO LOPEZ	2023
JIM CIANFRANI	2000		

* Indicates Deceased



Trestle Board Editor & Publisher: W.: Kevin Gourley, PM (2018-Present)

2023 Officers

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Isidro "Izzy" Lopez, PM

Senior Warden
John "Cowboy" Cote", PM

Junior Warden
Fred Wright

Treasurer
Bob Coleman

Secretary
Nicholas Fidanza, PM

Chaplain
Phillip Keyes

Marshall
Ed Lanham, PDDGM

Senior Deacon
Earnie Hollingsworth

Junior Deacon
Denver Smith

Senior Steward
John Smith

Junior Steward
Gregory Jones

Tyler
John Troia



District 24 Grand Lodge Officers

District Deputy Grand Master
R.:W.: Michael O. Gardener, PM
(239) 707-8302

District Instructor
R.:H.: Bruce Rivera, PM
(239) 297-9400