**Lisa: Here is my Trestle Board Column for Hiram Lodge #50 for the April 2018 Issue of the Temple Tidings. Thanks! Matt**

My Brothers of Hiram Lodge #50:

The month of April opens up with the Easter Holiday falling on April Fool’s Day (4/1) National Read a Road Map Day (4/5), Federal Individual Income Tax Filing Due (4/17), Earth Day (4/22), Pigs-in-a-Blanket Day (4/24), Arbor Day (4/27), and National Honesty Day (4/30). It is also known for the establishment of the Pony Express (4/3/1860), Lee’s Surrender to Grant (4/9/1865), First Space Shuttle Launch (4/12/1981), Thomas Jefferson’s Birthday (4/13/1743), Leonardo Da Vinci’s Birthday (4/15/1452), William Shakespeare’s Birthday (4/23/1564), and The Completion of the Louisiana Purchase (4/30/1803). Source: ***theteacherscorner.net/calendars***

For Hiram Lodge #50, April opens with its stated meeting on April 2, 2018. The following Saturday, April 7, 2018, The Grand Lodge of Wisconsin Free & Accepted Masons is sponsoring The Spring 2018 Masonic Day of Light (MDoL) to be held at the Madison Masonic Center. On April 16, 2018 we will hold our second stated meeting of April 2018.

The April 16, 2018 meeting is significant as we will vote on changes to our By-Laws, presented at the March 19, 2018 meeting and required to lay over one meeting until our second stated meeting in April 2018. Every member of Hiram Lodge #50 received a copy of the motion and proposed By-Laws modifications – either by email or by regular USPS mail – last month. The By-Laws, the document governing our local lodge operations, have been long overdue for revision and updating. If you have any comments, please attend the meeting on April 16, 2018. If you cannot attend that meeting, please forward your comments to either Lyle Christian or me. Our contact information is listed at the top of this column.

We have raised several new members of Hiram Lodge #50 over the past three years. Many are active and participating members. They have a great thirst for the search for light. Through our formal ritual ceremonies, particularly openings, closing, and conferrals of degrees, the messages of Freemasonry are revealed. Those participating in those formal ceremonies are committing to memory the work and then presenting it. Sometime, the presentation is not perfect. While we strive for perfection, we often fall short, as humans are inherently imperfect being (i.e., we are not machines). We try and do our best, but often we fall short.

We as Masons, have an obligation to help our lesser informed brethren. As Master Masons, we are charged and authorized to correct the errors and irregularities of our uninformed brethren. We are also charged to inculcate universal benevolence, and by the regularity of your own behavior afford the best example for the conduct of others less informed. While appropriate to counsel and advise those brethren – to help them correct their errors and irregularities - either before or after formal presentation of our ceremonies, it is not appropriate to do so during such exemplifications. Remember brethren, as Masons, we are poster children for Freemasonry - responsible for what Masonry represents and stands for. Our actions and conduct are always on display – to Members, Potential Members, and Others.

If it has been a while since you have been to a Hiram Lodge meeting, we get together on the 1st & 3rd Mondays in Lodge Room #1 at the Madison Masonic Center, 301 Wisconsin Ave., Madison, WI 53703-2107.

Hope You Had a Very Happy Easter Holiday and Have a Prosperous, Productive Month!

Fraternally Yours,

Matt