

Message from the Noble Grand

Each year is an opportunity to reinvent how we, as Odds, explore fellowship, community and personal discovery. Offering me the chair for 2006 is an act of faith. Thank you for taking the leap.

What can we do this year that will make a difference?

Listening, imagining – Joe and I have endeavored to create a selection of InnerWorks, projects, field trips, and more, that will delight, challenge, draw us together and lift us up. Check the calendar out on the back for some examples, and especially, plan on coming to meetings in the month of February.

These will be important opportunities for brothers to come together and set a course for the year. If I ask anything of you this year, it is this – come to the lodge, see what is brewing, and lend your voice to the circle – now is the time. The rest of the year will be shaped by what we do together in the next few weeks.

The Hall is vibrant in the community. The lodge is thriving. Old friends are returning to the circle. Dues are coming in from past members that have been away for a long while. As in nature, there's always ebb and flow in membership. The tide renews, restores and today it is rising.

We have an open meeting this Thursday, February 2nd. We will be sharing stories of first love, first kisses, old girlfriends, and sexual discovery. Bring a story, bring some music from the time of that story, and if you know other men who might be Odd and not know it, bring them too. For myself, I will be telling the story of my first passionate kiss with a neighbor girl, Donna. I can still feel the thick wool of her cable-knit sweater in my hands. The music of the time that rings in my ear is Donovan's – *Try and Catch the Wind*. It was the 60's and, at 13, life was a sensual beckoning mysterious feast. It still is!

Gratitude

My gratitude goes to Jeffery for leading by example, providing a model for a balanced and compassionate love of the fellowship, family, and community.

To Joe, the youngest old man I know, with one foot in the past, one in the future, and head in the clouds. What more could one wish for in a Vice Grand?

To the three Bill's – doing what needs to be done, year after year. Steady as she goes boys!

To Bill Thompson for agreeing to be my Right Hand Man – bringing ceaseless energy and enthusiasm for the cause.

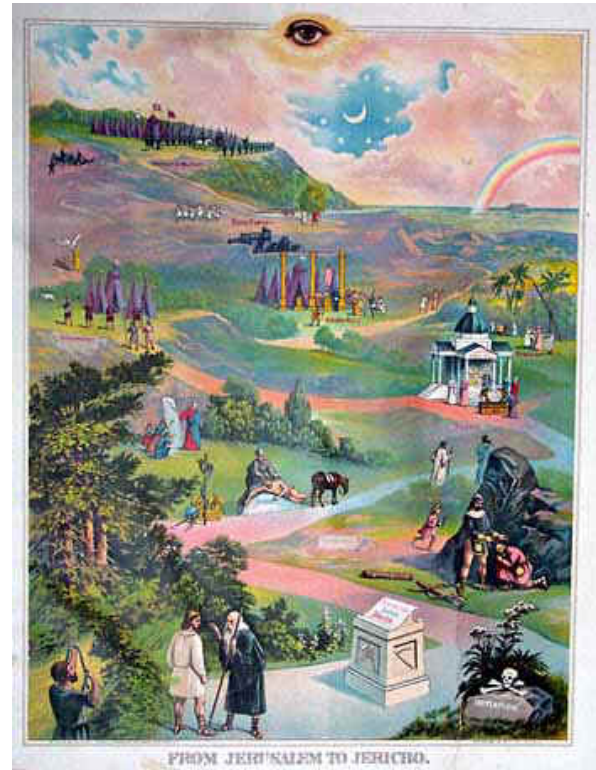
To David, my Left Hand Man, keeper of the heart and art this year.

To Robin Kucklick for his wonderful readings as Chaplin at the Installation. Encore! And to Roselli for helping me cherish the sound of rain on the roof, in the winter silence of the island.

To John and Michael for sharing their love of music as Left and Right Music Maestros.

To Ezekial, Feast Master, for setting a bountiful table each Thursday evening.

To the Parking Angels for their so sweet rendition of the Ode, to the tune of Amazing Grace!



Calendar of Events

To Carson, John, Butch, Babe, David and Walter for making the trek to Orcas and adding your good counsel and support to the Installation ceremony. Carson, we are thinking of you and hope you are on the mend.

And lastly - my deepest gratitude to all brothers of the Orcas Odd Fellows, near and far, past and present - the heart and soul of our fellowship.

- 02/02/06 Thursday **Open Meeting**
Topic: First Love - bring your stories about old girls friends, first kiss, first love, and bring a CD of music from that era.
Potluck: Salad or noodle dish (spaghetti, Pad Thai, etc.)
- 02/09/06 Thursday **"The Divine Fool"** with Jack Blackburn - not to be missed!
- 02/16/06 Thursday **"Evolution of the Revolution"** - where we've been and where we're going
- 02/23/06 Thursday **Psychodrama brainstorm** - planning the year ahead - InnerWorks, projects, trips, etc.
- 03/02/06 Thursday **Open Meeting**
InnerWorks: Drumming - African Rhythm and Sensibilities with Rich Rodriguez
- 03/09/06 Thursday **Spring cleaning**, drum jamm
- 03/16/06 Thursday **Check-in**, initiation planning, April Fools parade planning
- 03/23/06 Thursday **Plan the 2006 Initiation**, music jamm
- 03/30/06 Thursday **2006 Initiation** of new members
- 04/01/06 Saturday **April Fools parade**
- 04/06/06 Thursday **Open meeting**
Topic: Fire, bring a story about an experience or connection you have had with fire.
- 04/13/06 Thursday **Full Moon Special Meeting**
- 04/20/06 Thursday **Movie Night** - Brief Business meeting - quarterly report, movie night (Baraka)



Pure Spirit, one hundred proof -- that's a drink that only the most hardened contemplation-guzzlers indulge in.

Bodhisattvas dilute their Nirvana with equal parts of love and work.

Aldous Huxley, 1894 to 1963

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ADDRESS
CITY, WA ZIP