



The Medina Dawg Pound

Volume: 2005

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Issue: December



Elected Officers

Master Councilor

Alex Marshall

Senior Councilor

John Weatherford

Junior Councilor

Adam Marshall

Advisors

Chairman

Dan Marshall

Chapter Advisor

Doug Shuler

David Darling

Michelle Marshall

Dennis Lawson

Gordon Shuler

Scott Buell

The Best Gift

John Pierpont died a failure. In 1866 he came to the end of his days as a government clerk in Washington D.C. with a long string of personal defeats Abrading his spirit. Things began well enough. He graduated from Yale, which his grand father had help found, and chose education as his profession with some Enthusiasm. He was a failure at school teaching. He was too easy on his students. And so, he turned to the legal world for training. He was a failure as a Lawyer. He was too generous to his Clients, and too concerned about justice to take the cases that brought good fees. The next career he took up was that of dry good merchant. He was a failure as a businessman. He could not charge enough for his goods to make a profit, and was too liberal with credit. In the meantime He had been writing poetry, and though it was published, he didn't collect enough royalties to make a living. He was a failure as a poet. And so he decided to become a minister, went off to Harvard Divinity School, was ordained minister of the Hollis Street Church in Boston. But his position for prohibition and against slavery got him crosswise with the Influential members of his congregation, and he was forced to resign. He was a failure as a minister. Politics seemed a place where he could make some difference, and he was nominated as the Abolition Party candidate for governor of Massachusetts. He lost. Undaunted he ran for Congress under the banner of the Free Soil Party. He lost. He was a failure as a politician. The Civil War came along and he volunteered as a chaplain of the 22nd Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteers. Two weeks later he quit, having found the task too much of a strain on his health. He was 76 years old. He couldn't even make it as a Chaplain. Someone found him an obscure job in the back offices of the Treasury Department in Washington and he finished out the last five years of his life as a menial file clerk. He wasn't very good at that either. His heart was not in it. John Pierpont died a failure. He had accomplished nothing he set out to do or be. There's a small memorial stone marking his grave in Mount Auburn cemetery in Cambridge Massachusetts. The words in the granite read POET PREACHER PHILOSOPHER PHILANTHROPIST. From this distance in time, one might insist that he was not in fact a failure! His commitments to social justice, His desire to be a loving human being, His active engagement in the great issues of his times, and his faith in the power of the human mind, these are not failures. And much of what he thought of as defeat, became success. Education was reformed, legal processes were improved, credit laws were changed, and above all, slavery was abolished once and for all. Why am I telling you this? It is not an uncommon story. Many 19th century reformers had similar lives, similar failures and successes. In one very important sense John Pierpont was not a failure. Every year, come December, we celebrate his success. We carry in our hearts and minds a life long memorial to him. It's a song, not about Jesus or angels or even Santa Clause. It's a terribly simple song about the simple joy of whizzing through the cold white dark of winter's gloom in a sleigh pulled by one horse, and with the company of friends, laughing and singing all the way. No more, no less, Jingle Bells, John Pierpont Wrote Jingle Bells! To write a song that stands for the simplest joys, to write a song that three or four hundred million people around the world know, a song about something they've never done, but can imagine, a song that every one of us large and small can hoot out the moment the cord is struck on the piano, and the cord is struck in our spirit, well, that's not failure! One snowy afternoon in deep winter John Pierpont penned the words as a small gift to his family and friends and congregation, and in doing so he left a permanent gift for Christmas, the best kind, not the one under the tree, but the invisible Invincible one of joy!

by Robert Fulghum



December Events

- 2** Informational
Fri Meeting @
7:00pm
- 4** Family
Sun Bowling @
1:00pm
- 6** Stated
Tue Meeting @
7:30pm
- 9** Post Colors
Fri for Medina
Lodge @
7:30pm
- 10** Breakfast
Sat W/Santa @
8:00am
- 17** 2nd Dist.
Sat Reception for
SMC /
Holiday Dance
- 20** Stated
Tue Meeting
(Initiation)
@ 7:30pm
(AC@6:30pm)
- January 2006**
- 3** Inspection /
Tue DeMolay
Degree



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Morning News

Hello,

This is your Master Councilor, Alex Marshall. Just to keep everybody informed, we just observed Frank S. Land Day, which as you may or may not know, is one of our Obligatory Days observed through the term. Medina Chapter signed and donated the book "Hi Dad" to the Western Reserve Masonic Community Library. The next Obligatory Day is The Day of Comfort which we will be observing on December 10th. We will be helping serving food at a breakfast with Santa, also at the Western Reserve Masonic Community. I am also very excited about the new candidates who wish to join our fraternity.

Keep up the good work!

Fraternally,
Alex Marshall

Advisory Council

We have begun another year of registration of our advisory council. There are a couple of men who need to be mentioned. First, we welcome Dad Scott Buell to our advisory council as a new advisor. Dad Buell has already taken an active roll helping our chapter whenever he can. The second recognition is that of Dad Robert Brooks. Dad Brooks has been an active and supportive member of our advisory council for many years. Because of his active roll in other Masonic bodies Dad Brooks has decided not to register as an advisor for next year, but we all know that he will remain a great supporter of our chapter.

Thank you, Dad Brooks for your service!

Dad Shuler
Chapter Advisor

Sports

YES! The Medina Chapter PDF^s bowling team took first place in this year's league. Although the results and scores will not be announced until awards night in July, we want to congratulate all the bowlers who contributed to the season's success. Don't forget that basketball season begins January 15, 2006, so, let your advisors know if you intend to play this season.

Dad Shuler

The News at Noon

Hey guys,

This is your Junior Councilor, Adam Marshall. We had the first informational night on the 18th of November. There were about eight prospects in attendance. Of those, we have received five petitions. During the informational night we took the prospects to Amazone for laser tag. Meanwhile, Dad Shuler and Alex gave a brief presentation on DeMolay and answered any questions from the parents. When we returned any of the prospects' questions were answered. Overall I thought that it was a very productive informational night.

Fraternally,
Adam Marshall

Evening News

Hello Brothers,

Well, there isn't much news on fundraising this month. We finished the eat-n-park and candy fundraisers and made about \$400.00 from them. The fruit sale should be coming soon, so, get ready for that!

Fraternally,

John Weatherford

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Medina Chapter, Order of DeMolay

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