

Peninsula Lodge #128 Serving N-Portland Since 1895

Odds & Ends Community Newsletter

May, 2018



North Portland's Original Community Center

An Introduction to Peninsula Odd Fellows Lodge #128



Oregonian photo of Peninsula Odd Fellows Lodge #128 in 1925.

Q: What are the Odd Fellows?

A: The Odd Fellows is a fraternal organization like the Elks, Eagles, Masons, and Moose. Fraternal orders are member-based groups that work to improve their communities through various service projects and by raising money for charity.

Q: Where did the name Odd Fellows come from?

A: The oldest fraternal orders grew out of the trade guilds, which were the precursor to unions. That is why these organizations were named after professions. These

original fraternities included the Freemasons, the Woodsmen of the World, and the Foresters.

There were many professions, however, that did not have a large enough workforce to form a guild of their own. For them, there was the Odd Fellows. When the Odd Fellows were formed, "odd" simply meant diverse or varied. "Fellows" were workers who were accepted as full-fledged members of their craft.

Today, the the services provided to members by a guild have been replaced by insurance companies, government agencies, and various

social services. In our modern world, Odd Fellows are a diverse group of people coming together to improve their community and care for their neighbors.

Q: When did the Odd Fellows come to Oregon?

A: In 1846, a group moving from Boston, Massachusetts to Oregon City, Oregon obtained a charter from the Odd Fellows to establish Oregon Lodge #1. They boarded a ship which traveled down the Atlantic Coast, around Cape Horn, and then up the Pacific coast. For reasons unknown, this ship went way off course and landed in Honolulu instead of Oregon. Deciding that Honolulu was pretty nice, the group from Boston jumped ship, with the charter and established Excelsior Lodge #1, the first Odd Fellows lodge in Hawaii.

Six years later, in 1852, a charter to form an Odd Fellows lodge in Oregon finally arrived, and Chemeketa Lodge #1 was established in Salem, Oregon.

By 1856, Oregon had received charters to start three more lodges. These lodges were located in Portland, Oregon City, and The Dalles. **Continued on page 3.**

Dance Classes for Everybody



Dance classes offered at Peninsula Odd Fellows, include:

Zumba ^(R) with Monica Robles

Dance for Fun

Uluwehi Halau Hula O Kapukui

Belly Dancing with Henna

Afro Kidworks with Mr. Bobby

For more information please visit our website and click on **Classes**.
www.KeepPortlandOdd.com

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An Introduction to Peninsula Odd Fellows Lodge #128, continued

With four established lodges, the Oregon Territory was granted a dispensation to form a Grand Lodge, giving it permission to charter new lodges directly. Given this new authority, Odd Fellows lodges spread rapidly across Oregon.

Q: When was Peninsula Lodge established?

A: In 1894, the Grand Lodge of Oregon received a petition from twelve well-known businessmen to establish an Odd Fellows lodge in University Park. The petitioners included S.C. Beach, W.A. Wheeler and W.M. Killingsworth.

The petition was granted on December 15, 1894. By that time, there were one hundred and twenty-seven Odd Fellows Lodges in the fledgling State of Oregon. The new lodge in University Park was named Peninsula Lodge #128.

Q: What is the role of the Odd Fellows in the modern society?

A: On an international level, the Odd Fellows are involved in many charitable causes, with a special focus on promoting education and caring for the sick. The Odd Fellows own and operate low income, assisted living and nursing homes in almost every U.S. state, as well as operating S.O.S. Village, an AIDS orphanage in Cambodia. Odd Fellows provide thousands of scholarships and low-interest student loans every year, and fund eye research at John Hopkins University. Through the Living Legacy Program, the Odd Fellows promotes good environmental stewardship by planting native plants and trees.

On a local level, each lodge is charged with meeting the unique needs of their community. Peninsula Lodge operates as co-op community center, providing low cost classes, and promoting the arts through our community theater and dance programs. Our lodge also offers our building free

of charge for use by government agencies, schools, non-profits, and neighborhood associations. Peninsula Lodge also provides financial and volunteer support to several local charities, including Neighbors Helping Neighbors, which provides garbage service and aid to houseless neighbors, and Oregon Food Bank.

Q: Do different lodges ever work together?

A: Yes. The members of Peninsula Odd Fellows Lodge partner on a regular basis with the members of Mt. Moriah AF&AM which meets twice a month in our building. By working together, Peninsula and Mt. Moriah are able to raise more money for local charities, and mobilize more volunteers for service projects in and around North Portland.

To learn more about Mt. Moriah, our partner lodge, please see the article on page 5.



11/28/2017 The members of Peninsula Lodge tackled the winter doldrums by holding their meeting dressed as pirates.

Community Music and Theater



Peninsula Odd Fellows has three, in-house Theater Companies that provide high quality, community based theater:

Oregon Adventure Theatre (OAT) which specializes in Shakespeare .

Torchsong Entertainment featuring original Rock Musicals.

Portland Musical Theater Company, which produces Broadway style musicals.

For more information on our theater program, please visit our website and click on **Theater**.

www.KeepPortlandOdd.com

Mt. Moriah AF&AM, and Stars of Bethlehem OES

An Interview with Robert and Deirdre Neal.



Robert Neal, Grand Master of Mount Moriah AF&AM and Deirdre Neal, Grand Matron of Stars of Bethlehem OES.

Odds & Ends: What is AF&AM?

Robert: AF&AM stands for Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, also known as Scottish Rite Masons.

Organized Freemasonry began with the founding of the Grand Lodge of England on 24 June 1717, the first Grand Lodge in the world. Ireland followed in 1725, and Scotland in 1736.

The first Black Masonic lodge was organized in 1787 by Prince Hall, a Revolutionary War veteran. He founded African Lodge number 1 in Boston, which was later

renamed African Lodge number 459. This became the first Black self-help fraternal organization in the United States.

O&E: Is Mt. Moriah a Prince Hall lodge?

Robert: No. Mt. Moriah is under the General Grand Masonic Congress A.F.&A.M. which is headquartered in Washington, D.C. under The United Supreme Council A.A.S.R. (Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Masons).

In the end, we are all Masons. It doesn't matter if you are Scottish Rite, York Rite, or Prince Hall, as long as you live up to the values of Masonry. We are here to care for the poor, widows and orphans. If you do that, then it shouldn't matter if you are a Black Mason, White Mason, Scottish Rite or York Rite. If I'm ever in need and a Mason offers to help, I'm not going to ask him what kind of Mason he is. I'm going to greet him as a brother and thank him for his help.

O&E: Grand Worthy Matron, Can you tell us a little about the Order of the Eastern Stars?

Deirdre: According to the history, the Order of the Eastern Star was founded by Dr. Rob Morris in the late 1800's. As a Master Mason, Dr. Morris had the idea that it would be nice to have a way for female relatives of Master Masons to

share the benefits of knowledge and self-improvement that Freemasonry made available to men, and to have a place in the Masonic Family that would allow men and women to participate together.

Just like our Masonic Brothers, we are part of the Grand Masonic Congress A.F.&A.M. under the Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

The Stars of Bethlehem Grand Chapter #1 Order of the Eastern Star is adopted under and works with Mount Moriah Grand Lodge of Oregon. We are affiliated under the Supreme Order of the Eastern Star in Boston.

O&E: What do Masons and Eastern Stars do?

Robert: Masonry teaches that each person has a responsibility to make things better in the world. Most individuals won't be the ones to find a cure for cancer, or eliminate poverty, or help create world peace, but we can all do something to help others, and to make things a little better. Masonry is deeply involved with helping people. Masons give more than \$2 million dollars in aid every day in the United States, just to make life a little easier. The great majority of that help goes to people who are not Masons.

Continued on page 7.

Martial Arts for Youth and Adults



Peninsula Odd Fellows has martial art classes for youth and adults.

Including:

Yoshokai Aikido (Aikido Portland)

Ronin Bushido Aikido

Danzan Ryu Jujitsu

CTE Capoeiragem Capoeira

For more information please visit our website and click on **Classes**.
www.KeepPortlandOdd.com

Neighborhood Association

Board meetings for May

Portsmouth

5/1/2018, 6:30 pm

Peninsula Odd Fellows Lodge
4830 N. Lombard Street

University Park

5/14/2018, 7:00 pm

Portsmouth Trinity Lutheran
7119 N. Portsmouth Ave.

Mt. Moriah AF&AM, and Stars of Bethlehem OES continued



The Red and White Ball, one of many joint socials celebrating the partnership of Odd Fellows, Masons and Eastern stars.

Some of these charities are well known, like the Crippled Children's Hospitals and Burn Institutes built by the Shiners. Also, Scottish Rite Masons maintain a nationwide network of over one hundred childhood language disorders clinics, centers, and programs. Each helps children affected by learning or speech disorders.

Some services are less public, like helping a widow pay her electric bill, or buying coats and shoes for disadvantaged children and orphans. With projects large or small, Freemason Lodges and Eastern Stars chapters try to help make the world a better place.

If someone over the age of twenty-one is interested in helping others, we encourage them to join. Our goal is to take good men and women and make them better by strengthening their character. We work on improving our morals and spiritual outlook, but we are not a religion or a church. To be a Mason or Eastern Star, you have to believe in a Supreme Being but not a specific religion.

O&E: Anything else you would like our readers to know?

Deirdre: Yes. The Eastern Stars will be having a Social Tea and

Fundraiser on Saturday, June 30, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. The event will be held in the upstairs hall at Peninsula Odd Fellows Lodge. The Social will cost \$6.00 and all of the donations will be used to support the charitable work we do.

O&E: Thank you for taking the time to speak with us.

Robert: Thank you for taking the time to learn about what we do and why we do it.

Deirdre: If any of your readers would like to learn more, they can contact us by sending an email to ppbtr robertdeirdre@gmail.com



Aikido Portland

First Month Free with this Coupon

Adult Classes \$60/mo M-F 6-6:50 PM MWF 12 Noon 4834 N Lombard St • 503-922-2563 • www.AikidoPortland.com	Youth Classes \$20/mo M-F 4-4:50 PM M-F 5-5:50 PM
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