



The New Mexico FREEMASON

Volume 2024 Issue 2

June 19, 2024



Over 60 Masons met on Zoom on June 1, 2024 – Join us on July 7th!

In This Issue:

02 ... Strength and Vibrancy from Dedication
03 ... '24 Summer At a Glance
04 ... Current Economics and Insurance
05 ... The Senior Deacon's Place
07 ... The Budget and So Much More
08 ... 50 Years Celebrating Youth
Accomplishment
09 ... Seeking the Divine Attribute of Truth
11 ... MASONICon This Weekend!
13 ... District 5 Outdoor
14 ... Hiding Behind 2BE1ASK1

15 ... Master Mason Patents
16 ... Exploring the Holy Saints John at
Jerusalem
19 ... How May I Know You to Be a Mason?
20 ... Proud to Be a Part of Something Bigger
22 ... Rainbow Grand Assembly 2024
23 ... 2024 Land of Enchantment Festival
24 ... First Four Celebrating in 2024
25 ... The Chapel – May/June 2024
26 ... A Peek Outside the Outer Door

Strength and Vibrancy from Dedication

Communication, collaboration, and education bring individual and fraternal growth.



Steve A. Almager
Grand Master of Masons

It is with great pride and humility that I stand before you today, three months into my tenure as the Grand Master of Masons in New Mexico. These months have been a journey of learning, growth, and reaffirmation of our shared values and goals. I am deeply honored to serve in this esteemed position and to work alongside such dedicated and noble individuals.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your unwavering support and commitment to the principles of Freemasonry. Your dedication to our fraternity and to the betterment of our community is truly inspiring. Together, we have the power to make a profound impact, not only within our lodges but also

in the wider world.

During these initial months, I have had the privilege of visiting numerous lodges across our great state and other jurisdictions. Each visit has been a testament to the strength and vibrancy of our brotherhood. I have seen firsthand the dedication with which our members uphold the tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. These principles are not merely words but are brought to life through your actions and your service.

One of the key priorities during my tenure has been to enhance communication and collaboration among our lodges. I believe that by fostering a spirit of unity and openness, we can achieve greater things together. To this end, we have initiated several new programs aimed at improving the exchange of ideas and resources. I encourage all of you to take full advantage of these opportunities to connect, share, and grow.

Another critical area of focus has been community outreach and charitable work. Our commitment to serving others is a cornerstone of Freemasonry. Whether it is through scholarships, disaster relief efforts, or support for local charities, our actions reflect our values and our dedication to making a positive difference.

Education and personal development are also central to our mission. By investing in our own growth, we equip ourselves to better serve our lodges and our communities.

As we look to the future, let us remember that the strength of our fraternity lies in our unity and our shared commitment to the Masonic principles. We face many challenges, but together, we are more than capable of overcoming them. Let us continue to support

one another, to uphold the highest standards of integrity and brotherhood, and to strive for excellence in all that we do.

In closing, I would like to express my profound gratitude to each and every one of you. Your hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment are the foundation upon which our fraternity stands. It is an honor to serve as your Grand Master, and I am excited for all that we will accomplish together in the months and years ahead.

Thank you and may the Great Architect of the Universe continue to guide and bless our endeavors.

Steve Almager is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Grand Masters Chit Chat

Time: Jul 7, 2024 06:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81102027285?pwd=4W80VNypiaM0fHfDcXis4Ua5wg60Ua.1>

Meeting ID: 811 0202 7285

Passcode: 474331

'24 Summer At a Glance

Keep it on your calendar.

06/21-22/2024	MASONICon	Ballut Abyad Shrine (Albuquerque)
06/26-30/2024	NM Rainbow Grand Assembly	Albuquerque
06/29/2024	District 5 Outdoor	Quarai Ruins (Mountainair)
07/07/2024	Grand Master's Chit Chat	Zoom Meeting
07/11-13/2024	NM DeMolay Conclave 2024	Albuquerque
07/26-27/2024	Land of Enchantment Festival	Montezuma Lodge (Santa Fe)
08/10/2024	NM Masonic Rendezvous 2024	Aztec Lodge (Las Cruces)
08/24/2024	Grand Lodge Regional	Temple Lodge (Albuquerque)

If your event is not listed, PLEASE get it to us so we can get the news out!

Current Economics and Insurance

Understand the why to plan more effectively.

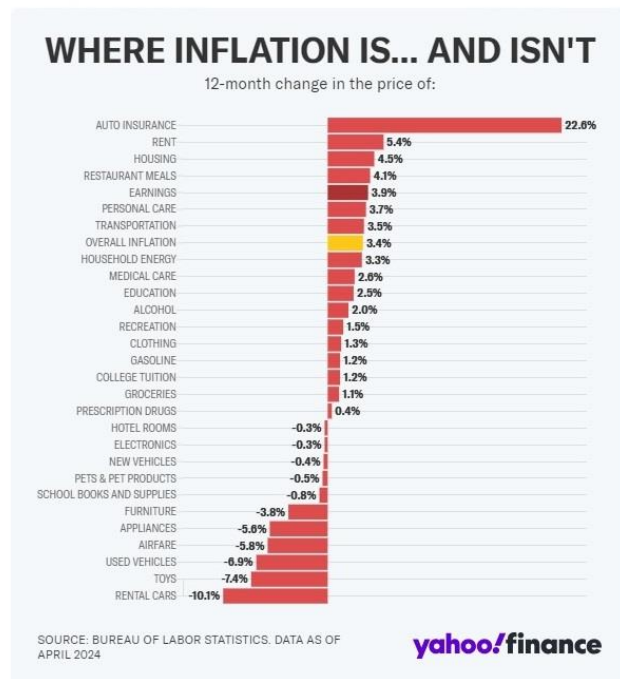


Wade Villanueva
Grand Treasurer

I found this surprising, although I guess I shouldn't - since it is consistent with my own personal experience. In this time of concern about rising inflation, what do you think has increased in cost more than anything else during the past year? It's automobile insurance! As of April 2024, it's gone up 22.6% on average over the past 12 months. According to insurance companies, this is because of higher overall auto prices and repair costs. For me personally, I've also been told that it's gone up more for cars like my Hyundai which are alas apparently easier to steal.

In addition, according to my insurance agent, it's higher in New Mexico than other states due to the high percentage of

uninsured drivers on the road and lax penalties for drivers caught without insurance. So I decided to do a Google search for more details, which led me to this website from bankrate.com which reports as of June 2024: "New Mexico drivers pay around 4 percent less for their full coverage car insurance per year than the national average. New Mexico has a comparatively low cost of living compared to many states and low population density, which could both contribute to the lower-than-average cost of car insurance in the state." The average premium for a full coverage policy is \$2,311 per year nationally and \$2,225 per year in New Mexico.



<https://www.bankrate.com/insurance/car/states/>

Go figure! Anyway, I thought these statistics are interesting and I thought I'd share with my Brethren.

The Senior Deacon's Place

Be the example for the Brethren, visitors, guests, and yourself.



James Bungard
Senior Grand Deacon

I am extremely humbled, blessed and honored to be afforded the opportunity to be appointed by Most Worshipful Grand Master Steve Almager to serve the Grand Lodge of New Mexico as the Senior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico for the ensuing year 2024.

One of the most important aspect of the Senior Deacon is to LEARN THE RITUAL ... and the floor work.

The Senior Deacon position is critical in the performance of the ritual of the Lodge, both in Stated and Special Communications. You are the Custodian of the Three Great Lights of Masonry in attending at the Altar. Your professional and respectful handling of the opening and closing of the

Lodge have a major impact in how the Brethren perceive the significance of the ceremony. Do not cheapen or devalue the importance of this act. If you do, you disrespect your position and to a greater extent Masonry as a whole.

In addition to the ritual for opening and closing a Lodge (or moving between degrees) you must learn the ritual for conduction of a candidate for each degree. This is a very important position and you serve as the figurehead for the candidate on his journey into Masonic enlightenment.

How you conduct yourself during this work can have a profound and lasting impact upon how the candidate views Masonry. Treat this work with the utmost respect.

You should also learn the ritual for the Junior Warden during the opening and closing of the Lodge on each Degree. This is essential for in his absence, you may be asked to move up in line to fill in during an absence. Learning this ritual in advance of your potential promotion to that station or place will be invaluable in the following years.

One of your chief duties is to act as a welcoming committee for visiting Brethren. If a Brother has not attended your Lodge before or even if he says he has, but you have not sat in Lodge with him, before the meeting starts, you must find a member of our Lodge who can attest to his good standing in Masonry. If this cannot be done, you should notify the highest-ranking officer you can find, in order that the visiting Brethren may be examined to ensure his acceptability to sit in Lodge. If you are able to vouch for the visiting Brethren (or once he has passed examination) you should act as an ambassador of the Lodge.



You should see to it that he feels at home and engage him in conversation. If he has not sat in your Lodge before, protocol dictates that he should be introduced by the Master during the meeting. It will be your job to inform the Master of the need and to escort him before the altar for introduction. Prior to the meeting commencing you should gather his name, Lodge, Lodge Number, city and state of the Lodge, ascertain if he is a Past Master, and if so in what year, as well as if he is currently a Grand Lodge Officer, or other Dignitary, etc. Learn the ritual for conducting a visiting Brother.

When a vote is taken on the admittance of a new candidate or to accept an affiliation you will be called upon to conduct the ballot box through its various journeys during the voting process.

All eyes will be upon you as you conduct the ballot box and this should be handled with the utmost respect and dignity.

The Senior Deacon is to act as messenger and assistant to the Worshipful Master and Senior Warden of the Lodge and assist them in carrying out their various duties. To carry orders from the Worshipful Master is not just so much language but an actual responsibility. The Senior Deacon is said to “carry messages from the Worshipful Master in the East to the Senior Warden in the West and elsewhere about the Lodge to expedite the business of the craft”. Report to the Master before each meeting to see if there is any manner in which you may be of service. You will serve as his messenger, which is signified by your chair being placed to his right, in the East, which is his domain.

I believe the progressive/traditional line both at the local constituent level and at the Grand Lodge level serve a purpose: to train and prepare brethren for leadership positions in the lodge while giving the other members ample time to determine if a brother is, or will ever become, leadership material. Just as we have to be physically qualified to be made masons, so should brethren be mentally qualified to become leaders.

As I embark on this new endeavor/opportunity. I am committed to serving and executing my duties as Senior Grand Deacon to the absolute best of my abilities and to represent each of my brethren on this new journey.

Budget and So Much More

Planning for the future and living in the moment.



Chuck Bass
Junior Grand Deacon

Brothers in another month or so the Accounts Ways and Means Committee will begin working on the budget for April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. The Constitution and By-laws of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico is what is used to produce this budget.

Code 60. Revenue, Code 61. Annual Budget, and Code 62. Grand Lodge Funds, explain what income can be used and what allowances will be included in the budget. I would like everyone to pay particular attention to **Code 61. (h). Any Grand Lodge committee requesting funds, other than routinely budgeted amounts, shall submit such requests to the office of the Grand Secretary on or before July 1 preceding the Budget Meeting.**

It is very important that this code be followed as the Grand Secretary must organize them and get the incomes and requests sent to the committee. After the committee receives this information they have to build the budget, which takes a considerable amount of time. So if a request comes in after the July 1 date the budget has to be reworked to try to accommodate the request.

Now that we have the work portion of this article done I want to talk about one of the things I like best about being a Mason. There are so many events coming up the next few months that give us excellent opportunities to have wonderful fellowship. I know that this first one will probably already be over by the time this is read.

If you have not attended Lincoln Lodge before you are missing a great event. This Lodge in the Lincoln Court House is a step back in time. It was actually used by Masons in the 1800s. Carrizozo Lodge started having this once a year Lodge a while back. They have a wonderful meal before the meeting, and the fellowship is top notch. This Lodge is attended by Masons from all over the State as well as from neighboring States and Mexico. A few years back Carrizozo Lodge started auctioning off who gets the privilege of opening and closing Lincoln Lodge the next year. I try to attend every event I can, not just for the meeting but for the fellowship before and after.

Another great resource for finding out about events is attending the Zoom meetings the Grand Master has on the 1st Sunday of the month, if he is not traveling. In the June meeting Masons from all across the State were promoting the events in their Districts.

The next event coming up is Masonicon on the 21st and 22nd of June. If you were not there last year the table Lodge was one of the greatest I have attended.

I'm also super excited to have the opportunity to go to the Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference in Casper, WY. I'm excited to see what other Grand Jurisdictions are doing.

I wish I could attend all of the upcoming events but it is just not possible, plus I also have some official visits that need to be completed. As this journey of mine continues I am looking forward to visiting the Lodges throughout the State and visiting other Grand Lodges. Thank you for letting me ramble on. See you down the road.

50 Years Celebrating Youth Accomplishment

Bethesda Lodge – the consequences of supporting your community.



Charles Ford
Bethesda Lodge

On May 23, 2024 the officers and brethren of Bethesda Lodge #64 served the Hot Springs High School Seniors a breakfast before Graduation the following night. The breakfast included bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, toast and fruit. Along with juice, coffee or water.

This was attended by 39 Graduates and family, giving them the energy to proceed to this epic event of GRADUATION.

This is approximately the 50th year Bethesda Lodge has provided this service for these Graduates.



Seeking the Divine Attribute of Truth

A Freemason's answer is to find – and ask – the right questions.



Gary Scott
Grand Orator

We are informed that the truth is a “Divine Attribute” and the foundation of every virtue. But what does that mean to the Freemason? We are taught to be good and true as our first lesson in Masonry and that within this attribute is where we contemplate, and by its dictates, endeavor to regulate our own conduct. If we regulate our conduct by the dictates of truth, then hypocrisy and deceit are unknown and sincerity and plain dealings will distinguish us, and we will collectively promote each other's welfare and thus rejoice in each other's prosperity. “Truth is a vital requirement if a brotherhood is to endure and we therefore accept it as such” (Davis, In Search of Light). But what is truth and how can we ascertain its existence?

Albert Pike wrote in *Morals and Dogma* that “to be true, and to seek and to find and learn the TRUTH are the great objects of Every good Mason.” He goes on to say that the highest claim of Freemasonry to consideration is that it is a Philosophical Truth, concealed from the masses and taught to the adepts by symbols (Pike, *Esoterika*). Pike also points out that... “But every intelligent Mason knows that of every hundred of Brethren, taken as one falls in with them, not more than two or three regard the symbolism of Freemasonry as of any real value, or care to study it. To do so, it seems to all the others, would be idle and unprofitable labor.” Is this where we are now as a sacred band or society of Brothers? I pray not, but think about it. We have many symbols and rituals that teach wise and serious truths, but how many take the time to truly investigate their meanings, seek the truth, and act in a true and upright manner?

Neitzche famously professed that “Truths are illusions of which we have forgotten that they are illusions.” (Neitzche, *On Truth and Untruth*) So, does Truth not exist? Philosophically he is correct, for if you do not seek truth by researching the meanings of your questions and skepticisms you will never find the truth thus it will remain elusive and therefore doesn't exist. As Freemasons, we are tasked to seek the truth and by doing so eliminate our ignorance of the subject in question and enlightening ourselves so as not to be ignorant to the reality of life. Masonic symbolism and teachings reveal many guides to character building however one must research and understand their true meanings. As Masons we are constantly reminded to seek light and by doing so, we eliminate ignorance and truth will thus be unveiled to us.



Truth is a fact of being philosophical and revealing, and requires, or rather demands, we uncover the meaning and therefore experience the reality of truth. However, as an individual, you are the only you in existence as created by the Supreme Architect, and therefore you and only you can determine truth through your own understanding. Masonry provides the tools, but only you can execute its teachings by your own actions and in doing so eliminate your ignorance to the matter.

Let's not forget that Freemasonry provides the tools and ancient teaching methods to give proper instructions of how to regulate and control our behavior and navigate our lives in a conscious and responsible manner. When the teachings are effective, Freemasonry philosophies simply mold men into higher levels of morality and virtue thus evolving a good man to a better man. Freemasons are accountable to help each other achieve these higher levels of life. We are informed that a lodge is a certain number of Freemasons duly assembled not as a structure but as a gathering of like-minded men. We are told of the principal tenets of our profession and the cardinal virtues which we are to strive to implement in our lives. We have a deep responsibility to acquire the truth and to enlighten our brothers.

Knowledge acquired through study and understanding defeats ignorance which is the task of all freemasons. The truth is out there to be found, but it takes time, research, deep analytical thought and understanding. Once the truth is found, harmony and balance reach equilibrium within the soul of the Freemason. Reaching equilibrium proves that Freemasonry actually is a beautiful system of morals veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols. That's the TRUTH!

Deeper thoughts on the matter:

- As a Mason, do you seek truth by studying and researching what Masonic Symbology actually teaches. Or, are you willing just to accept what others tell you as fact?
- How can Freemasonry make you a better man if you don't put forth the level of effort to understand the ancient teachings? Reflect on the thought that symbolism is there for a reason AND words have meanings.

Finally, ask yourself if you are proving Albert Pike's theory that only two or three Masons out of hundreds will seek truth? Then reflect on this question: are you joined with the hundreds mentioned by Pike who regard the teachings and symbolism of Freemasonry as USELESS? If so, then what is your contribution as a whole? Only you can answer these questions my brother. See you in Lodge!

MASONICon This Weekend!

A social and educational opportunity for all!

All Events Held at:

Ballut Abyad Shrine Center
6600 Zuni Rd. SE Albuquerque New Mexico 87108

[\(Click here to get directions\)](#)

Friday, June 21

TABLE LODGE

\$10 cost, payable at the door Cash or Check only

5:00 PM Social
Cash Bar will be open

6:00 PM Dinner
BBQ Dinner with, all the fixings

Keynote Speaker:

Jim Cole, Sovereign Grand Commander
Southern Jurisdiction - Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite

Saturday, June 22

8:30 AM Opening by MWB Steve Almager, Grand Master of Masons in New Mexico

9:00 – 9:45 AM “The Path Forward: Empowering the Future of Freemasonry” - Ms. Linda Patch, Executive Editor, *The Northern Light*

10:00 – 11:00 AM "Security Awareness", Bro. John Keel

11:00 – 12:00 PM Lunch at Food Trucks in front of the Shrine

Afternoon: Five (5) presentations available per time block
[\(Download Current Schedule Here\)](#)

Please register at: <https://shopeasycart.com/store.php?store=nm-shriners>



Harry W. Jenkins II
District Deputy
Grand Master
District 4
Chairman:
MASONICon

MASONICON



MASONICON Table Lodge

Friday, June 21 – Social from 5:00 – 6:00 PM Dinner at 6:00 PM

Ballute Abyad Shrine 6600 Zuni Rd. SE Albuquerque NM 87108

\$10 cost, payable at the door Cash or Check only

BBQ Dinner with all the fixings

Cash Bar will be open

Please register at: <https://www.shopeasycart.com/store.php?store=nm-shriners>

Keynote Speaker: Jim Cole, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite



MASONICON

Saturday, June 22 – 8:30 AM

Ballute Abyad Shrine 6600 Zuni Rd. SE Albuquerque NM 87108

Opening by MWB Steve Almager, Grand Master of Masons in New Mexico

District 5 Outdoor

Joint Communication with the Lodges of District 5.



James D. Combs
District Deputy
Grand Master
District 5

Join District 5 Lodges on
Saturday, June 29, 2024

Food - Fun
Education
Outdoor Degree

A Great Time Will Be Had By All!



Greg Stihel
District Deputy
Grand Lecturer
District 5

122 Manzano Quarai Rd, Mountainair, NM 87036

Lunch: 2:00pm
Lodge: 5:00pm



**District 5
Joint Communication**
June 29, 2024
2:00pm
Salinas Pueblo National Monument
Quarai Ruins

Hiding Behind 2BE1ASK1

Preaching to the choir doesn't help others to understand the good we do.



Joe Chrisman
District Deputy
Grand Lecturer
District 6

For many years now, we have secluded ourselves into our lodges and discussed the pride we have in being a Mason and what the fraternity has done for us. We speak of our great pride of the role of Masonry in the founding of our country. We talk of all the famous men who were members of our Noble Craft. But, we are simply preaching to the choir. Simply put, Masonic lodges have become echo chambers, turned inward only speaking to ourselves.

For the past 50 years we have failed to engage young men and our interactions with the community have faded. We have lost the appreciation and recognition of the communities that once held the Craft in such high esteem. It seems that the general public has no idea what Masons are or what we do.

We wear our Masonic rings and display the Square and Compasses on our cars. Our buildings proudly display the words "Masonic Lodge". However, the overwhelming majority of young men don't even know the Masonic Fraternity still exists. Jornada Lodge #70 runs the Handicap Equipment Lending Program (H.E.L.P. Program) that provides a vital service to the community, but very few people, besides the direct benefactors, know we provide this service. Everyone knows of the Shrine Hospitals. However, even with all the positive public exposure the Shrine provides, very few people I meet know that Shriners are Masons.

We hide behind the moniker "2B1ASK1". Our numbers are declining and our lodges are closing. I believe our Masonic fraternity must come out into the open and revitalize our public presence. We must be active and visible in our community and on-line. In everything that we do we need to ensure people know we are Masons. We must show everyone that, even through the clamor of today's social confusion, there is ONE organization that cultivates good men, strong communities and moral actions. In all our interactions with the public we must ensure that they see us as just and upright men. We must demonstrate, by our actions, that we are Masons.

Additionally, we must seek out good men of our community and tell them what Freemasonry stands for and what we do. We must communicate the fact that we are interested in them because they embody the qualities that qualify them for admission into our honorable order, and should they seek membership, they are welcome.

If you know or deal with a good man, make sure he knows you are a Mason. Brag about the local charities and programs your lodge supports, and the good things Masons do. Boast about Masonry's role in the founding of our country and the famous members of the Craft. More importantly, tell him what Masonry has done for you. We must stridently guard the West Gate, but opening the eyes of good men to the Masonic Fraternity can only be a positive for the Craft.

Continuing down the current path we are on only ensures that our fraternity will continue to decline in public awareness and stature, which will result in the eventual extinction of our lodge and the Craft.

Master Mason Patents

A Memorial that You Have Been Raised to the Sublime Degree.

Proudly display a token of your journey through the Lodge degrees. The New Mexico Master Mason's patent is designed to be a record and reference for you to keep and display. Both a reminder of the lessons of our gentle craft and an art piece suitable for framing and displaying, it will add to your home or office.

The 11 x 14 image contains your name and date of birth, the dates of your initiation, passing, and raising, and is signed by the Grand Master and the Grand Secretary and sealed.

It may be ordered on white linen or antique beige parchment. Order yours today for only \$49.00 plus shipping and handling.

Please allow for up to two weeks to process if you were raised in a NM Lodge, four weeks if in another jurisdiction.

[To Order click here.](#)



Exploring the Holy Saints John at Jerusalem

The symbols of Masonry provide direction on the path to further knowledge.



Burx Norrod
Senior Warden
Sandoval Lodge

In the annals of Freemasonry, the mention of a Lodge dedicated to the Holy Saints John conjures a tapestry woven with tradition, symbolism, and an ethos of enlightenment. This venerable institution, with its roots tracing back centuries, stands apart from other fraternal organizations by virtue of its profound ceremonial rites.

At the heart of Freemasonry lies a profound reverence for ritual work. Unlike other charitable fraternities, Freemasonry's essence is deeply intertwined with the intricacies of its ceremonial practices. Within the Craft, one finds a rich amalgamation of esoteric teachings, a mosaic of wisdom aimed at illuminating the path toward personal improvement and moral enlightenment.

As the sun begins its ascent in the month of June, in the year of our Lodge 6024 A.L., we prepare to commemorate a significant milestone in the history of Freemasonry. It has been 307 years since four lodges in England convened to establish the first 'Grand Lodge' on June 24, 1717, thereby heralding the birth of modern Freemasonry. This auspicious date coincides with the feast day of St. John the Baptist, one of the two revered patron saints of Freemasonry, the other being St. John the Evangelist, whose commemoration falls on December 27. Notably, it was on this latter date in 1813 that the United Grand Lodge of England was formed, perpetuating the legacy of unity among brethren.

Yet, this discourse does not seek to dwell solely on the historical genesis of Freemasonry or the veneration of the Saints John. Rather, its focus is on the paramount importance of delving into the depths of Masonic ritual work. It is this profound engagement with our ceremonial heritage that distinguishes Freemasonry from other fraternal orders, such as the Elks, whose outward trappings may bear superficial resemblance, but lack the depth of symbolic significance.

In this era of rapid change and shifting paradigms, the imperative for Masons to delve beyond the mere recitation of ritualistic texts has never been more pronounced. It is insufficient to merely memorize the words of our degree proficiencies; rather, we must strive to imbibe their intrinsic meanings. Too often, one encounters brethren who falter when queried on the significance of the Holy Saints John or the allegorical phrase "at Jerusalem." This calls for a collective reevaluation and a renewed commitment to understanding the profound symbolism embedded within our rituals.



I issue a challenge to every Brother: revisit the proficiencies, beginning with the Entered Apprentice degree, and embark on a journey of introspection and enlightenment. Let us delve into the nuances of our ceremonial heritage not as a perfunctory exercise but as a quest for genuine comprehension. For within the seemingly simple Q&A sessions lie profound lessons waiting to be unraveled.

The Holy Saints John, with their multifaceted symbolism, offer a gateway to deeper understanding. St. John the Baptist, characterized by his fervent zeal, stands juxtaposed with St. John the Evangelist, epitomizing knowledge and faith. As Masons, we are called upon to strike a balance between these contrasting virtues, embodying both fervor and enlightenment in our pursuits. Furthermore, the alignment of their feast days with the solstices – St. John the Baptist on the Summer Solstice and St. John the Evangelist on the Winter Solstice – serves as a poignant reminder of nature's cyclical rhythms and the eternal struggle between light and darkness.



To delve further into our rich history - we'll find that it was actually St. Stephen who was Freemasonry's first Patron Saint - as he is the Patron Saint of Masons, and, his Feast Day falls on December 26, just a day before St. John the Evangelist.

And why "at Jerusalem"? This phrase, pregnant with symbolic significance, evokes the sacred precincts of King Solomon's Temple. Just as every Masonic Lodge serves as a microcosm of this legendary edifice, so too does it beckon us to explore the allegorical riches contained within its hallowed walls.

Indeed, much can be gleaned from the construction of King Solomon's Temple and the allegories it embodies. But that, dear brethren, is a tale for another time – a narrative waiting to unfold in the sacred precincts of our Masonic discourse.

How May I Know You to Be a Mason?

How we walk in our daily lives is a reflection of how others help us grow.



Exiquio Cooper
Anderson
Sandia Mountain Lodge

As Masons, we are called to seek a hidden light and to manifest that light to the best of our abilities. This revealed light could be called the badge of a Freemason, and our most honored regalia might be but its emblem.

We are tried by the angle of the Grandest of Masters' jewel. Our actions are measured against its rectitude. We are further charged with humility and to love our neighbors as ourselves acknowledging that we all are fellow travelers on this road to the unknown. As we traverse this path with all its many perils, we are to do so uprightly as this is the proper station of man.

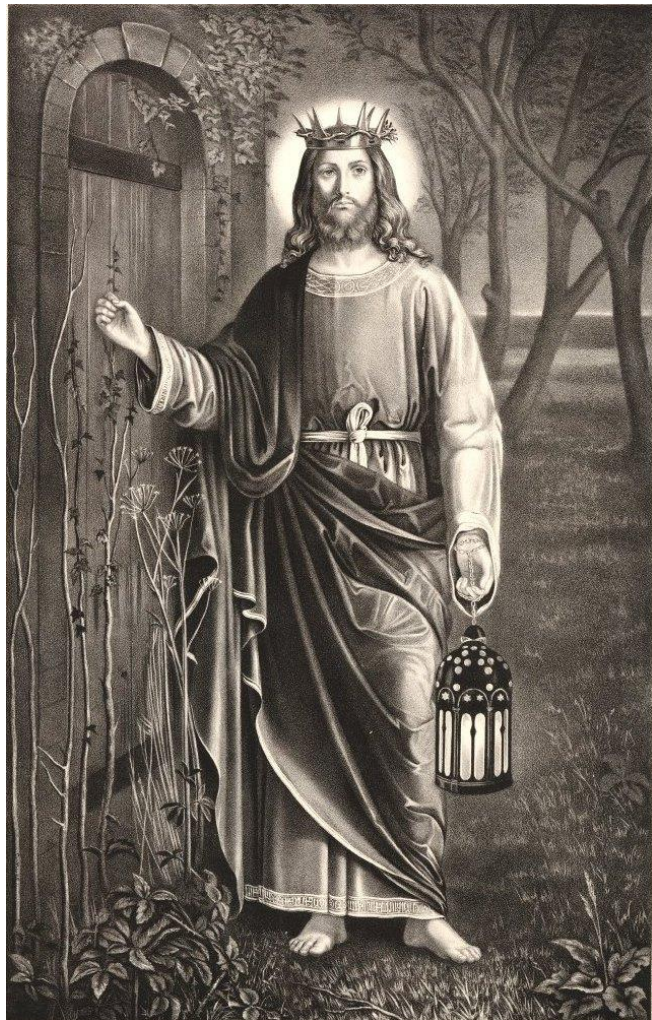
We are admonished to meet our fellow man with an embrace (that of a friend or a brother) and to commune with him

leveraging our combined strength and wisdom. The world is filled with the beauty wrought by the men who could best collaborate in their work. This too is our means and end.

We are to accentuate all our work with the timeless virtues best expressed by those ancient porch philosophers: to temper our desires and passions; to endure in the face of danger; to be skillful and measured in our work; and to be lovers of all that is just and right.

By these we may be known to be Masons - not by titles, honors, memberships, oaths, or secrets, but by those virtues which emanate from love. By these we might shine rough ashlar though we be and I the roughest.

May the Grand Master above recognize us all.



Proud to Be a Part of Something Bigger

How we walk in our daily lives is a reflection of how others help us grow.



Robert Cowder
Valley Lodge

I would like to share a passage from the poem “King Solomons Chair” that was written by W. Brother Carl De Montille.

“ The evening is done, the brethren invested,

I walk outside with pride.

A fraternity of men with whom I belong

Have honored me deep inside”

What does it mean to walk with pride? Is it the length of your stride, or perhaps your posture while performing this action? Walking as a general definition is putting one foot in front of the other repeatedly to get from one place to another. We rarely mention where we are going or where we have come from during our normal vocations and employments. Some even have difficulty telling their significant others where they are wanting to go or where they have been. Sure they talk about the normal comings and goings, the store, work, and remember I have a lodge meeting on Monday night. But what about the spiritual comings and goings? Why do we choose to walk the path of a Mason? Do we walk that path with pride?



Freemasonry as a rule includes brothers from all walks of life. An early example of this inclusiveness can be found by looking at just part of the list of occupations that were taken verbatim from the Minute book of Dundee Lodge number 18 from 1785 to 1808. “Sea captains of all nationalities, doctors, plumbers, sail makers, wine merchants, brick layers, stationers, surgeons, and apothecaries, shoe makers, carpenters and builders”. When I first joined Masonry I had a longing to belong to something greater than myself. What I found was a brotherhood of men all walking towards the same goal, just following different paths. This is why we walk with pride. Not because of our worldly accomplishments, but because of our spiritual progress. Be proud that you have chosen to embark on this path, but humble to the fact that we all need assistance sometimes.

I am honored to be numbered amongst you all. Not just because we include in our membership many famous individuals, but because each of us makes up a part of the whole, doing the work that is so desperately needed in this world, for the benefit of all mankind.



The old Dundee lodge,
No.18 (Constituted 1722-23)

Rainbow Grand Assembly 2024

International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

TRAVEL IN SEARCH OF
YOUR POT OF GOLD AT



New Mexico's Grand Assembly

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE RAINBOW FOR GIRLS

Miss Chloe DeWees, Grand Worthy Advisor

Albuquerque, New Mexico

June 26-30, 2024

Register at www.gonmrainbow.org

2024 Land of Enchantment Festival

York Rite Degrees and Orders – July 26-27, 2024



H.C. Sky Olsen
 Grand
 Secretary/Recorder
 Grand York Rite

The Land of Enchantment degree festival is back! We are confident that this will be a great experience to start our Brothers’ journey in the Chapter, Council and Commandery. In addition, it will offer another good fraternal and ritual experience for our Companions and Sir Knights. We hope you will join us for this exciting event.

Our degree and order work will all happen within the Montezuma Lodge building at 431 Paseo De Peralta Santa Fe, NM, 87501.

Accommodations will be available at the Valley of Santa Fe Scottish Rite dormitory during the festival (located right across the parking lot from Montezuma Lodge). Rooms will be available Thursday and Friday night at a cost of \$10 per night. Please indicate if you will need a room on the registration form below.

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided on Friday and Saturday. Dinner will be provided on Friday with the costs noted on the registration form. Coffee, Tea, and Water will be provided throughout the day.

PLEASE start contacting Brothers whom you believe may be interested as soon as possible! We are limiting our candidate registrations to those received No Later Than July 19, 2024. In addition, these Brothers must have already been voted upon by their respective York Rite bodies and accepted.

We look forward to seeing you at “The Land of Enchantment Festival”!

To Register: <https://nmyorkrite.org/land-of-enchantment-festival/>

For more information: <https://nmyorkrite.org/welcome/contact-us/>

E. Hans Schimdt
Grand High Priest
 Grand Chapter of Royal
 Arch Masons of New
 Mexico

Adam L. Hathaway
Grand Master
 Grand Council of Royal
 and Select Masters of New
 Mexico

James E. Bungard
Grand Commander
 Grand Commandery of
 Knights Templar of New
 Mexico

First Four Celebrating in 2024

Rendezvous 2024, celebrating 145 years Chartered in New Mexico.

RENDEZVOUS 2024



FIRST FOUR LODGES

MONTEZUMA LODGE #1

CHAPMAN LODGE #2

AZTEC LODGE #3

FORT UNION LODGE #4



AUGUST 10, 2024

AZTEC LODGE #3

ITINERARY

9:00AM HISTORIC CEMETERY TOURS

11:30PM LUNCH

1:00PM PRESENTATIONS

FRIDAY SOCIAL AT A LOCATION TBD

GET IN TOUCH!

E: AZTECLODGE03@GMAIL.COM
M: 575-642-3032

180 E. BOUTZ ST.
LAS CRUCES, NM



The Chapel – May/June 2024

Good and Faithful Servants Called Home.

Our Dear Brothers who have laid aside their working tools and have Passed To The Grand Lodge Above. May it be their portion to hear from him who sitteth as Judge Supreme ...

“Well done thou good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter now into the joys of thy Lord.”



<i>Brother</i>	<i>Home Lodge</i>	<i>Deceased</i>
Robert C. Vandermeer	Chapman Lodge	5/30/2024
Siegbert R. Mainz	Sacramento Lodge	6/9/2024
Edmundo Vasquez	Chapman Lodge	6/11/2024
Rudolph E. Laumbach	Chapman Lodge	6/15/2024

From the Book of Common Prayer, Church of England

Man that is born of a woman hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He cometh up, and is cut down, like a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow, and never continueth in one stay.

In the midst of life we are in death: of whom may we seek for succour, but of thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased?

Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears to our prayer; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and merciful Saviour, thou most worthy judge eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from thee.

[Read more on the history.](#)

Please let us know if there are additions to the list above. We will add them in subsequent issues. Please keep these Brothers' families in your thoughts and prayers.

A Peek Outside the Outer Door

What others are doing with the same (or less effective) working tools.



Stephen Balke
Editor

This week I watched a two-hour live stream put on by some of the top names in motivational speaking, Tony Robbins and Dean Graziosi. Further they had Jim Kwik (Memory guru) and several others come on for short presentations. What was the theme? “Gain an unfair advantage with the Mastermind Business System.” 10,000 people were watching them tell people they can do something with their lives and talents.

In the United States alone, the Self-Improvement Industry (yes, Industry – it IS well established) was at \$1.9B in 2019 with a projected growth of 4.1% per year. This includes books, e-platforms, personal coaching/training, and workshops and seminars. People are looking for and buying things they believe will improve their lives.

The message that is being given for those who buy is actually quite simple:

- Believe in yourself
- Be honest and tempered in all of your dealings
- Become a “Lifelong Learner”
- Expect to work hard to achieve
- Work with a group of like-minded individuals

Any of this sound familiar? It should. We have had the tools for (at least) 300 years.

More Information:

<https://blog.marketresearch.com/u.s.-motivational-speaking-market-worth-1.9-billion>

<https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/personal-development-market>

Please consider sharing what you do with all of us – it may inspire greater and more activity in Masonry in NM!

We look forward to helping you share all the things you're doing to help Masonry and your Lodge or group grow!

sbalke@nmmasons.org

NM Freemason
Grand Lodge of New Mexico
PO Box 25004
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125-0004