

Grand Valley All Masonic Trestleboard December | 2021



December Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Decorate the Lodge 2 PM GJ Masonic Center	29	30	1 Palisade Lodge Practice 6:30 PM GJ Masonic Center	2 All Masonic Christmas Party 6:30 PM GJ Masonic Center	3 Palisade Parade of Lights 5 PM Palisade	4 Palisade Lodge Stated Communication 10 AM GJ Masonic Center Fruita Lodge Christmas Party 5:30 PM GJ Masonic Center
5	6 Rainbow Girls 7 PM GJ Masonic Center	7 Eastern Star 7:30 PM GJ Masonic Center	8	9 DeMolay Boys 7 PM GJ Masonic Center	10 GJ Lodge Stated Communication 7:30 PM GJ Masonic Center	11 Blue Lodge Instalation of Officers 1 PM GJ Masonic Center
12	13 York Rite 7:30 PM GJ Masonic Center	14 Western CO Shrine Club 11:45 AM Grand Vista Hotel	15	16	17	18
19 York Rite Christmas Observance 1 PM Delta Masonic Center	20 Scottish Rite 7:30 PM GJ Masonic Center Rainbow Girls 7 PM GJ Masonic Center	21 Eastern Star 7:30 PM GJ Masonic Center	22	23 DeMolay Boys 7 PM GJ Masonic Center	24	25 CHRISTMAS
26	27	28	29	30	1 NEW YEARS DAY	2

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December Birthdays

Wish these Brothers a Happy Birthday the next time you see them.

- Austin Pitts
- Bruce A. Bower
- Carl Gaumer
- Christopher Eglet
- Craig Marsh
- Dennis Costlow
- Donald Halford
- Donald Hobbs
- Eric Johnson
- Harry Clark
- James Krogh
- James Williams
- Jason Allred
- Jonathan Estrada
- Melvin Schafer
- Nick Gazunis
- Scott Morris
- Shane Allerheiligan
- Spencer Hughes
- Thaddeus Wilcox
- Thomas Young



Masonic Anniversaries

Wish these Brothers a Happy Masonic Anniversary on being Raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason the next time you see them.

- Nathaniel Pavlisick



Sickness and Distress

If you know of a Brother, his Widow or Orphan in distress please contact your local lodge Secretary to add him or them to the list.

- W. Bro. Gerald Conyers is recovering from pneumonia secondary to COVID.
- W. Bro. James Anthony is awaiting surgery to remove a growth from his neck.

Temple Association Update



The Grand Junction Consistory Temple Association Board met on October 13th to review the minutes of the previous meeting, receive a financial report and an update on our rentals. All of which were approved.

The board has approved the purchase of a new stove and oven for the kitchen. As some of you may know we've been having problems with them, and two companies have confirmed that the thermostat on the current unit is not repairable. Double "D" Service will be putting in the new unit soon.

We're looking for volunteers for two things. First, we need someone to take the old TV by the dumpster and dispose of it properly. Second, we're looking for help setting up chairs in Lodge Room 2 Thursday, November 4th at 5:30 PM.

Also we want to thank Bro. Michael Briscoe for fixing the coffee maker in the kitchen.

Finally, we'd like to invite anyone that's interested to our monthly meetings. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Grand Junction Masonic Center.

We hope to see you there.

Linn Armstrong
President of the Temple Association Board



Mesa Lodge No. 55 Montly Update



Mesa Lodge #55 A.F. & A.M. Grand Junction Colorado



Mesa Lodge No. 55
Chartered: September 18, 1883

Meets the 1st Thursday of the month
in Lodge Room 1 of the Grand
Junction Masonic Center at 7:00 PM,
with dinner before lodge at 6:15 PM.

Dark: July & August

*To All Area Masons, Their Families & Guests, and Especially
Children and Widows of Our Departed Brothers:*

An Invitation To An All-Masonic Christmas Party



*Please join us on Thursday, December 2nd at 6:30 p.m
at the Masonic Center.*

*Widows of our Departed Brothers
Will be our Honored Guests of Mesa Lodge #55,*

*In a celebration of the Christmas Season the Christmas Party will begin
with a Dinner served by Eastern Star (\$15.00), followed by **Santa**, a
dessert auction by the Rainbow Girls, and the opportunity to visit with all
generations of our Masonic Family. We will gladly provide rides for any of
our Honored Guests that require one by calling (505) 350-0197. Please
make a reservation for the dinner by emailing Greg Foster,
Phelanwolf75@gmail.com*

2022 Dinner Assignments

January.....Harry Clark
February..... Greg Foster
March.....Tim Claypool
April.....John Groves
May..... Chris Giesler
June..... Andrew Weber
July..... Dark (No Meeting)
August.....Picnic TBD
September.....Jim Marshal
October.....Jason Kohles
November.....David Marshall
December..... Christmas Party

Mesa Lodge No. 55 Officers

Worshipful Master	David Marshal (970) 412-5890
Senior Warden	Harry Clark (PM) (970) 986-9315
Junior Warden	Tim Claypool (PM) (970) 712-3280
Secretary	Christopher Geisler (970) 250-8979
Treasurer	John Groves (PM) (970) 261-5189
Senior Deacon	Gregory Foster (505) 350-0197
Junior Deacon	Parker King (970) 629-9496
Senior Steward	Andrew Weber (970) 312-4774
Junior Steward	
Tiler	Jim Marshal (970) 712-9207
Director of the Work	John Groves (PM) (970) 261-5189
Chaplain	Jason Kohles (PM) (970) 250-8004
Marshal	William Marhsal (970) 260-5432

Fruita Lodge No. 120 Monthly Update



Fruita Lodge No. 120
Chartered: September 21, 1904

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month
at 106 N. Mulberry St Fruita, CO,
81521 at 7:00 PM, with a dinner
befor lodge at 6:00 PM

Dark: July & August

2022 Dinner Assignments

January.....Mike Murphy
February.....Naaman Moorehouse
March.....Garu Weiszbrod
April.....Jim McBride
May.....Randy Rehwoldt
June..... James Anthony
July..... Dark (No Meeting)
August.....Dark (No Meeting)
September.....Andrew Weber
October.....Jeff Koenig
November.....John Groves
December..... Lee Anderson

WORDS FROM THE EAST

WOW! Another Masonic Year coming to a close and thus my journey to the East winds down. It has been a year of adjustments and workarounds and yet it has been a capping (or should I say a Hatting) year for me in Masonry.

We began the year with our stated communications at the Consistory because the Center had 5-Star status. WB John Groves help us obtain our own 5 STAR clearance and the remainder of the year we have convened at home in Fruita. We missed a couple of our usually events, but we plugged in an extra picnic. We awarded a scholarship to a Fruita Monument senior, we had a visitation by a contingency from the Ft. Lupton Lodge who came over en mass to claim the Western Slope gavel, we participated in three joint stated communications (Palisade-Fruita, Fruita-Palisade-Montrose and Montrose-Fruita). We hosted a visit by the Most Worshipful Michael Moore, Grand Master of Colorado Masons. We participated in a second Grand Master visit at our joint communication with Montrose with nine members of our Lodge present. In addition to me setting in the East with the Montrose Master, WB Lee Anderson and WB Jeff Koenig filled chairs owing to COVID caused absence of Montrose brothers. The Most Worshipful Michael Moore presented a brief but informative and interesting history of Masonry in Colorado which predates Colorado statehood. We will finish the year with our annual Christmas potluck dinner, this year at the Consistory on December 4th. (see announcement elsewhere in this trestleboard) and the

installation of 2022 officers at the combined installation on December 11th again at the Consistory.

At a special Stated Communication on November 18th we elected and appointed officers for 2022. Your line for next year is: Worshipful Master-Glen Phelps, Senior Warden-Naaman Moorehouse, Junior Warden- Gary Weiszbrod, Treasurer- Jimmy McBride, Secretary-Randy Rehwoldt, Senior Deacon-James Anthony, Junior Deacon Andrew Weber, Tyler-Lee Andersen, Senior Steward-Jeff Koenig and Junior Steward Mike Murphy. Yet to be appointed are Chaplain and Marshall. Best wishes to Worshipful Master Elect Glen and his line.

I want to take this opportunity to gratefully thank the 2021 line and side-liners who stepped forward when needed for their contributions to a successful year for our lodge. I especially want to thank secretary WB Randy for his work. The secretary office is the most demanding and hardest working position in the lodge and these days it has a significant learning curve, even for those who have secretaried for some time. Randy, my master's hat is tipped to you for your tenacity and willingness to butt heads with the rigors and demands of being a lodge secretary.

W. Bro. Mike Murphy

Fruita Lodge No. 120 Officers

Worshipful Master	Mike Murphy (970) 640-5570
Senior Warden	Naaman Moorehouse (970) 433-5570
Junior Warden	Glen Phelps (970) 390-7146
Secretary	Randy Rehwoldt (PM) (970) 434-4608
Treasurer	Jimmy McBride (PM) (970) 390-7146
Senior Deacon	James Anthony (PM) (970) 306-1580
Junior Deacon	Gary Weiszbrod (970) 433-8978
Senior Steward	Jeff Koenig (PM) (970) 318-1004
Junior Steward	
Tiler	Robert Nickels (970) 858-0940
Director of Work	Lee Anderson (970) 846-8493
Chaplain	
Marshal	Andrew Weber (970) 312-4773

Palisade Lodge No. 125 Monthly Update



Palisade Lodge No. 125

Chartered: September 17, 1907
Meets the 1st Saturday of the month
in Lodge Room 1 of the Grand
Junction Masonic Center

Early Bird Breakfast

8:00 AM Every Friday at the Strayhorn Grill located on the South side of I-70.

All Area Masons Are Welcome to join Us!



Brethren,

It has been another amazing year.

We have seen multiple new members join our fraternity, brothers passing proficiencies, and the work moves forward.

We have been honored to accommodate the grandmaster not once but twice this year.

I appreciate everybody's hard work and dedication to the craft. It has been amazing to watch so many brothers with diverse backgrounds ideas, political and religious affiliations be able to move forward as a brotherhood and accomplish this great work. You brothers are an amazing example, thank you for your dedication and hard work to the craft.

W. Bro. Chris Eglet

Palisade Lodge No. 125 Officers	
Worshipful Master	Chris Eglet (970) 640-4986
Senior Warden	Kerry King (PM) (970) 434-3267
Junior Warden	Harry Clark (PM) (970) 986-9315
Secretary	Gregory Foster (505) 350-0197
Treasurer	David Krogh (970) 314-9664
Senior Deacon	Naaman Morehouse (970) 250-9042
Junior Deacon	Don Halford (602) 309-0794
Senior Steward	
Junior Steward	
Tiler	James Krogh (PM) (970) 260-3373
Director of the Work	
Chaplain	Mike Briscoe (PM) (970) 433-6766
Marshal	William Marshal (970) 260-5432

Grand Junction Lodge No. 173 Monthly Update



Grand Junction Lodge No. 173
Chartered: January 23, 1952

Meets the 2nd Friday of the month
in Lodge Room 1 of the Grand
Junction Masonic Center at 7:30 PM,
with dinner before lodge at 6:30 PM.

Dark: July & August

Brethren,

My Brothers I am sorry I missed our last Stated Communication. I am however looking forward to our next one.

We have a busy December coming up. Our next communication is December 10th. We will be having a modified election for the Senior Warden position only. It is important that all of the brothers who can attend please do so

On December 11, 2021 at noon will be officer installation for your officers for 2022. Please come and support those new officers.

Wishing all of you and good Thanksgiving.

W. Bro. Craig Miller (PM)

GJ Lodge No. 173 Officers

Worshipful Master	Craig Miller (PM) (970) 241-0997
Senior Warden	Mike Briscoe (PM) (970) 433-6766
Junior Warden	James Anthony (PM) (970) 242-2199
Secretary	Gregory Foster (505) 350-0197
Treasurer	Linn Armstrong (970) 234-0444
Senior Deacon	Jeff Koenig (PM) (970) 201-3371
Junior Deacon	Robert Daugherty (PM) (970) 210-4290
Senior Steward	
Junior Steward	Jeff Busy (970) 623-3651
Tiler	Randy Rehwoldt (PM) (970) 250-1672
Director of the Work	
Chaplain	
Marshal	





Rainbow for Girls Assembly No. 12

Hello All,

Rainbow Girls are excited to once again provide a Dessert Auction at the Masonic Christmas dinner December 2nd. The girls will make desserts that can be enjoyed on site, frozen to enjoy later, or given as gifts. We will be meeting several days earlier to work together making all the goodies. William Marshall has agreed to be our auctioneer if his work schedule permits. Plan to join the fun with the girls.

Our state service project this year is making fleece blankets for Project Linus. We are grateful to individual Eastern Star members, Tommie and Harry Clark and Beth Nelmes, who have already provided the fleece kits for 18 blankets. We will be setting aside several work times to get these done by the June deadlines. We welcome more donations and anyone who wishes to help us make the blankets.

Our members have been busy attending Grand (state) Leadership weekend, Fun day in Winter Park, serving weddings, and serving GJ Lodge their monthly meals. We worked with DeMolay on our Annual Trick or Treat for Cans collecting 4 large shopping carts of food and paper supplies for the Salvation Pantry. Fun was had by all at Studts Pumpkin Patch. We are looking forward to the Santa Georgetown Train statewide Rainbow event next month.

Ellen Rehwoldt | Mother Advisor

Grand Junction Assembly #12 meets on the first, and third Mondays of each month at the Grand Junction Masonic Center at 7:00 PM.

For more information on The International Order of Rainbow for Girls please visit www.iorgcolorado.org.



Order of DeMolay Columbine Chapter

Hello All,

Last month was exciting, as we had a new member join our order. DeMolay is all about making good men better by teaching modern day leadership skills. I personally want to share that with everyone I can, so any new member is exciting for me.

This month the DeMolay will be helping the Palisade Lodge with their Parade of Lights float, by handing out candy during the parade. The parade is on the third, starting at 5.

If anyone's interested in coming to one of these meetings you can contact me with my number, (970) 683-8140. I'm looking forward to another great month!

Robby Daugherty | Master Councilor

The Columbine Chapter Order of DeMolay meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7:00 PM at the Grand Junction Masonic Center. Meetings are held year-round.

For more information on DeMolay in Colorado please visit www.coloradodemolay.org.



Order of the Eastern Star Sunshine Chapter No. 53

Greetings All,

Button, Button, Who's Got the Button? That is the theme of Eastern Star's new fundraiser where people will be able to guess the number of buttons in a jar. The two guesses closest to the actual number of buttons will go home with one of these beautiful handmade queen-size quilts. The fundraiser starts on December 2nd at the All-Masonic Christmas Party, and the winners will be announced at Eastern Star's Official Visit in June. Fifty percent of the proceeds will benefit the Center for Children in Grand Junction with the rest going to our operating fund.



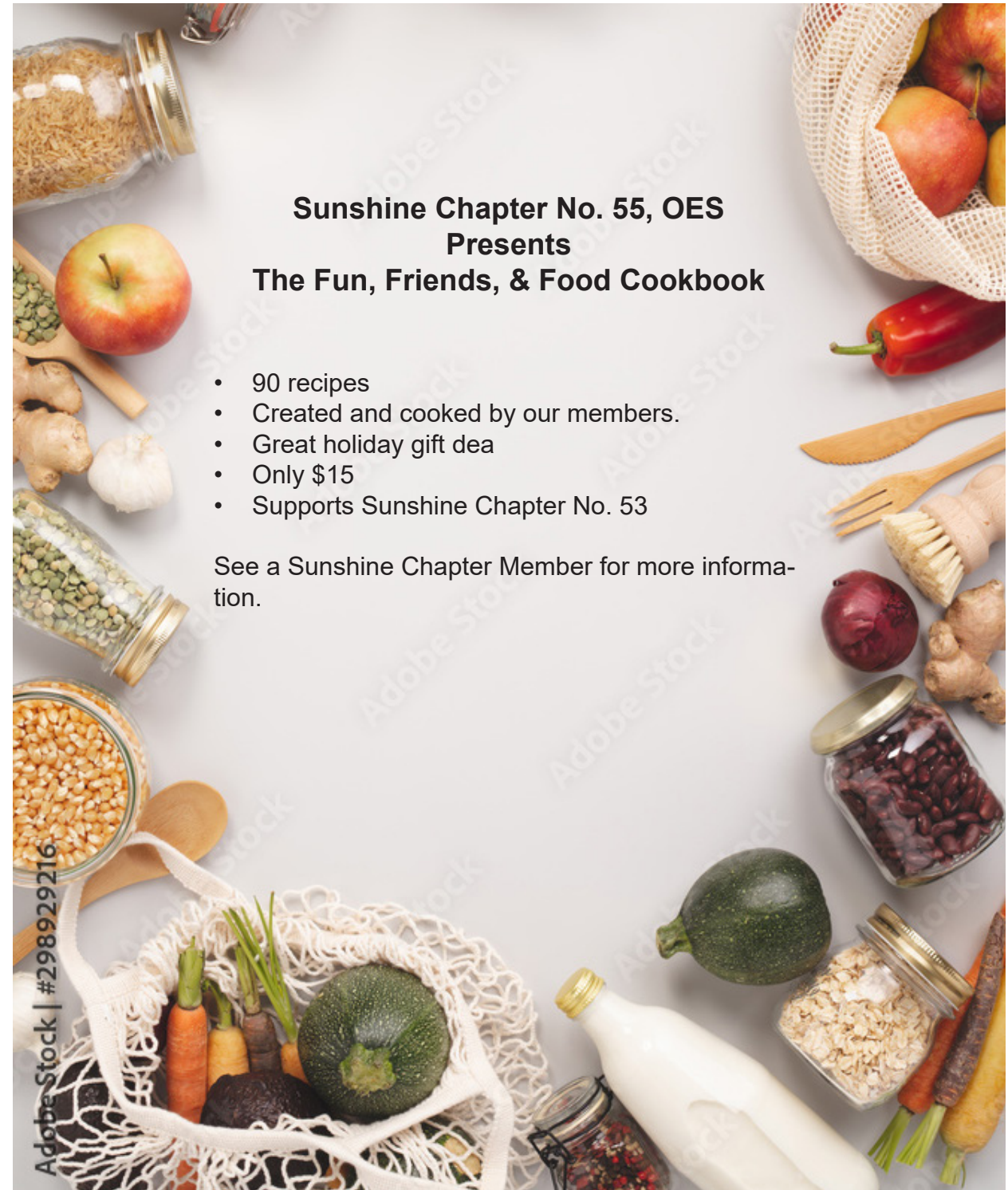
We are also continuing to sell cookbooks to benefit our operating fund and are selling scrubbies to benefit Eastern Star's perpetual beneficent project, Service Dogs, which in Colorado primarily benefits Veterans.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Masonic Christmas Party on December 2nd!

Sharon Parrish
Worth Matron | Order of the Eastern Star Sunshine Chapter



The Sunshine Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star meets on the first, and third Tuesday of each month (except July and August) at 7:30 PM at the Grand Junction Masonic Center. For more information on Order of the Eastern Star please visit www.oes-colorado.org/



Sunshine Chapter No. 55, OES Presents The Fun, Friends, & Food Cookbook

- 90 recipes
- Created and cooked by our members.
- Great holiday gift idea
- Only \$15
- Supports Sunshine Chapter No. 53

See a Sunshine Chapter Member for more information.



Widows Son's Monthly Update

Hello Brethren,

We will be riding in the annual Salvation Army Toys for Tots Toy Run. We will meet up at the Maverick in Clifton at 9:30 AM on Saturday, December 4th and ride together over to the Harley Davidson dealership by the airport. If you ride a motorcycle, you are welcome to join us and ride with us in the Toys for Tots Toy Run.

If you don't ride a motorcycle and still want to participate you can donate an unwrapped toy, just drop the toys in the big red box by the dining hall at the Grand Junction Masonic Center. The All Masonic Christmas Party at 6:30 PM on Thursday, December 2nd is a great time to drop off the toys.

Coming up in the new year we hope to have a busy next season for us as we plan to attend several different. If you know a mason who rides a motorcycle and wants to join, or just wants more information about the Widows Sons please have him contact any of the Widows Sons for more information.

Thank you and have a great holiday season.

W. Bro. David Marshal | VP Hesperian Chapter Widows Sons





**El Jebel Fundraiser – Pecan Sale
Benefit Shrines' Operating Fund**

In time for holiday baking and entertaining, we are conducting a pecan sale:

Two delicious varieties are available:

- Raw halves – 1 pound bag \$13(includes tax)
 - o Great for baking and snacks
 - o Freeze well for use throughout the year
- Cinnamon Frosted halves – 12 Oz bag \$11(includes tax)
 - o Irresistible for snacking
 - o Flavorful accent to your holiday buffet
 - o Tasty gifts for friends and relatives
 - o Freeze well for enjoyment throughout the year

Be sure to share this opportunity with family, friends, and co-workers who enjoy pecans.
Don't like pecans or have too many in your freezer? Consider making a donation to the El Jebel Operating Fund.

Orders will be taken August through December. Pecans will be ordered from the supplier on a regular basis to fill orders. To order:

- Utilize the Pecan Order Form 2021 or contact any Divan member.
- Send the completed order form and payment to the Shrine office.

El Jebel Shriners
3443 S. Galena St.
Suite 250
Denver, CO 80231

Thank you for your support; it is greatly appreciated.

Health Benefits of Pecans

1. Stabilize Good/Bad Cholesterol
2. Maintains Skin
3. Rich in B-Vitamins
4. Good Source of Calcium
5. Energy Packed
6. Heart-friendly Food
7. Rich in Protein and Fiber





Western Colorado Shrine Club

Hello Fellow Nobles,

The holidays are right around the corner, but before we can sit back and relax after overeating we need to have our final WCSC meeting on Tuesday, December 14th at 11:45 AM at the Grand Vista Hotel. At this meeting we will be deciding on a venue for our upcoming Christmas Party.

Mark Saturday, February 12th on your calendar as we will be initiating new members and installing officers for 2022. The time is still being determined, but the initiation and installation will be held at the Grand Junction Masonic Center, with a celebratory dinner afterwards at a restaurant to be determined. So, keep your ears open for more information.

If you know a Master Mason that would like to join the Western Colorado Shrine Club and El Jebel Shrine, please have them contact Michael Briscoe.

Mike Briscoe
President | Western Colorado Shrine Club

The Western Colorado Shrine Club meets at the Grand Vista Hotel Restuarant the second Tuesday of each month (except July and August) at 11:45 AM.

For more information please visit www.ElJebelShrine.org



Grand Junction Consistory

New Deputy in the Orient of Colorado

From: Grandcmdr [mailto:Grandcmdr@scottishrite.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 2:40 PM
Subject: New Deputy in the Orient of Colorado

To: The Active Members, Deputies, and Emeriti Members of the Supreme Council:

This is to formally notify you that I have appointed **Illustrious Karl J. Hinkle, 33°** as Deputy of the Supreme Council in the Orient of Colorado, effective January 21, 2020.

For your information, pertinent facts concerning Brother

Hinkle:

Hon. Karl J. Hinkle

Wife: Gytha

12569 Rockbridge Circle

Colorado Springs CO 80921

Cell: (719) 641-6363

Home: (719) 599-5253

E-mail: kjh357@hinklerealestate.com

James D. Cole, 33°

Sovereign Grand Commander

Supreme Council, 33°

Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, SJ, USA

Calendar 2021

- Consistory
- **Rose Croix**
- **Lodge of Perfection**
- **Council**

Calendar For Future Grand Junction Consistory Meetings, Dinners, and Other Events-2021

December 20, 2021, Monday (COUNCIL)
Pancake Dinner 6:30 p.m.; 7:30 pm
Stated Meeting, Election Officers. \$5 Will
Get You \$10 Drawing All-You-Can-Eat
Pancakes

January 8, 2022, Saturday
(CONSISTORY) 11:00am Open
Installation of Officers followed by
Luncheon

January 17, 2022, Monday (COUNCIL)
Dinner served 6:30 pm; 7:30 pm Stated
Meeting First Meeting with New Officers

If you are not receiving email from the Grand Junction Consistory please update your email address by visiting www.scottishrite.org.

Need to contact the Consistory?

Call: 970-245-AASR
(970-245-2277)

Mail: PO Box 3000
Grand Junction, CO 81502

Email: aasrsecretary@mac.com

Illustrious Brother Don Hobbs, 33°, is Almoner of the Grand Junction Scottish Rite Bodies. He may be contacted at 970-243-9231.

York Rite of the Grand Valley



Brethren, Companions, and Sir Knights,

December is always a busy month between parties, dinners, family, and masonic activities. Below are a few items you may wish to put on your calendar.

First, on Thursday, December 2nd the All Masonic Christmas Party will be held at the Grand Junction Masonic Center. For more information, please contact Sir Knight Gregory Foster.

Second, Temple Commandery No. 23 will be meeting at the Grand Junction Masonic Center on Monday, December 13th at 7:30 PM.

Finally, on Sunday, December 19th we will be holding the Annual Christmas Observance at the Delta Masonic Lodge. Lunch will be at 1 PM with the Observance beginning at 2 PM.

Hope you can come out on this holiday season and enjoy the friendship of you York Rite brother and family

Fraternally,

Scott Wilson | Excellent High Priest, Grand Junction Chapter #24

Michael Briscoe | Thrice Illustrious Maser Grand Junction Council #16

Jeff Bush | Eminent Commander, Grand Commander #23

The Grand Junction York Rite bodies meet on the second Monday of each month at the Grand Junction Masonic Center at 7:30 PM. For more information, please visit www.YorkRite.org or contact Jeff Bush at (970) 623-3651.

Masonic Education

**The Psalm of Fraternity
By W. Bro. Lee Anderson**

“And the brother Chaplain should recite the psalm that says: Here is, how it is good and how it is delicious.../...to live the brothers in good unity.” This Psalm is probably one of the oldest links we have to the beginning of Masonry. It was already in use by the ancient Knights Templar in their initiation of a candidate in the year 1128. This information was taken from the “Canons of the Ritual of the Reception in the Order of the Temple.” This is the Psalm 133, attributed to David and is known as the Psalm of Ascension, the Psalm of Brotherhood, or the Psalm of Fraternity.

We Mason’s may know this text best in the King James Version: “Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments. As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life forevermore.” It is the first passage a candidate hears as he makes his first passage around the lodge as an Entered Apprentice. It is the verse opened on the Bible when he takes his obligation, and we all hear it at the opening of the Lodge.

In order for us to understand the relevance of this verse today, we must understand its value at the time it was written. Psalms 120 to 133 were said to be sung by the Jewish pilgrims, first to the Tabernacle and later to the Temple as they made their annual pilgrimage to worship at the Holy of Holies and the Ark.

Between the first and last stanzas are some elements that need explanation. The precious oil was indeed just that. The recipe predates the time of David. The recipe is found in Exodus 30: vs 22-25. It consists of the following:

1. Myrrh- a pleasant smelling resin collected from trees in Africa and Arabia. It was very expensive and was also used as a pain-numbing narcotic
2. Sweet Cinnamon- Coming from Asia.
3. Fragrant Cane of Calamus- a tall semi-evergreen that grows in damp swampy areas. It is similar to Iris in appearance, growing up to six feet. It is banned to be grown in the United States because it is a drug.
4. Cassia- A member of the Laurel family. The inner bark when dried is cinnamon.

5. The finest olive oil.

This oil was used to consecrate the Chief Priest of the Temple and was very expensive. To be used in the quantity used in this Psalm passage, it would have been considered extravagant.

Aaron was Moses' older brother and was the spokesman for Moses when he made his demands before Pharaoh. He was the great-grandson of Levi. Moses appointed him as the Chief Priest and his sons as priests. The length of the beard was

a symbol of patriarchal and religious authority. In Aarons's case, it was never cut. Aaron's robe was long and flowing. Different interpretations of this Psalm have led to confusion as to the length of the beard. Some versions say the collar of his robe, while others list it as over the collar on the skirt of the robe.

Mount Hermon is one of three mountains marking the Northern boundary of Israel. This mountain range holds peaks that are all over ten thousand feet tall, with snow-covered crests year-round. These mountains created a physical barrier, capturing moisture from the ocean and at night condensing it into a very heavy fog reaching the mountains of Zion. The mountains of Zion are the hills of Jerusalem and where first the Tabernacle, and later the Temple stood. The melting snow from these mountains creates the River Jordan.

With this as a background, I want to share with you some thoughts found in a paper written by past Grand Master of California, John L Cooper III, titled "The Practice of Brotherhood". He begins by saying "This cryptic psalm is at once a challenge for us to enter into a profound mystery, and a promise that if we do so, the results will be a life-changing experience." He further states that the psalm implies a connection between "dwelling together in unity" and "life forevermore". It is the relationship between God and a man and is the proper provenance of a man's own religion.

Freemasonry is not a religion. And while a belief in God is a prerequisite for one to become a Mason, one must work out his own relationship with God outside of Freemasonry. We insist that a man is responsible before his God for what he does with his life, but we ask each one to seek the important and eternal answers from his own religious faith.

If we connect the first and last stanzas together, the purpose of this psalm stands out more clearly. "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity... for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life forevermore." In the Bible, a blessing is considered as conferring with a special power upon another. It is usually thought of as a

divine act of God granting His blessing, not upon one, but extending from one generation to another. It is a way of guaranteeing the continuity of community down through the ages. It is the latter meaning that Psalm 133 has for us as Freemasonry, rather than any religious significance. It helps us to understand the teachings of Freemasonry.

The first stanza states the condition necessary for the latter to be met. If a Mason cannot understand the necessity of "dwelling together in unity", he can't expect the result of God's blessing upon what he does as a Mason. We are first telling the Entered Apprentice as the Psalm is recited as his first step in Masonry, that much of what he learns in the lessons of Masonry revolves around the sense of unity and brotherhood. It should be revived in us at the opening of Lodge.

What is Unity? It is not meant as conformity, but rather, as a harmonious combining of parts into one, among a number of people. We ask each brother, on his own, to think for himself and to search for the meaning of truth. Freemasonry insists that truth will emerge on its own if we are patient enough in seeking it.

This then is the life-giving promise. Not in a religious sense, but more so a human one. If we live our lives as if others were more important than oneself, we will be enriched by the greatest blessing we could ever know. This lesson was first taught to us as Entered Apprentice. Once properly understood, the mystery will grow in Grace and shall bless us every day in everything we do.

on



Beginning January 2022 if you wish to receive the monthly print edition of the Grand Valley All Masonic Trestleboard it will be \$25 a year (12 issues). This is to cover the cost of the printing and postage only. If you wish to receive a print copy of a back issue of the Grand Valley All Masonic Trestleboard the cost is \$2.25.

The online edition of the Grand Valley All Masonic Trestleboard will continue to be free to access and print on your own.

If you wish to subscribe to the print edition please send a check made out to the “Grand Junction Masonic Center” for the amount of \$25 to the address below. Or you can give the check to your local lodge secretary and he will get it to the appropriate people.

Grand Junction Masonic Center
2400 Consistory Ct.
Grand Junction, CO 8150

Thank you,

Gregory Foster
Cell: (505) 350-0197
E-Mail: Phelanwolf75@gmail.com

More Light in Masonry

If you are looking for more light in Masonry or would like to know more about what is going on in with the Masonic Lodges and Appendant Bodies in the Grand Valley please check out these resources.

Websites

- www.MasonicFamilyGJ.org
- www.ColoradoFreeMasons.org
- www.ScottishRite.org
- www.YorkRite.org
- www.Shrinersinternational.org
- www.EasternStar.org
- www.OES-Colorado.org
- www.GoRainbow.org
- www.IORGColorado.org
- www.DeMolay.org
- www.ColoradoDeMolay.org
- www.FreeMasonryToday.com

Magazines

- Freemasonry Today
- The Journal of The Masonic Society
- Short Talk Bulletins by The Masonic Service Association

Podcasts

- From Whence Came you
- The Winding Staircase

YouTube Channels

- What is a Mason
- The Masonic Round Table

If you know of other masonic resources, you would like others to know about please let your lodge secretary know

Grand Junction Masonic Center
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