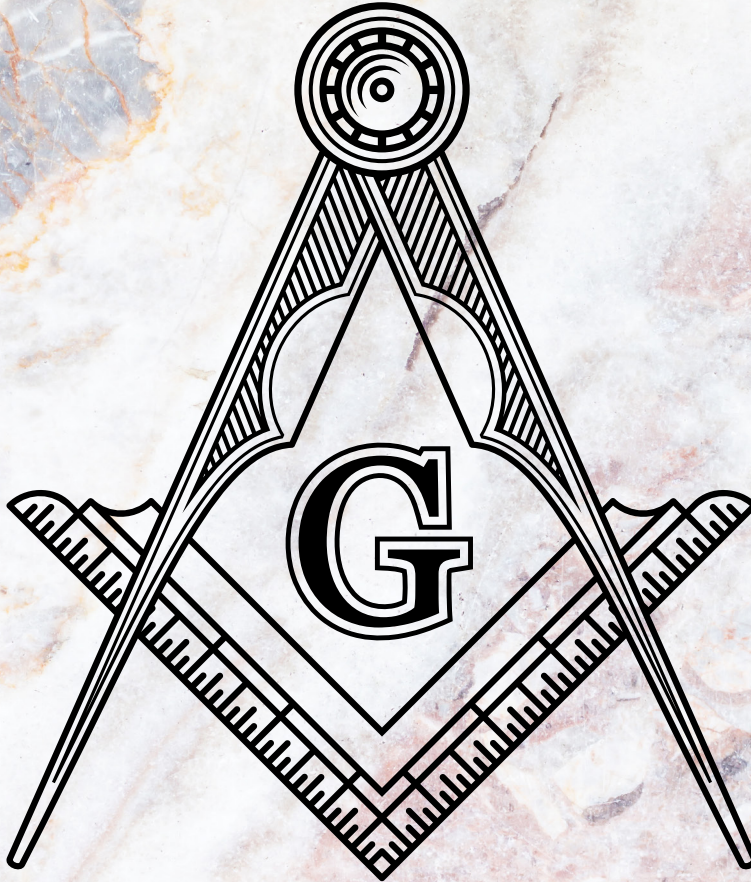


# All Masonic Trestleboard January 2023



Find out what is happening in Masonry accross the Grand Valley

# January Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>NEW YEARS DAY</b>	2 Rainbow Girls   7 PM GJ Masonic Center	3 Fruita Lodge Officers Practice   6 PM Fruita Masonic Lodge	4 Palisade Lodge Officers Practice   6:30 PM GJ Masonic Center	5 Mesa Lodge Stated Communication   7 PM GJ Masonic Center	6	7 Palisade Lodge Stated Communication   10 AM GJ Masonic Center
8	9 York Rite   7:30 PM GJ Masonic Center	10 Western Colorado Shrine Club All-Members Meeting   6 PM Grand Vista Hotel  Eastern Star   7 PM GJ Ma- sonic Center	11 Temple Association Meeting   6:30 PM GJ Masonic Center  All-Masonic Leadership Council   7:30 PM GJ Mason- ic Center	12 DeMolay Boys   7 PM GJ Masonic Center  All-Masonic Education Session   6:30 PM GJ Masonic Center	13 GJ Lodge Stated Com- munication   7:30 PM GJ Masonic Center	14
15	16 Rainbow Girls   7 PM GJ Masonic Center  Scottish Rite   7:30 PM GJ Masonic Center	17 Fruita Lodge Stated Communication   7 PM Fruita Masonic Lodge	18	19 Mesa Lodge Officers Meeting   6 PM GJ Ma- sonic Center	20	21 WCSC Happy Hour   4 4 PM Scotland Yard Cigar Lounge
22	23	24 Eastern Star   7 PM GJ Masonic Center	25	26 DeMolay Boys   7 PM GJ Masonic Center  All-Masonic Practice   6:30 PM GJ Masonic Center	27 All-Masonic Social Hour   5:30 PM GJ Masonic Center	28
29	30	31	1 Palisade Lodge Officers Practice   6:30 PM GJ Masonic Center	2 Mesa Lodge Stated Communication   7 PM GJ Masonic Center	3	4 Palisade Lodge Stated Communication   10 AM GJ Masonic Center

For a live calendar of events go to [www.MasonicFamilyGJ.org/Events](http://www.MasonicFamilyGJ.org/Events)

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## Birthdays

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

- Albert Young
- Calvin Busby
- Daran Mahoney
- Donald Williams
- Jason Kohles
- Kenneth Whitson
- Lee Anderson
- Sean Norris
- Si Smith
- Ted Herrman
- William Miles
- William McKee

## Masonic Anniversaries

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

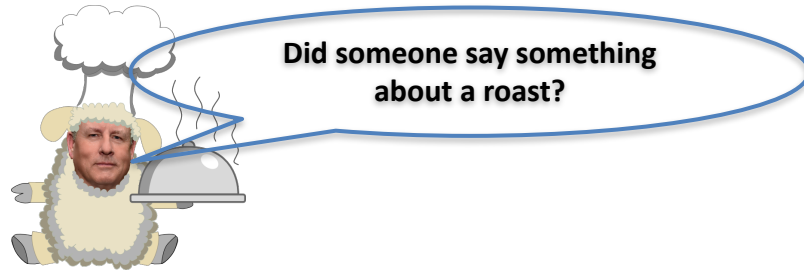
- Daran Mahoney
- Don Townsend
- Donald Smith
- Dustin Martin Jr
- Kenneth Kreie
- Neil Lindenbaum
- Ricardo Dominguez
- Shane Allerheiligen

## Sickness & 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. Jerald Conyers
- W. Bro. Ron Franklin - Cancer
- W. Bro. James Williams
- W. Bro. Gregory Foster
- W. Bro. James Krogh

**MONTROSE LODGE NO. 63 PRESENTS A  
DGM ROAST IN HONOR OF RWB ROSS  
A. ALLEN**



YOU AND YOUR LADY ARE INVITED TO A ROAST FOR OUR DEPUTY GRAND  
MASTER RWB ROSS A. ALLEN

JANUARY 07 2023

MONTROSE LODGE NO. 63, 187 ROSE LANE, MONTROSE, CO 81401

6:00 PM

COST \$15.00

MENU: SPAGHETTI, SALAD, GARLIC BREAD, DESSERT AND DRINKS

ROAST TO FOLLOW IN THE LODGE ROOM

JOIN US FOR A FUN AFTERNOON AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAY A FEW  
WORDS TO RWB ROSS!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK PLEASE LET US KNOW SO WE CAN PUT YOU  
ON THE AGENDA CONTACT RWB WILLIAM MARSHALL TEXT OR CALL  
970-260-5432 OR EMAIL METISSE@BRESNAN.NET!

PLEASE RSVP TO WB GREG ALLEN, TEXT OR CALL 970-270-7698, EMAIL  
GREGORYMALLEN@HOTMAIL.COM

**YOUR AD HERE**

Have you ever thought about seeing your companies ad here in the trestleboard. Starting February you can buy ad space in the trestleboard. We have a wide variety of options from 1/8th of a page to a full page, ranging in price from \$10 to \$100 for a three month spot. go to [www.MasonicFamilyGJ.org/TrestleboardAds](http://www.MasonicFamilyGJ.org/TrestleboardAds) for more information.

Ad Size	Quarterly Cost
1/8 Page	\$10
1/4 Page	\$25
1/2 Page	\$50
Full Page	\$100

**Our Lodge Page**

Put Masonry in the palm of your hand. Use the Our Lodge Page app to keep up with your Lodge's NEWS, Events, and more.

- Message your brothers via the in-app messaging.
- Create ad-hoc real time group discussions.
- View posts and feeds from all your lodges.
- See upcoming events for all your lodges, nearby lodges and jurisdiction.
- Discuss NEWS, posts, and calendar events.
- RSVP to meetings
- See who's coming to meetings.
- Search your Lodge's member directory.
- Check the status of Masons from multiple jurisdictions.



Download the OLP App from the iTunes or Android App Store.



# Mesa Lodge No. 55

## Greetings Brothers and friends,

I hope everyone had fun at the All-Masonic Christmas Party. It was great seeing the kids with Santa, but I think the face painter stole the show. I saw kids and even a few Brothers walking around with their faces painted. The Rainbow Girls did very well with their dessert auction, and a big thank you to R.W. Bro. William Marshal for being the auctioneer, as always he did a wonderful job.

January will be busy with the Lodge Officers settling into their new stations and places. Our Stated Communication will be on Thursday, January 5th. I will be making my Green Chili Stew and Bro. Kenne will be giving a presentation on Lodge Etiquette for our Masonic Education.

The Grand Lodge Annual Communication is from January 26th to the 28th. All Master Masons are welcome to attend Grand Lodge. Please reach out to me or our Secretary Bro. Chris Giesler for information on how to register for Grand Lodge and hotel details.

I want to announce a few new things that we are going to start in January, these events are open to all Masons in the Grand Valley and will be at the Grand Junction Masonic Center. You do not need to be part of Mesa Lodge or another Masonic body to come to these.

First, is a Masonic Education night. Think of it as "Masonic Bible Study". These classes will be using materials from the Master Craftsman College created by the Scottish Rite. If you are not a member of the Scottish Rite you will need to fill out a form to gain access to the site.

Also, on the last Thursday of each month, there will be an open practice night. This is a chance for you to work on your ritual for opening or closing a lodge, a degree proficiency, or the Masonic Funeral Service. Whatever

you want to practice we can practice.

Brothers, need a favor from you. I want you to think about what you want Mesa Lodge to do next year. Whether it be charitable acts, family fun activities, Masonic education, or something different. I then want you to volunteer for the committee (below) that corresponds to what you want to accomplish. Work with the committee chair to bring your ideas to the Lodge so we can implement them.

The last item I want to mention today is that the Lodge will be hosting a Murder Mystery for St. Patrick's Day, on Friday, March 17th. If you or your wife are interested in playing please let me know so we can choose a party with enough characters. If you want to come to the dinner and not play a character that's fine too, just let me know.

Fraternally,

**Gregory Foster**  
Worshipful Master

## 2023 Committees

- Education
- Scholarship
- Charity
- Food & Fun
- Sickness & Distress
- Membership
- Community Outreach
- Online/Social Media

## Mesa Lodge No. 55 Officers

<b>Worshipful Master</b>	Gregory Foster (505) 350-0197
<b>Senior Warden</b>	Tom Verdieck (PM) (970) 270-8504
<b>Junior Warden</b>	Ian Hughes (720) 324-1391
<b>Secretary</b>	Christopher Geisler (970) 250-8979
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Groves (PM) (970) 261-5189
<b>Senior Deacon</b>	Andrew Weber (970) 312-4774
<b>Junior Deacon</b>	Kenny Whitson (620) 260-0817
<b>Senior Steward</b>	Buck Henry (970) 261-9138
<b>Junior Steward</b>	
<b>Tiler</b>	Harry Clark (PM) (970) 986-9315
<b>Dir. Of the Work</b>	David Marshall (PM) (970) 412-5809
<b>Chaplain</b>	Jason Kohles (PM) (970) 250-8004
<b>Marshal</b>	William Marshal (970) 260-5432

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 6:00 PM.

Dark: July & August

## 2023 Dinner Assignments

January.....Gregory Foster  
February.....Tom Verdieck  
March.....Ian Hughes  
April.....John Groves  
May..... Chris Geisler  
June..... Andrew Weber  
July..... Dark (No Meeting)  
August.....All-Masonic Picnic  
September.....Kenne Whitson  
October.....Harry Clark  
November.....David Marshall  
December.....All-Masonic Christmas Party

# Fruita Masonic Lodge No. 120



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  
before lodge at 6:00 PM

Dark: July & August

## 2023 Dinner Assignments

January.....Naaman Moorehouse  
February.....Gary Weiszbrod  
March.....Mike Murphy  
April.....Jim McBride  
May.....Glen Phelps  
June.....Lee Anderson  
July.....Dark (No Meeting)  
August.....All-Masonic Picnic  
September.....Glen Phelps  
October.....Glen Phelps & Jeff Koenig  
November.....Naaman Moorehouse  
December.....Gary Weiszbrod

**Hello Brethren,**

It was an honor being elected as your Worshipful Master for 2023. I am looking forward to the many months of serving you, the Lodge, and the community of Fruita. I am looking forward to the Friday morning breakfast, which, by the way, is going to be a new experience for me, also the Annual picnic, and Christmas Party. Halloween comes to mind and that is always a fun time with the children around Fruita.

In advance, I would like to say thank you for this coming year. One of the things I wanted to concentrate toward its membership, as I would like to turn over a roster to the 2024 Worshipful Master with, at least one new Master Mason for him to work with. If there's more than one new Master Mason, we'll all be thrilled.

If Brother Jim McBride, would like to handle the shoe give away, as he did in 2017, I'm sure the lodge would be forever grateful. I will donate \$150.00 toward that project myself. I know that's not much of a donation, but we've got to start some where. Shoes are expensive.

In Hawaii, they say Melekalikalimaka, which Means "Merry Christmas" Hiolimakahiki HO, which Means "Happy New Year". I know it's a little bit late for the Christmas greeting saying, but the meaning is and I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

**Naaman Moorehouse**  
**Worshipful Master**



Presenting Gavel to Past Master Glen Phelps

## Fruita Lodge No. 120 Officers

<b>Worshipful Master</b>	Naaman Moorehouse (970) 433-5570
<b>Senior Warden</b>	Gary Weiszbrod (970) 433-8978
<b>Junior Warden</b>	Mike Murphy (970) 640-5570
<b>Secretary</b>	Glen Phelps (PM) (970) 390-7146
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jimmy McBride (PM) (970) 683-1957
<b>Senior Deacon</b>	Jeff Koenig (PM) (970) 318-1004
<b>Junior Deacon</b>	Andrew Weber (970) 312-4773
<b>Senior Steward</b>	
<b>Junior Steward</b>	
<b>Tiler</b>	Lee Anderson (970) 846-8493
<b>Director of the Work</b>	
<b>Chaplain</b>	
<b>Marshal</b>	

# Palisade Lodge No. 125



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

## Greetings From the East,

Harry Kick Mouse!

To my Masonic brothers that don't speak Harry,  
 Happy Christmas and a Merry New year.

I don't know how to thank Worshipful Brother Kerry  
 for all of his hard work. He got us up and going  
 and now our lodge is happy and healthy.

Those crazy guys from the Scottish Rite asked if  
 they could use the lodge on our normal Lodge day  
 as it's part of a deal with a gentleman that will be  
 coming with the Most Worshipful Grandmaster of  
 Masons in Colorado. I decided that would probably  
 be OK.

With a new year comes new ideas. I know the  
 Masonic leadership council has plans for doing  
 degrees a little bit more often and being able to do  
 degrees on a little bit more regular basis. We will  
 help where we can and jump in and do whatever  
 parts we can to help. I will talk it out with you guys  
 and see if this will be OK for raising our Brother.

A special thanks to our new secretary Brother  
 Chad Davis. Hopefully, he can herd us cats and  
 keep us on the straight and narrow.

Masonic love,

**Harry Clark**  
**Worshipful Master**

Palisade Lodge No. 125 Officers	
<b>Worshipful Master</b>	Harry Clark (PM) (970) 986-9315
<b>Senior Warden</b>	Naaman Morehouse (970) 250-0942
<b>Junior Warden</b>	James Krogh (PM) (970) 260-3773
<b>Secretary</b>	Chad Davis (970) 312-4714
<b>Treasurer</b>	David Krogh (970) 314-9664
<b>Senior Deacon</b>	Tom Verdieck (PM) (970) 270-8504
<b>Junior Deacon</b>	Don Halford (970) 250-4277
<b>Senior Steward</b>	
<b>Junior Steward</b>	
<b>Tiler</b>	Jason Gaskill (970) 270-2386
<b>Director of the Work</b>	
<b>Chaplain</b>	Chris Eglet (970) 640-4986
<b>Marshal</b>	

# Grand Junction Lodge No. 173



**Brethren,**

I am certainly looking forward to a very successful 2023 for #173. Recently elected and appointed officers were installed for the 2023 year. I have full confidence that these officers will use their collective talents and knowledge to support Masonic teaching and Grand Junction Lodge #173. We have several chairs to fill. You will see the needed opening in this Trestleboard. I am asking for members of #173 who have not been active for a period of time to please attend our next Stated Communications. We need your experience and knowledge to move into our next year. Whether you have a desire to fill a chair or not we would be honored. To have you present.

Our present Secretary will be stepping down at the end of this year. He has been elected to serve as WM of Mesa Lodge #55. He has served us well as our Secretary.. I have

complete confidence that he will serve with distinction. Thank you Brother Foster for excellent work and support. I want to thank our out going Master WB Michael Briscoe. He did an outstanding job as usual. Thank you Michael. I also want to thank all the officers who served Grand Junction Lodge #173 in the last year. Thank you

I am looking forward to our next communication and seeing all of our Brothers who can attend Please RSVP to our secretary WB Michael Briscoe. As we have dinner prior to the meeting.

**Craig Miller  
Worshipful Master**



Robert Magos Funeral Service

## GJ Lodge No. 173 Officers

<b>Worshipful Master</b>	Craig Miller (PM) (970) 241-0997
<b>Senior Warden</b>	Darrell Manroe (816) 500-1550
<b>Junior Warden</b>	Nathaniel Pavlisick (970) 242-1584
<b>Secretary</b>	Mike Briscoe (PM) (970) 433-6766
<b>Treasurer</b>	Linn Armstrong (970) 234-0444
<b>Senior Deacon</b>	Austin Pitts (864) 784-4825
<b>Junior Deacon</b>	Jeff Koenig (PM) (970) 201-3371
<b>Senior Steward</b>	
<b>Junior Steward</b>	
<b>Tiler</b>	Gary Brewer (970) 241-5842
<b>Director of the Work</b>	
<b>Chaplain</b>	
<b>Marshal</b>	Steven Ganskow (970) 640-7433

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





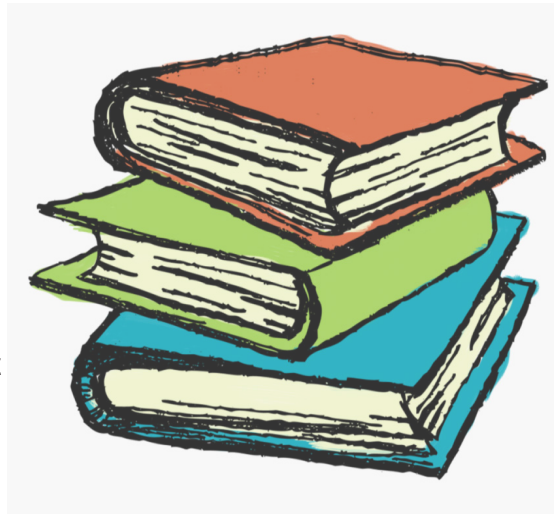
## Masonic Education Night

Mesa Lodge is hosting an open Masonic Education Study Group the second Tuesday of each month at 6 PM at the Grand Junction Masonic Center.

The group will use the Master Craftsman materials from the Scottish Rite. You do not need to be in the Scottish Rite to join the study group.

Our first session will be Thursday, January 12th at 6 PM.

For more information please contact  
W. Bro. Gregory Foster (505) 350-0197 or  
Phelanwolf75@gmail.com



## Sunshine Chapter No. 53 (OES)

Hello All!

Happy New Year to all our Sisters and Brothers! My wish for you is that you will have enough. Of what? Of whatever it takes to make you happy.

Sunshine #53 ended 2022 with the initiation of our Associate Matron's daughters: Deidre and Cora Gray. We have watched them grow into beautiful, responsible young women and are so happy to have them in our Chapter!

We will be working on my charity project in January which is "Jewel's for Hope." It is a fund raiser for the Juvenile Diabetes Association through the Barbara Davis Center in Denver. You can read about it [HERE](#): My grandson was diagnosed with Type I diabetes nearly two years ago and it was game changing for him and his family what they learned and continue to learn through trips to Denver or Zoom calls with them. The plan of this fundraiser is to have folks donate jewelry they no longer want (there is a form on the page you can print) give the jewelry and form to myself, Sharon Parrish or any one of our line officers and we will send it off for you. The jewelry is sold on an Etsy site with the same name.

Our Worthy Patron, Willis Grundvig, lost his wife, Valerie, the day before Thanksgiving. She was a Grand Secretary Emeritus of Colorado Eastern Star and we all loved her and miss her. There will be a memorial for her in either January or February here at the Masonic Center.

If you have questions about Eastern Star; or would like to join us, please call me at 970-270-8421.

**Nancy Eriksen**  
**Worth Matron**

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](http://www.oes-colorado.org)

## Open Practice Night

Mesa Lodge is hosting a practice session for Brothers who want to practice Opening or Closing a lodge, the Funeral Service, Degree Work or a Proficiency on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6 PM at the Grand Junction Masonic Center.

This practice is open to any Brother from any Lodge.

## Early Bird Breakfast



Every Friday, 8 AM Strayhorn Grill in Fruita.  
All Masons welcome.

456 Kokopelli Blvd,  
Fruita, CO 81521  
Phone: (970) 858-1525



# Western Colorado Shrine Club

Hello Fellow Nobels,

I hope everyone had a great holiday season, filled with friends, family, great food, and beautiful memories.

We will have a Member's Meeting on Tuesday, January 10th, at 6 PM at Oliver's Restaurant at the Grand Vista Hotel to discuss proposed revisions to the Bylaws of the Western Colorado Shrine Club. This will be the culmination of efforts begun at the 2021 Annual Meeting. You will receive the proposed Bylaws by email prior to the meeting.

The Installation of Officers and Initiation of new members has been moved from Saturday, February 4th to Saturday, February 11th. More details will be sent out as we get closer to the 11th.

I also want to invite all members to our Board Meetings, on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:45 AM at the Grand Vista Hotel Restaurant.

As President-Elect I want to hear from our members. What do you want the club to do next year? Do you want to visit the Hospital in Salt Lake City, hold a golf tournament, do a murder mystery, or do something completely different? I also want to know what you want to see on our page on the MasonicFamilyGJ website, and on Facebook. The more you communicate with club leadership the more we can do for you.

I'll wrap up by saying I hope you have a great January and that I see you at the meeting on the 10th or at our board meetings.

**Gregory Foster,**  
**President-Elect | Western Colorado Shrine Club**

### Special All-Members Meeting

There will be a special meeting of all members of the Western Colorado Shrine Club on Tuesday, January 10th, 6 PM at the Grand Vista Hotel Restaurant, to discuss proposed changes with the Club By-laws.

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

For more information please visit [www.ElJabelShrine.org](http://www.ElJabelShrine.org)



# Grand Junction York Rite Bodies

Month	Day	Event
January	9	Grand Junction Council #16 Stated Meeting & Gene Dreher New Moon
February	13	Grand Junction Chapter #24 Stated Meeting
March	13	Temple Commandery #23 Stated Meeting & Valentines Day Dinner
April	19	Grand Junction Council #16 Official Visit
May	3	Temple & Delta Commandery's Official Visit (in Hotchkiss)
May	13	Special Event - Able Kids Bowling
June	8	Grand Junction Chapter #24 Stated Meeting

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](http://www.YorkRite.org) or contact Jeff Bush at (970) 623-3651.

# Grand Junction Scottish Rite Consistory

# Four Corners Scottish Rite Club

## Calendar 2022



- Consistory
- Rose Croix
- Lodge of Perfection
- Council

### 2023 Calendar of Dinners & Meetings Dinner at 6:30 PM, Lodge at 7:30 PM

January 16, 2023, Monday (CONSISTORY) Pie & ice-cream served 6:30 PM; 7:30 pm Stated Meeting.

February 20, 2023, Monday (COUNCIL) Sandwich platter served 6:30 pm; Stated Meeting 7:30 pm.

March 20, 2023, Monday (CHAPTER) Combined Sweetheart Dinner and Ceremony of Remembrance Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Followed by Ceremony at 7:30 p.m. Family & guests welcome.

April 17, 2023, Monday (LODGE) Salad Bar 6:30 pm. Stated Meeting 7:30 pm

### 2023 Special Events

January 7, 2023, Saturday (LODGE) 11:00 am OPEN Installation of Officers followed by luncheon.

### Need to contact the Consistory?

Call: (970) 245 AASR (2277)

Mail: P.O. Box 3000  
Grand Junction, CO 81502  
E-Mail: AASRSecretary@Mac.com

### 2023 Officers John Groves 33° Personal Representative

Grand Junction Consistory	
Joe Wells, 32° KCCH	Master of Kadosh
Edward Trollinger, 32°	Prior
Ian Hughes, 32°	Preceptor
Randy Melton, 32°	Marshal of Ceremonies
William Marshall, 33°	Chancellor
Andrew Brewer, 32°	Captain of the Guard

Officers of All Bodies	
Lee Anderson, 32°	Orator
Randy Melton, 32°	Almoner
Jeffrey Bush, 32° KCCH	Treasurer
Jimmy McBride, 33°	Tiler
Wayne Quade, 32°	Prelate
William Nickell, 33°	Secretary

The Grand Junction Scottish Rite Valley meets on the third Monday of every month, except July and August, at the Grand Junction Masonic Center. Dinner is served at 6:30 PM with Lodge at 7:30 PM.

Hello Brethren,

I hope this finds you all well, and that the snow is deep and the fires warm this Holiday season. On Friday the 9th, we held our last meeting of 2022 in Durango, I wanted to update you all on some of the progress we are making. The first good news is that we have a full complement of Club Officers for the upcoming year. Elected as Secretary, Brother Jack Brewer, 32° Valley of Salt Lake, Orient of Utah, and pending approval by the body of the club Most Worshipful Past Grand Master of Utah Drew Sanders, 33°, Valley of Salt Lake, Orient of Utah as our Treasurer. Jon Brower, 32° is our Vice President, and I am serving as President. I am looking forward to working with these brothers and each of you.

Now that we have all our officers, we will put a yearly calendar to note any special events, dinners, or other activities. I will have this at our next meeting in March, as well as a hard copy of a club directory. These may come out earlier via email for consideration.

In our November meeting, it was determined that we would be dark in January and February to avoid any unnecessary risk due to inclement weather. So our next meeting is on March 10th we will be starting a bit later in the evening at 6:30 to accommodate travel time.

We held our first AASR Education on the Fourth Degree, Secret Master. I presented and am attaching a copy below of the slides. I hope you find them helpful. MWPM Drew Sanders, 33°, will lead our next Education on the Fifth Degree, Perfect Master. I am looking forward to it.

If you have items to include on the agenda, you can email Brother Jack Brewer, 32°, at [brewj@frontiernet.net](mailto:brewj@frontiernet.net).

We appreciate your support as we build this club and spread Masonic Light in our corner of the World.

Fraternally and Sincerely,  
Aaron C. Brewer, 32°

# Masonic Education

## The Persistence of Falsehoods: The Taxil Masonic Hoax

By Andrew Niemyer

Printed by The Masonic Service Organization

### About the author.

Worshipful Brother Andrew Niemyer is Past Master of Ionic Lodge No. 186, Duluth, MN and is a 32nd Degree SRSJ Mason. He currently serves as the Grand Lodge Education Officer for the Grand Lodge of Masons in Minnesota.

It is remarkable that a hoax perpetrated over a decade in the late 1800s persists to this day in certain quarters and is taken as totally truthful and accurate by a small-but-vocal portion of general society. The so-called "Taxil Hoax" was perpetrated by French author and anti-religionists Marie Joseph Gabriel Antoine Jogand-Pages from 1887 to 1897 and was widely praised by anti-Masonic zealots. That zealotry persists to this day, as many Lodges and Brethren can freely attest.

Jogand-Pages, writing under the nom de plume "Leo Taxil!", rebelling against a strict religious upbringing, authored a number of anti-religious books prior to feigning a sincere conversion to Roman Catholicism in 1885, in response to an 1884 Papal encyclical, *Humanum Genus*, that said the human race was "*separated into two diverse and opposite parts, of which the one steadfastly contends for truth and virtue... The one is the kingdom of God on earth, namely, the true Church of Jesus Christ... The other is the kingdom of Satan, which was "led on or assisted" by Freemasonry.*

Taxil announced his intention of repairing the damage he had done to the true faith. His real intent was to publicly slander the Freemasons (who reportedly had rejected him for membership) and simultaneously embarrass the Roman Catholic Church.

### The Hoax

The first book produced by Taxil after his "conversion" was a four volume "history" of Freemasonry, which contained fictitious eyewitness verifications of their participation in Satanism. With a collaborator, Taxil wrote another book called the *Devil in the Nineteenth Century*, introducing a new character "Diana Vaughan" a supposed descendant of the Rosicrucian alchemist Thomas Vaughan. The book contained many implausible tales about her encounters with incarnate demons one of whom was supposed to have written prophecies on her back with its tail, and another in the shape of a crocodile played the piano.

"Vaughn" claimed participation in "Satanic Masonry" only to be redeemed when one day she professed admiration for Joan of Arc, at whose name the demons were put to flight.

(Taxil published a book under the Vaughn name called *Eucharistic Novena*, a collection of prayers that were praised by the Pope.)

The entire hoax led to massive sales of his books and resulting profits to him.

Others quoted his works as Vaughn in a series of writings about the roots of the Masonic satanic conspiracy, claimed to be found in the epic "Morals and Dogma" by renowned Masonic scholar and Grand Commander of the Ancient Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction, Albert Pike (1809-1891).

They read: "*To you, Sovereign Grand Inspectors General, we say this, that you may repeat it to the brethren of the 32nd, 31st and 30th degrees: The Masonic Religion should be, by all of us initiates of the higher degrees, maintained in the Purity of the Luciferian doctrine. If Lucifer were not God, would Adonay and his priests calumniate him? ... Thus, the doctrine of Satanism is a heresy, and the true and pure philosophical religion is the belief in Lucifer, the equal of Adonay; but Lucifer, God of Light and God of Good, is struggling for humanity against Adonay, the God of Darkness and Evil.*"

Taxil claimed that a secret group of Masons, the "Palladists" were members of an alleged Satanist cult within Freemasonry. According to Taxil!, Palladism was a religion practiced within the highest orders of Freemasonry. Adherents worshipped 'Lucifer and interacted with demons, as evidenced by the fictitious quote from above.

In 1891, Taxil! (Jogand-Pages) and Adolphe Ricoux claimed to have discovered a Palladian Society. An 1892 book "*The Devil in the 19th Century*", written by Jogand-Pages alleged that Palladists were Satanists based in Charleston, South Carolina, headed by Pike, and created by the Italian liberal patriot and author Giuseppe Mazzini. The book had great sales among Catholics.

In 1887, he had an audience with Pope Leo XIII, who also rebuked the bishop of Charleston, South Carolina for denouncing the anti-Masonic confessions as a fraud and supported anti-Masonic conventions. In 1892, Taxil! began a newspaper, *Christian Antimasonic France*, with his anti-Masonic publishing friend, Abel Clarin de la Rive.

Arthur Edward Waite, British poet, scholar, and Freemason, was among the first to vigorously address Taxil's claims, debunking the existence of the Palladists in *Devil-Worship in France*, or *The Question of Lucifer*, first published in 1896.

By this time pressure grew for Taxil to produce the elusive "Diana Vaughn". On April 19, 1897, Leo Taxil called a press conference at which he claimed he would introduce Diana Vaughan to the press. At the conference instead he announced that Vaughn did not exist and all his revelations about the Freemasons were fictitious. He thanked the Catholic clergy for their assistance in giving publicity to his wild claims.

Taxil's confession was printed in its entirety, in the Parisian newspaper *Le Frondeur*, on April 25, 1897, titled: *Twelve Years Under the Banner of the Church, The Prank Of Palladism. Miss Diana Vaughan-The Devil At The Freemasons. A Conference held by M. Leo Taxil, at the Hall of the Geographic Society in Paris.*

With that, the Taxil hoax collapsed.

## Aftermath

Shortly before he died, Taxil granted an interview to the magazine National Magazine, an Illustrated American Monthly which was published in 1906. Taxil gave his true reasons behind the hoax.

The story states "Members .of the Masonic orders understand the false exposure heaped upon that organization in anti-Mason wars ... [t]he confession of Taxil, the French Free-thinker, who first exposed Catholics and then Masons, makes interesting reading ... [s]imilar motives actuate some of the "muck rakes" of today, as indicated in the following confession: "*The public made me what I am; the arch-liar of the period,*" confessed Taxil, "*for when I first commenced to write against the Masons my object was amusement pure and simple. The crimes I laid at their door were so grotesque, so impossible, so widely exaggerated, that I thought everybody would see the joke and give me credit for originating a new line of humor. But my readers wouldn't have it so; they accepted my fables as gospel truth, and the more I lied for the purpose of showing that I lied, the more convinced became they that I was a paragon of veracity.*

*"Then it dawned upon me that there was lots of money in being a Munchausen of the right kind, and for twelve years I gave it to them hot and strong, but never too hot. When inditing such slush as the story of the devil snake who wrote prophecies on Diana's back with the end of his tail, I sometimes said to myself:*

*'Hold on, you are going too far,' but I didn't. My readers even took kindly to the yarn of the devil who, in order to marry a Mason, transformed himself into a crocodile, and, despite the masquerade, played the piano wonderfully well.*

*"Ah, the jolly evenings I spent with my fellow authors hatching out new plots, new, unheard of perversions of truth and logic, each trying to outdo the other in organized mystification.*

*I thought I would kill myself laughing at some of the things proposed, but everything went; there is no limit to human stupidity".*

Yet, despite all of this and numerous other refutations over the years, Taxil's elaborate fabrications live on. At least one publisher continues to reproduce translations of his materials, promoting them as truth and selling them worldwide to the gullible and angry, who often reproduce them and deliver them to Lodges everywhere as revelations as to what we are "really doing," as well as distributing through social media and other means.

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

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,

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## 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](http://www.MasonicFamilyGJ.org)
- [www.ColoradoFreeMasons.org](http://www.ColoradoFreeMasons.org)
- [www.ScottishRite.org](http://www.ScottishRite.org)
- [www.YorkRite.org](http://www.YorkRite.org)
- [www.Shrinersinternational.org](http://www.Shrinersinternational.org)
- [www.EasternStar.org](http://www.EasternStar.org)
- [www.OES-Colorado.org](http://www.OES-Colorado.org)
- [www.GoRainbow.org](http://www.GoRainbow.org)
- [www.IORGColorado.org](http://www.IORGColorado.org)
- [www.DeMolay.org](http://www.DeMolay.org)
- [www.ColoradoDeMolay.org](http://www.ColoradoDeMolay.org)
- [www.FreeMasonryToday.com](http://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  
2400 Consistory Ct.  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

