

All Masonic Trestleboard February 2023



Find out what is happening in Masonry across the Grand Valley

February Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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
5	6 Rainbow Girls 7 PM GJ Masonic Center	7 Order of the Eastern Star 7 PM GJ Masonic Center	8 Temple Assc Meeting 6:30 PM GJ Masonic Center All-Masonic Leadership Council 7:30 PM GJ Masonic Center	9 Open Masonic Education Night 6:30 PM GJ Masonic Center DeMolay Boys 7 PM GJ Masonic Center	10 Grand Junction Lodge Stated Communication 7:30 PM GJ Masonic Center	11 Western Colorado Shrine Club Initiation & Installation 1 PM Grand Vista Hotel
12	13 York Rite Stated Communication 7:30 PM GJ Masonic Center	14 Western Colorado Shrine Club Board Meeting 11:45 AM Grand Vista Hotel	15	16 Mesa Lodge Officers Meeting 6:30 PM GJ Masonic Center	17	18 Western Colorado Shrine Club New Member Initiation 3 PM GJ Masonic Center
19	20 Rainbow Girls 7 PM GJ Masonic Center Scottish Rite Stated Communication 7:30 PM GJ Masonic Center	21 Order of the Eastern Star 7 PM GJ Masonic Center	22	23 Open Masonic Practice 6:30 PM GJ Masonic Center DeMolay Boys 7 PM GJ Masonic Center	24 All-Masonic Social Hour 5:30 PM GJ Masonic Center	25 Western Colorado Shrine Club Happy Hour 4 PM Scotland Yard Cigar Lounge
26	27	28	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

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Birthdays

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

- Arthur Donoho
- Christopher Geisler
- Chuck Downing
- Gilbert Martin
- Glen Phelps
- John Anderson
- Mark McGarry
- Richard Gonzalez
- Steven Potter
- Thomas Lacroix

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.

- Allen Etcheverry
- Chad Davis
- Daniel Henry
- Edgar Gillenwaters
- Gilbert L. Martin
- Glen Phelps
- Glen Revelle
- Jason Gaskill
- Kenneth Whitson
- Kerry King
- Larry Drieth
- Randy Rehwoldt
- Robert Daugherty
- Timothy Claypool
- Vernon Dillard
- Walter Hatmaker
- William Marshall

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
- W. Bro. James Krogh
- W. Bo. Harry Clark
- W. Bro. Bill Buvinger
- W. Bro. Craig Miller
- W. Bro. Vernon Dillard
- Bro. Kenne Whitson

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Ad Size	Quarterly Cost
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1/2 Page	\$50
Full Page	\$100



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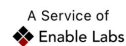
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Grand Junction Temple Association



Hello Masons of the Grand Valley,

February 18th the Annual Temple Association met to elect members to the Temple Board. The Temple Board then elected John Groves Treasurer, Michael Briscoe Secretary, and Linn Armstrong President. We discussed the financial report that Groves presented. The main importance of the budget is how important the income from outside rentals are.

The roof replacement will commence Monday the 23rd. The Temple has two organs and a Baby Grand piano that are in need of a good home. Feel free to join us at the next board meeting on the 2nd Wednesday in February at 6:30 pm.

Bro. Linn Armstrong
President | Grand Junction Masonic Temple Association

The Grand Junction Masonic Temple Association meets on the second Wednesday of each month, except for July and August, at 6:30 PM in the Snack Room of the Grand Junction Masonic Center. Any member of the Masonic bodies of the Grand Junction Masonic Center are welcome to attend the meetings.



Mesa Lodge No. 55

Greetings Brothers and friends,

Thank you to everyone who came out to our Stated Communication in January. We tried a few new things in January, some of them worked well, and others did not. I think everyone reciting the benediction together at the end of our opening went well, but we will be using microphones and overhead lights going forward so that everyone can have an enjoyable experience in Lodge. Also, a big thank you to Bro. Kenne for his presentation on Lodge Etiquette.

Our next Stated Communication will be on February 2nd. Dinner will be at 6 PM. W. Bro. Tom will be making Italian Sausage for dinner. Dinners are open to all Masons, and prospective members. One quick note about our dinner in February, we will be having dinner in the Rec Room instead of the Snack Room that night as another group needed to use the Snack Room during our dinner hour.

Lodge will open at 7 PM and Bro. Ian will be giving a lecture on "Guarding the West Gate: Talking to Candidates" for our Masonic Education. We will also have a report on the events of Grand Lodge.

Other events in February include:

- Masonic Education Night on Thursday, February 9th at 6:00 PM
- Mesa Lodge Officers Meeting on Thursday, February 16th at 6:30 PM
- Masonic Practice on Thursday, February 25th at 6:30 PM.

For a full list of events please go to MasonicFamilyGJ.org/Events.

Brothers, I need you to do a couple of things for me.

First, If you haven't paid your 2023 Lodge Dues yet please do so. Only about one-half of our members have paid dues so far. It is important that we get the remaining dues ASAP. If you are not able to pay your dues please reach out to our Secretary Bro. Chris or our Treasurer W. Bro. John and arrangements can be made.

Second, I'm asking all members to volunteer for at least one Lodge committee. A list of committees and the Committee Chair can be found on our website (<https://masonicfamilygj.org>).

org/mesa-lodge-no-55). The officers and I have lots of things planned for the upcoming year and we need your help to accomplish them.

I'm excited to announce that on Friday, March 17th, we will be having a Murder Mystery Dinner Party. Lee Prechaun of the Prechaun Family has been murdered and we need to find out who killed him. More information can be found in this Trestleboard and Bro. Chris will be sending out more information soon. If you're interested please reach out to me to RSVP by February 28th.

I also want to remind everyone that we are collecting donations for the Colorado DeMolay Boys Care Package Program.

The Colorado DeMolay Boys are collecting money and items like toiletries to create care packages for soldiers overseas. The Lodge is collecting donations through the end of March. In April all the donations collected by the lodge will be sent to the Colorado DeMolay Boys.

You can make a donation through the Our Lodge Page App on your phone, or by sending cash/check addressed to Mesa Lodge No. 55 at P.O. Box 4794, Grand Junction, CO 81502. Please indicate the donation is for the Colorado DeMolay Care Package Program.

That's all I have for now. I hope to see you all at our Stated Communication on Thursday, February 2nd. If not I wish you a great month.

Fraternally,

Gregory Foster
Worshipful Master

Mesa Lodge No. 55 Officers

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

Who Lynched Lee Prechaun A Murder Mystery Dinner Party

The quiet little Irish town of Kilfenny is both picturesque and traditional. Life in the village has continued pretty much as it has done since it was first constructed in 1901 and all the residents are happy. At least, they were until recently...

Lee Prechaun, the current owner of the Prechaun Family Estate, has plans to demolish over half the village and modernize the area with an extensive pleasure complex and designer shopping mall.

The villagers are up in arms and an urgent meeting has been called in the village hall to oppose the plans. However, when the villagers arrive, they find that someone has already dealt with the proposal! Lee Prechaun is dead. Strung from the rafters! Who could've done it?

Characters are to be randomly assigned and information mailed out in early March.

Time: 6:30 PM

Date: Friday, March 17th

Venue: Grand Junction Masonic Center

Dinner: Corned Beef and Cabbage

Cost: \$20 per person and Cash (donation) Bar

R.S.V.P. to W. Bro. Gregory Foster by February 28th. Please let him know if you want to play a character or not.

Cell: 505-350-0197

E-Mail: Phelanwolf75@gmail.com

Warning this game contains: Content that may be suitable for persons ages 17 and older. Including:

- Alcohol Reference – Reference to alcoholic beverages.
- Comic Mischief – Depictions or dialogue involving slapstick or suggestive humor
- Language – Mild to moderate use of profanity
- Mature Humor – Depictions or dialogue involving “adult” humor, including sexual references
- Sexual Themes – References to complex marital relationships, affairs, sleeping around, illegitimate children and paternity issues.
- A murder – violence suggested.



Who Lynched
Lee Prechaun

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,

May peace and harmony prevail in all that we do.

Thanks to all who attended the Annual Bean Dinner and especially those who organized the dinner. Attention goes to the 8 AM Early Birds who attend the Friday breakfast at the Strayhorn Restaurant in Fruita. Those breakfasts are enjoyable and well-attended and provide opportunities for some great Masonic conversations. Consider joining W. Bro. John, Lee Anderson, Mike Murphy, Gregory Foster, and myself any time you'd like. The doors are open for everyone, and the bacon is delicious!

Add Sunday, February 12th to your calendar for the Annual Valentine Sweethearts Lunch at the Strayhorn Restaurant. Bring your special someone and join us at 12:00 for what will be a delightful time of sharing.

Four of our Masonic Officers from the Grand Junction area will be attending the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in Denver, January 26-28. If you have any recommendations for a change that you'd like us to offer up for discussion, please bring them to me. Call me with your comments and suggestions at any time.

With this being the coldest and sometimes most depressing time of the year, I encourage you to reach out to remember your Brothers who are mostly confined at home or in a rehabilitation facility. Remember Jerald Conyers, Silan Smith, Jimmy Krogh, and Bill Clark with a visit, a phone call, or a friendly card to let them know you're thinking about them and are offering support

and encouragement. For those of you that didn't know of Jimmy Krogh's fall in late December, it's good to report that his recovery is going well, although, Jimmy still needs assistance around the house and is not yet able to drive. Jimmy slipped and fell while out shoveling snow late one night, broke his hip, and lay in the snow and cold for several hours, calling out for help before a neighbor heard him and dialed 911. Thank God for that neighbor who responded to Jimmy's pleas for help. Let this be a reminder to us older folks to always carry our cell phones in an upper pocket or to have that little medical alert device at our fingertips. Anyone of us could be just a step or slip away from an incident requiring medical assistance.

A special note from Irish, Jimmy's mother, "Because my Jimmy is still early in his recovery, please do not consider stopping in to visit with him until later in March, when he is getting around a little more securely. Cards and notes of encouragement are always welcome."

Before closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all the assistance you provide to our lodge. May your days be filled with blessings of warmth and good health.

**Naaman Moorehouse
Worshipful Master**

Fruita Lodge No. 120 Officers

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

Grand Oration - 162 Annual Communication M.W. Grand Lodge of Colorado A.F. & A.M.

Lessons Learned, Random Thoughts and I have some Questions

By WB Patrick Quigley

Most Worshipful Brothers, Right Worshipful Brothers, Worshipful Brothers, Distinguished guests and Brethren all.

When I first sat down last night to write this speech, I thought who am I talking to? Well, first of all, a room full of Brothers, but also some dignitaries and guests so this probably shouldn't get too colorful. Then it hit me, this is the Grand Lodge session. It is predominantly comprised of principle officers from the lodges around the state. Some new, some recycled sure, but principal officers, OK. So, this is really geared towards you. This morning I'd like to tell you a story or two. Stories that, looking back, have provided me with some great insight, fond memories and several lessons. Lessons that I hope prove valuable to you. As with any story, they tend to run a little long and meander a bit. Grand Master, how long do I have? OK, good. I've asked the staff here at the hotel to prepare 83 pots of coffee and circumambulate the room looking for anyone that might be dosing off for the next 90 minutes. So, Brethren, if you're not riveted, please enjoy some coffee and pretend to follow along. Thank You.

I have a question, Why are you here?

I know that most of you showed up this morning because you heard that I was giving a speech, and I hope I don't disappoint, because weighing the decision of another hour and half of sleep vs listening to Quigley ramble deserved some serious contemplation. But, back to my question, Why are you here?

To understand my train of thought this morning, it seems pertinent to have some understanding of my Masonic experience and background. It started with the day that I met my birth Father for the first time, sitting across the table from each other at dinner that first night, he pushed a 2B1 ask 1 pamphlet across the table to me and said "you need to look into this". I asked "what is it"? He simply said, I can't tell you, you need to find out for yourself. A very common occurrence to which many can relate.

Fast forward to my investigation, which is still a great story to this day in my household. I sat dressed in a suit, my wife and children present, crazy nervous, being asked strange

questions by men I had never met. Those three men were... the father of a gal I had dated in high school (unbeknownst to him), MWB Karl Hinkle and the late Illustrious & WB Jim Stivers. That night, Jim wore a jacket with a logo on the front that said "Al Kaly". When the investigation was over and these men left, my wife asked "Who was that AL Kallie guy, I really liked him!" Little did she know that "Al Kallie" was not his name, but the name of the southern Colorado Shrine Club. (Great raffle calendar Al Kaly has by the way, my wife won \$600 last year!) To this day, Jim is known in our house as "Al Kallie". Little did I know that two of these Brothers would become two very influential men in my Masonic life. Although delivered very well, my initiation and fellowcraft degree were unremarkable to me. I knew nothing of Masonry and was given explicit instructions not to do any research beforehand as it would taint my experience. It wasn't until I was given the charge on the 3rd Degree that something changed in me. I stood, seemingly in a trance, while a certain Brother delivered a life changing set of instructions and expectations as only, he can. I would later come to have a very sincere appreciation of ritual work that was so well delivered and, well received. It was then, along with the ongoing work with my proficiency coaches that I became very particular about my own ritual work.

With that, I was a Master Mason and immediately thrust into the Junior Stewards' chair. My primary responsibility was to prepare and serve refreshments after our lodge meetings and it wasn't until years later that I came to appreciate the importance of that role. Not only did it give me the opportunity to personally interact with my new Brethren and get to know them a bit better, but it allowed me to serve them. It helped to reinforce in me, the joy of service to others, a divine principle that is deeply rooted in my core today.

Quick Story: In the fall of the year I became a Master Mason, I was out on a hunting trip with a friend in Valentine Nebraska, at the national wildlife refuge. A huge refuge of over 100 square miles. This refuge was touted to be a bird hunter's paradise, a place that was home to many different species of game birds... ducks, pheasants, quail, prairie chickens and grouse. It was a planned 3 day trip. After the first day and half we had no luck and very sore legs, the dog had even given up and was back in the camper sleeping. We hadn't even SEEN a bird, or even another hunter.

Just after lunch on the second day we were headed down a muddy two track road to some ponds, and coming the other way was a Cadillac. My friend and I started laughing and said to ourselves, what the heck is a Cadillac doing out here? The guy stopped and we started to engage him in typical friendly hunter's conversation. "Have any luck? See anything? Where have you been hunting?" This guy was either not in the mood to talk or just plain unfriendly. After a few more minutes of one sided, "friendly" conversation I noticed that he had a Masonic emblem on his bumper, the square and compasses. Being a brand-new Mason, I knew of only one thing to say "I see you're a traveling man?"

To which he very coyly said, "I've traveled some". I didn't know what to say after that, what's the next line? I hadn't been taught how to respond. I was stuck and felt a bit foolish.

I looked again at the Cadillac and said, OH, so you're from Montana? , He said, "yep". I wasn't giving up so I said, where about? He said, "Bitterroot Valley". Now I had something! I said, "oh yeah, my Dad's up there, what part?" He said, "Little town called Stevensville", I said "no kidding, that's where my Dad lives." He gave me a look and asked, "Who's your Dad?" I said "Charly Olmsted, he's the secretary of Stevensville 28."

Well, that was all it took. After that, we couldn't shut Brother Lou up and he gave up all the honey holes on the refuge! Our luck changed dramatically after that and we had fantastic hunting for the rest of the trip. On our way home I finally came back into cell phone range and was anxious to call my Dad and share with him the very cool experience with Brother Lou. My Dad, mostly unimpressed, simply said, "tell him that he needs to pay his dues".

That day I learned two early Masonic lessons: First, membership has its privileges and second, don't mess with the Secretary, pay your dues!

Fast forward 3 years and I found myself elected to the Masters chair. A position for which I was convinced I was ready for, but ultimately, looking back, an office I was unprepared to hold. That year, our lodge performed dozens of degrees, sponsored a couple of cornerstones, a few child ID events, picnics and other things. A very busy year with over 40 meetings, both stated and special communications, but was it a successful year?

By some measures, yes. For all the aforementioned activity. By others measures, certainly not. I had not further developed the lodge leadership, I had not provided much in the way of education and we had not attained the honor lodge award. While we had, as a lodge, checked all the boxes and earned more than enough points to far exceed the requirements, there was one exception, the mandatory requirement for positive growth.

Our lodge at the time, was, I think, the third largest lodge in the state. Although we were performing degrees twice a month for multiple Brothers, the rate with which we were losing Brothers to death and dimit exceeded our gains. I learned that in previous years, others in my position had sidestepped that requirement to achieve the award, I was not going to do that. I can tell you that it was not a popular decision. It was the first time since the inception of the award that our lodge did not receive it. A source of great pride to many in our lodge at the time, but I was not going to lay claims to an award that our lodge did not earn.

Additionally, in the first meeting of my year as Master, I was forced to remove a very unruly Brother. That Worshipful Brother happened to be my proficiency coach. Lesson: Some de-

isions are not popular but need to be made for the right reasons. In this same year I experienced my first Masonic trial.

Although the charged Brother was found guilty and ultimately removed from our rolls, I was not at peace. I was angry that we let such a person into our lodge in the first place. How did this happen? How am I supposed to uphold my obligations with guys like these? I was vocal and not very tactful.

More lessons: Temperance, Prudence and others. Hey but I got the Fortitude and Justice right, right? No, 50%, is still an "F". Again in retrospect more lessons. Had I truly paid attention during the trial, I would have realized that the actions and behavior of the Brother who conducted that trial, was the behavior that I should have emulated.

With all these things that were accomplished that year, did I serve my Brethren well? Regrettably at that time, I didn't ask myself that question. I knew the ritual work inside and out, backwards and forwards but what I lacked was really any kind of knowledge or understanding of Masonry itself. I knew the words, but couldn't explain what they meant. Either to myself or others. Additionally, looking back, I realize that with some things, my ego got in the way. Had I listened, and more importantly, taken to heart the words of our Grand Master that year, things might have been a little different. Those words were, "My goal is not to try and be better than others, rather to, every day, try and be better than myself". These words ring with me almost daily... and they are certainly words that I live by.

One of my major shortfalls early on was my lack of Masonic education and I quickly set out to change that. I bought and read many Masonic books. Although at the time, I understood very little of it, I knew that I wanted to learn more. I started to talk more about my lack of education and understanding, and quickly found that I was not alone. I met new brothers from other lodges that wanted the same thing and soon after, Enlightenment Lodge #198 was chartered. I reflect on three important lessons from my time with Enlightenment.

First that a lodge that is not guarded with scrupulous care can fall into disrepair.

Second, that the most qualified and desirous Brothers should be elected to lead any lodge. This lesson was exemplified by the Senior Warden at the time whom, when the time came, willfully removed himself from eligibility to make room for other capable Brothers desirous of continuing in the lodge leadership. A profound statement of selflessness.

And lastly, I genuinely internalized the idea that Masonry is a lifelong study. We will never perfectly hue and polish our own ashlar, but through a lifelong journey of learning and practicing it's principles we may arrive at a place where we are convinced that our work

was not in vain.

This profound truth was shared with me as I held the hand of a Brother in the last moments of his life. The last words he spoke to me were "You know Pat, I think I finally became the man I always wanted to be." Along with Bro Walt, I have been so blessed to have so many fine examples and mentors in my Masonic life. My Father and three generations before him were Masons, on my Mother's side, two grandfathers and a great grandfather, also my late Father in law. My Grandfather in law, now 100 years old is a shining example of commitment, service and a life well lived, he is also my Brother. One could say that Masonry is in my blood. At my Father in Law's memorial service, there were no less than 2 dozen Brothers, close to me, holding me up while I choked and stumbled through the Masonic memorial service for him. These Brothers never knew my Father in law, it was a profound showing of Brotherly Love that I'll never forget.

I didn't internalize many of these early lessons until sometime later, and if it weren't for the many mentors that I've been blessed to have, I may not have fully recognized them. As a young mason, my mentors were men like the Worshipful Brother who painstakingly taught proficiency work for our lodge for many years, and who, did not except one word, syllable, letter or character out of place. He expected perfection. Maybe because he understood the impact that beautifully given ritual can sometimes change a man's life, like it did mine when I received my 3rd degree charge.

My early mentors also helped my ability to develop deeper relationships with other Brothers, to get to know them better, to trust them and they me. Other mentors taught me that one of the beauties of Masonry is its ability to speak to each of us. That to each of us, Masonry can often times be a little different, hold different meanings and provide different perspectives. There are few absolutes, many opinions and vast interpretations, all of which, when thoughtful, provide valuable insight for each of us.

Other mentors guided my study of Masonry and these very learned Brothers exposed me to some subjects and principles that have greatly enriched my understanding in Masonry. I believe that the value of mentorship goes well beyond teaching. It develops trust and understanding, it develops cohesiveness and a sense of belonging to the young Mason. While it can certainly provide a path to learning, I believe that it most importantly lays the foundation for that Brotherly Love and Affection that we all tout and cherish.

So What? Why is all this important? Why am I trying to keep you awake? Is what we practice and preach that important?

Absolutely. Now more than ever. With the steady downward decline of moral values in our

society, it incumbent upon all of us to continue to be a light of goodness in the world. It is our collective responsibility; we are all obligated. For these reasons, our actions need to show the world at large the beauty of Masonry.

To accomplish this, Masonry needs strong leadership. I mentioned previously that I believe one of my failings as Master many years ago was not developing the leadership in my own lodge. A few years later, that failure was realized in a big way.

Strong leadership is the key to progress. Sustainment, in this day and age, cannot coexist with all the issues we face as a country and a society. We must continue to move forward and strong leadership plays a vital role in that. Our GM has been this kind of leader for us this year. I won't go through all of the positive impacts that MWB Ray has made this year as they are many. However, I will share with you the impressions they have left on me as a Grand Lodge officer this year.

First and foremost, he removed the ego from the office of the Grand Master. He did not create his own lapel pin but decided on the Colorado grand lodge pin. He did not demand that the grand lodge officers wear their collars and aprons on every occasion, in fact there were very few times we did, like at the Cornerstone ceremonies. He placed importance on service to the craft, not to the office he held.

Secondly, he was fiscally responsible with OUR money, making decisions that greatly reduced expenses.

Lastly, and most importantly to me, he made himself available to any and all that wanted an audience with him. Not only did he institute Regional Official Visits but also conducted monthly zoom meetings where any Brother had the opportunity to speak up and be heard. This type of strong, bold leadership is what Colorado Masonry needs now more than ever, and Brethren, you should demand it!

We should expect the same things out of our Grand Lodge that the Grand Lodge expects out of our lodges! The Grand Lodge must work for you, not the other way around. We are not sheep Brethren, and we do not need a sheepdog. We need leaders that will progress our art for the decades to come. And that Brethren, goes for all of us.

I would be remiss if didn't personally and publicly thank you Grand Master for this opportunity to serve my Brethren as Grand Orator this year. Like every year, this has been a year of learning and I appreciate the lessons you have extended to me. A most heartfelt thank you!

Additionally, I would like to thank the Grand Lodge officers for their welcoming and friend-

ship. Your tireless commitment to the craft is duly noted and I appreciate your hard work and dedication.

To the Masters and Wardens, I offer the following from my own experiences:

- Be mentors, not dictators.
- Understand what your lodge wants and needs, work tirelessly to provide it.
- Develop your leadership, this will keep your lodge healthy and growing.
- Remove your ego, have a heart of service and Love your Brethren.
- Guard the West gate with scrupulous care, and know why you are doing so.
- Attend every Masonic memorial service that you can and ensure that your lodge is proficient in that service.
- Read, reread and take to heart your respective charges at installation. To you lies the future of Colorado Masonry!

I started by asking all of you, why are you here? And I think it's fair for you to ask me the same question, why am I here?

Well, I was required to be here.

I am here, Brethren, because Masonry has truly changed my life, because I love this fraternity, because I want to remind you of the importance of your work and obligations to each other, your lodge and the world at large, and lastly to remind you that this grand lodge is your grand lodge.... and that the officers, elected and appointed work for you! Not the other way around. Engage with them, and let them know how you want to move Colorado Freemasonry forward!

Finally Brethren, I have to tell you that I don't know where I'd be today without having my Brother's in my life. So many that are my dearest and closest friends. I believe that the intended design of Masonry has worked for me. In the last nearly 20 years, it HAS made me a better man, because of so many of you. For these things, I will forever be, so very grateful.

Thank You Brethren, Good Night!

Sunshine Chapter No. 53 (OES)



Hello All!

Sunshine #53 had a boring January since we were not able to meet. HOWEVER, we do have interesting plans for February and March. Some of which the Masonic guys can participate in (or their wives).

First of the Souperbowl of Kindness which we all gave to last year. If every Lodge would donate at least \$50, we can give quite a bit to the Food Bank of the Rockies. Thank you to Mesa #55 for getting this started. Checks can be made to Sunshine #53 and sent to Beth Nelms 3257 1/12 Friendship Dr., Clifton, CO 81520 or given to Harry Clark who seems to be at every meeting everywhere.

At our first Meeting in February, we are launching the “Jewels for Hope” project which will actually cost YOU nothing! If you go to www.childrensdiabetesfoundation.org/jewelsforhope there are forms and information on this project. The jewelry goes to an ETSY site which does photos and sells it very reasonably. This to honor my 14-year old grandson who was diagnosed 2 years ago with type 1 juvenile diabetes. He is going so well, and we would like to keep it that way! If you have questions, please either email nancy.eriksen@yahoo.com or call (970-270-8421) me and I will do my best to assist.

I am proud to be part of the Grand Junction Masonic Family. They say it takes a village to raise a child and it takes all of us working as a group to keep these organizations together. Have a wonderful February, pray for more moisture and take of yourselves!

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

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

A special greeting

Hello brothers I hope you're staying warm. It's been a dark and dismal January hopefully things shine up for February.

The temple boot board approved our plans for our Sea-can, so hopefully, between Darrell and Jim, we can get a can, and get it placed where they want it.

Worshipful brother, Mike Briscoe officially apologized for interrupting our meeting in January and ask to be reminded next year that they can move their meeting, so it doesn't interfere with ours.

I have not been able to get a hold of Worshipful Brother Jim to see how he's doing but from everything I hear he's starting to heal and he's really bummed that he can't get up and do his normal stuff. Please remember Jim if you need any help, you can always reach out to your brothers, that goes for all of you.

I will report at the next meeting on how Grand Lodge went and all the fun things that we did over there.

Brotherly, love.

Harry Clark
Worshipful Master

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

Grand Master's Address - 162 Annual Communication

M.W. Grand Lodge of Colorado A.F. & A.M.

Raymond H. Dunn, Jr.
Grand Master, Masons of Colorado 2022

Most Worshipful Brothers, Right Worshipful Brothers, Worshipful Brothers, distinguished guests and brethren all.

Let me begin by saying I am honored, humbled, and thankful to serve as your Grand Master. I come before you today with a challenge as great as any in our history, that we may prepare our fraternity for the bold new world of the 21 st Century. My fellow Masons, the state of our fraternity is growing stronger every day, but we must rise to the occasion, we must take decisive action to reunite our fraternity, to reunite our communities, and to reunite our country.

We must take action to end the division that is tearing Freemasonry apart — not because we're the richest fraternity in the world, because we are, and not because we're the most powerful fraternity in the world, because we are that too, but because we are meant to be diverse and we are meant to be united -- one nation, under God, where all men are created equal. Our nation is founded upon the ideals of Freemasonry and as Freemasons we must act! We must be shapers of events, not observers, for if we do not act, the moment will pass, and we will lose the best possibilities of our future. That is both our honor and our greatest challenge.

Our fraternity is not under any direct threat, but make no mistake, we have an enemy — and that enemy is complacency. So today I am issuing a call to action: action by the Grand Lodge officers, action by our Worshipful Masters, and action by all brothers in the state of Colorado — we prepare our fraternity for the future, we must keep burning the light of truth in our communities, and we must work for the benefit of brethren - to strengthen our education, to harness the forces of technology, and to build stronger families and stronger communities! Freemasonry is the world's strongest force for peace, freedom, and prosperity; so, let us begin by keeping the promise of our founding fathers; to build a more perfect union, a labor that begins within our local Lodges.

The spirit we bring to our work will make all the difference. We must be committed to the pursuit of opportunity for all brothers, and we must expect and demand accountability from our leaders. And we need a fundamental shift on how we view our leadership. Masonic leaders are not monarchs, and they are not dictators, Masonic leaders are servants, and the highest form of leadership, is servant leadership — its leadership that works alongside

a brother in the quarry, not above him, so with that in mind, I instituted two programs designed to foster open and positive dialogue with every brother in the Craft. The first was our monthly town hall meetings, and the second were Regional Visits. Our monthly town-hall meetings averaged more than 70 Masons per session. From Fort Collins to Trinidad and from Fruita to Burlington, Masons from every corner of our great state participated in discussions on the future direction of Colorado Freemasonry, a direction that inspires a new and younger generation...a generation of men who look beyond the superfluities of social media, a generation of men who seek a deeper connection with their fellow man, and a generation of men who want to be a part of something greater than themselves — and to that end, we made significant progress, but the credit for our progress goes not to me, but to you — because it is through you - your ideas, your labors, and your unwavering commitment to our highest ideals...that for the first time in three decades, we have slowed ...the rate.. .of our...decline!

Brothers, I have no doubt, I have absolutely no doubt, that if we continue open and honest dialogue, if we continue working together...Freemasonry will return to what it is meant to be, what it has the right to be, the most powerful and influential force the world has ever known - a force of will, a force of intellect, a force of reason, and a force of virtue and morality in every.. .civilized...land!

Yes, my brothers, our Town Hall meetings have been a resounding success, they've been a resounding success.. .and so have our Regional Visits.

In years past, Grand Lodge visits were little more than pomp and circumstance. A Lodge would welcome the Grand Master and his officers who, after a pleasant dinner, would make a few uninspiring and easily forgettable remarks - and at the end of the visit...the Lodge would be no better off. Nothing ever changed because the Grand Master spent so much time going from place to place, he didn't have any time to do the real business of the Grand Master and that business is assisting the brothers and the Lodges whom he serves. That needed to change, that had to change, so on May 14th , I held our firstever Regional Official Visit. Hosted by Pueblo #17, South Pueblo #31, and Silver State #95, that first visit was such a resounding success that we've held six more - two in Colorado Springs, two in Denver and one on the Western Slope.

The purpose of a Regional Visit is to provide value to our brothers and our Lodges; to objectively and dispassionately examine our existing processes and develop means to improve our labors and raise the level of debate in our fraternity and boy did we debate! But more than that, we also offered education; education on topics ranging from Masonic history and symbolism, to leadership development, officer training, and best-practices for attracting and retaining membership.

But as my father used to say, talk is cheap, and actions speak louder than words, so it is with that spirit that we developed a strategic plan; a plan that's based on your vision, your ideas, and your desires. A plan that obligates resources and puts to task the Office of the Grand Master to ensure the growth and success of our fraternity for generations to come. As your Grand Master, you placed me at the helm and you told me to steer, so, based on our discussions, here's the direction I believe we should take.

First, we must seek to build a solid educational system; a system which grows in excellence as it grows in size. I've spoken to countless Masons across the state and the majority agree that we need better education, but they don't know where to start. My plan includes tools and resources you can use right now, today, that will add value to your meetings. It's not intended to be a total solution, but it's a damn-good starting point to build your Lodge's education program.

With more than 200 presentations and papers, the Grand Lodge educational website will continue to grow as our fraternity continues to grow...and brothers, we will grow — and we'll grow because we'll have the kind of education that keeps our members active, interested, and engaged. We'll have the kind of education that makes Masons want to come back to Lodge month after month, after month!

But our education must stretch beyond the limits of our previous endeavors. Our education must stretch beyond the philosophical discourse of Masonic history and symbolism. Our education programs must live up to the promise of making us better men and better Masons. Our education must address our ritual and our floor work. Our educational must provide substantive benefit our secretaries, our treasurers, our junior officers, and of course, our elected leaders.

As our brother and once President of the United States Harry S. Truman once said, "the buck stops here." So as your Grand Master part of the Strategic Plan is to develop a standardized training plan for our District Lecturers, because we owe a great debt of gratitude, a tremendous debt of gratitude to these men. Men who commit time, energy, and nights away from their families to help the Lodges they serve. And let me tell you it's not for the paycheck, but for the love they have for the Craft.

As your chief servant, the least I can do is ensure our District Lecturers have the proper tools, training, and resources to do their job. And in so doing, we can provide you, my brothers, the training and education you deserve. Will the Grand Lecturer and all the District Lecturers in the room please rise? Thank you, thank you for all you do for the Craft! With quality focused education and training, our Lodges will grow larger, and they will grow stronger! But to do that, we must endeavor to improve how we bring candidates into the

fraternity, and that is our second priority.

Section 149 of the Colorado Constitution states "a petitioner applying for the degrees of Masonry must be known by a brother of the Lodge for which he is petitioning for at least six months." not be acquainted with him, not be familiar with him, but know him. More importantly, we should also let the brothers in our Lodges get to know a candidate before we hand him a petition for the degrees.

Getting to know someone extends far beyond the questions we ask during the investigation committee; those are questions that every member of the Lodge should be able to answer on the candidate's behalf if they truly know him.

So, what can we do to improve our candidate process? This was a topic of discussion at several of our town hall meetings, and brothers, when you spoke, we listened.

Taking a best practices approach, our strategic plan contains ideas and methods, your ideas and methods, to better serve our candidates during the vetting process. It outlines ways Lodges can approach good men from our communities, without tarnishing the dignity of our august fraternity. This can be achieved by implementing an ambassador program, a program already in use by numerous Lodges across the state.

Simply put, the ambassador program leaders within our Lodges represent us to the community at large. A Mason who can adeptly communicate our vision, our mission, our core values, and our goals. Because if our aim is to attract and retain those men from our communities, then we must begin by implementing a culture of mentorship. And I can think of no better mentors than the Masons assembled in this room today.

Each of you are a leader in your own right, which brings me to our third priority, developing leaders.

Critical to our continued success is developing and mentoring our brothers to become better leaders, not just for our Lodges but for our organization as a whole. Developing a brother into a strategic thinking leader requires that we encourage creativity, support quality-focused innovation, and give our brother room to make mistakes. We are not a zero-defect organization. Remember, our goal is to not make good men perfect, but to make good men better. And we do that through a process of learning.

To strengthen organizational leadership, we can, and we must adapt; adapt to the society in which we live, adapt to new and emerging technologies, and adapt to a different world view than our own — If we can do that, we will attract men of principle, we will attract men

of character, and we will attract men of vision; we will attract a new and hopeful generation of Masons who will become our future leaders.

For this reason, the strategic plan tasks the Grand Lodge Education Committee to author a comprehensive, leadership development curriculum; a course designed to benefit the most junior Mason to the most senior Past Master and beyond. Leveraging some of the best talent from around the state, these courses will be taught by some of Freemasonry's most prominent leaders, providing the tools and resources for success - for both local Lodges and Grand Lodge officers alike.

Courses are designed to be progressive in nature, will award a certificate of completion, perhaps a lapel pin, and be offered both virtually and in-person - Because when we have strong leaders, we have strong Lodges! There's nothing in the BOC, absolutely nothing in our Constitutions that says you must limit leadership to a single term - this was also a question I received numerous times this year. Brethren you can re-elect your leaders if you think they're doing a good job and if you think that's unheard of, if you think that's unprecedented, then speak with the brethren of Blackhawk 11 , Marquis de Lafayette 41, East Denver 160, LN Greenleaf 169, Ute Pass 188, Fountain Valley 191, Enlightenment Lodge 198, or whole host of other Lodges across the state, whose Worshipful Masters have either served multiple terms because they were good, they were effective, and they took their Lodges in a positive direction.

Brethren, if you have a good leader, a strong leader, an effective leader, ask him if he would be willing to continue serving. That doesn't violate the Book of Constitutions just may be a good decision for your Lodge.

But all leaders, even good leaders, must be accountable. And on that subject, I recognize the Grand Lodge is administrative support to Lodges. For this reason, the Strategic Plan seeks to develop and establish a Lodge training program, a program specifically targeted for our Secretaries and Treasurers, a program that mandates the use of current technology, and a program that goes far above and beyond the standard handbooks we currently use. I realize that implementing this strategic vision, your vision, will not be easy, but I don't think it's supposed to be. I think it's supposed to be work, because like our degrees, only those things worth attaining requires effort. This is the heart of our task. And I am confident that working together, there is no task we cannot accomplish, no challenge we cannot overcome and no foe we cannot defeat. I know this because of all we achieved this past year.

In 2022, we conducted three cornerstones, dedicated one monument, and conducted a Masonic funeral service to honor Most Worshipful Brother John Harper; a good and faithful servant who provided many years of dedicated service to our Craft, and has now passed

into the Celestial Lodge. 56 dispensations were granted, 57 visitations, and 18 bylaws changes approved.

Working together, we passed a budget; a budget that reflects your will and your desire to leverage new technologies — technologies that will modernize our Craft and bring Freemasonry into the 21 st Century.

And make no mistake, while we modernize our processes, we must continue to hold inviolable our sublime teachings, that of relief, truth, and brotherly love.

My brothers we are soldiers of the Light, and as such and we must continue the good fight, the fight against tyranny and oppression, the fight against religious persecution and fanaticism, and the fight against bigotry and racism. And fight we did.

Standing within the hallowed chambers of our state capitol, we stood shoulder to shoulder with our Prince Hall brothers to reaffirm our compact; to declare with one voice, that brotherhood...true brotherhood...does not judge a man by the color of his skin, but by the character of his actions.

And it was in that same spirit of brotherhood that we conducted a joint cornerstone with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Colorado — That was a first for Colorado Masonry, but our rich texture of racial, religious, and political diversity is what sets us apart from the profane world, it's a beacon of light in a divided nation. Great is the joy for those who can live together, learn together, work together, and forge new ties that bind together. For the first time in our history, Grand Lodge officers performed all three degrees from our respective stations and places. We initiated an Entered Apprentice with Tejon Lodge #104 in Colorado Springs, we Passed a brother to the Degree of a Fellow Craft at Lupton Lodge #119, and we raised a Brother to the sublime Degree of a Master Mason at Garfield Lodge #50 in Longmont.

We did this, because I as your Grand Master, and any future Grand Master should ask Lodges to do something...if we are not willing to do it ourselves, and that includes proficiency.

Today I am signing a decision requiring all Grand Lodge officers to demonstrate the same ritual proficiency the brothers in our Lodges are expected to uphold...and that requirement includes all Grand Lodge Officers, not just the elected.

Yes, we've had a lot of firsts this year - like the multi-jurisdictional communication between Colorado and Virginia. With the assistance, planning, and a lot of hard work from the broth-

ers of Boulder #14, the Grand Lodge of Colorado participated in a multi-jurisdictional communication at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Washington, DC.

We broadcast our first-ever video address from the Grand Master. We did this to be completely transparent on what we were doing, how we were doing it, and to solicit your feedback if we were headed in the right direction.

The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive, both from you, and from Masonic jurisdictions around the world - jurisdictions who wanted to emulate our example; demonstrating once again how Colorado Masons are leading the way!

In 2022, Colorado Masons packed a small church in Canon City to raise scholarship money for local students, money that provided a chance for those deserving but less fortunate kids to attend college. In fact, this year alone, Colorado Masons contributed a total of approximately \$14,000.00 in scholarship funds to deserving kids around the state. But your generosity is not limited to monetary contributions.

Extending the hand of fraternity and brotherly love, Harmony Lodge 61 opened a Lodge of Masons at the Eastern Star Retirement home in Denver. Inviting brothers from all over the state, Masons from El Paso 13, Douglas 153, Enlightenment Lodge 198, and many others, shared an evening of fellowship with our elderly brothers, brothers who could no longer attend Lodge, some of whom several years.

Having attended this event I can tell you that was one of the most heartwarming experiences of my life, so I am calling upon all Lodges who have members at the Home to continue this tradition. To enjoin our labors and our fellowship with some of our fraternity's finest. If you do this, I promise, you won't be disappointed, and maybe, just maybe, you'll come away with a new understanding of what brotherhood is really all about, as I did.

Brothers I am proud, I am so very proud of all we've accomplished together. With our shared vision, a new sense of responsibility, a new spirit of community, we will sustain our Fraternity. The future is up to us. There is work to do and the challenge of our past remains the challenge of our future. Each and every one of us, in our own way, must assume personal responsibility, not only for ourselves and our families, but for our Lodges, our neighbors and our communities. Our greatest responsibility is to embrace a new spirit of Freemasonry for a new century. For any one of us to succeed, we must all be united to this purpose.

This is the heart of our task, and to that effort, I pledge all my strength and every power of my office, and I ask my brothers here to join in that pledge. The demands on our time are

great and they are different. We must be strong because there is much to dare — so let us meet the challenges of today with faith and courage, with gratefulness and a happy heart. Let us shape the hope of today into the noblest chapter in our history. May God strengthen our hands for the Great Work ahead and may God bless you, and may God bless Freemasonry!

Photos from the 162 Annual Communication | M.W. Grand Lodge of Colorado A.F & A.M.



Colorado Jobs Daughters



Kelcey Martin
Grand Advisor | CO I.O.R.G.



Colorado DeMolay Boys





Western Colorado Shrine Club



Hello friends and fellow Nobles,

I wanted to thank all the Nobles that attended the All-Members Meeting on January 10th to review the proposed bylaw changes. The members present approved the bylaws and the changes have been sent to the Potentate for approval.

The Installation of Western Colorado Shrine Club Officers for 2023 will be on Saturday, February 11th at 1 PM at the Grand Vista Hotel in Grand Junction. All Nobles, families, friends, and prospective members are welcome to attend.

The monthly Board Meeting will be held at the Grand Vista Hotel on Tuesday, February 14th at 11:45 AM. All members are welcome.

The Initiation of new members has been postponed to Saturday, February 18th as the degree director is out of town on the 11th. The Initiation will be at the Grand Junction Masonic Center at 3 PM. There will be a small reception afterward.

To prevent a conflict between the initiation and our monthly happy hour, the happy hour has been rescheduled to 4 pm Saturday, February 25th, at Scotland Yard Cigar Lounge. The happy hour is also an open event, bring your friends and prospective members!

Do you have ideas for what you want the WCSC to do this year? Parades you want us to participate in? Have any ideas? Please let a Board Member know!

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



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

Grand Junction Lodge No. 173



Brethren,

We have a busy February coming up. We have the pleasure of Initiating 3 candidates on February 24th at 7:00 PM. All that can attend please do so. We have practices on February 3rd and 17th at 7:00 PM. All who are on the degree team please attend if you can.

I apologize for not being in attendance at our 1st stated communication of the new term. I had an illness in our family that kept me away. That is over now and things are looking positive. Thank you for your understanding.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you who can attend on our next stated communication on February 10, 2023.

**Craig Miller
Worshipful Master**

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



GJ Lodge No. 173 Officers	
Worshipful Master	Craig Miller (PM) (970) 241-0997
Senior Warden	Darrell Manroe (816) 500-1550
Junior Warden	Nathaniel Pavlisick (970) 242-1584
Secretary	Mike Briscoe (PM) (970) 433-6766
Treasurer	Linn Armstrong (970) 234-0444
Senior Deacon	Austin Pitts (864) 784-4825
Junior Deacon	Jeff Koenig (PM) (970) 201-3371
Senior Steward	
Junior Steward	
Tiler	Gary Brewer (970) 241-5842
Director of the Work	
Chaplain	
Marshal	Steven Ganskow (970) 640-7433

Oration | Colorado Rainbow Assembly

Kelcey Martin

Grand Worth Advisor | Colorado Rainbow Assembly

I am so excited to be here to represent and bring greetings from the Grand Assembly of Colorado, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. My name is Kelcey Martin and I am the Grand Worthy Advisor in Colorado.

This year I have really been focusing on comfort zones and stepping out of them. I know how important it is to try new things regardless of how scary they may seem. It's come to my awareness that a lot of the girls in Rainbow have not had the same opportunities that I had because they live in a city whereas I was raised on a farm. For this reason, I've centered my term on a lot of unique experiences. While the theme for my grand year is "Be the Pilot of Your Own Destiny", it is also a mix of western influences and we have also been doing a lot of western events. We kicked off my year with a leadership retreat where the girls had the opportunity to ride a horse and experience Glamping. Yes, I started slow, they had running water. On top of this, we did a Christmas train, and just recently went to the Stock Show. I'm not sure how many of you have had the opportunity to attend the Stock Show, but it is a huge two-week event in Denver, focusing on

rodeo, agriculture, and all things in between. I have been spoiled this year by getting to share some of my favorite things with the girls. The Stock Show is easily one of my top three. My favorite things are rodeo, livestock, big Honkin, turkey legs, and lucky for me, Stock show has it all. The end of this year will be wrapped up with a couple more Aviation centered events to get the girls thinking in a more stem environment. I'm in school right now to be a pilot and sometimes I take those experiences for granted, but I am so excited I have the opportunity to share some of them with the members. I can't wait to continue to broaden their horizons throughout my last 6 months.

My service project is AeroAngel. This very worthy organization flies ill children at no cost to life-saving medical treatments. The pilots donate their time, fuel, and aircraft at absolutely no cost. These volunteers are amazing individuals helping these people with their hard-earned dollars. I'm so thankful I'm in a position to help incredible organizations like this one. There are cow print jars all over the place — you really cannot miss them! However, if your Lodge has a Rainbow Assembly, look for the donation jar for AeroAngel in your building and consider donating your spare change. If you do not have a Rainbow Assembly, please consider making a donation to the Grand Assembly!

I'm also very thankful for the organizations in the Masonic family. I have always felt wel-

come in my travels to events like this. It is always like one big family; always willing to offer love and support to each organization. Like the other youth organizations, Rainbow appreciates your support and I know without a doubt Rainbow Girls will continue to receive your support.

Thank you so much for inviting me here this morning; I hope to see some of you throughout my travels in Colorado. We have some amazing things planned!

Thank you, and remember to pull up your big girl or big boy boots and keep trying. One more shot is all it might take.

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. **Open to all Master Masons.**

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



Grand Junction York Rite Bodies

All York Rite Brethren are invited to attend the upcoming Mark Master Degree and Valentine's Day Celebration on Monday February 13, 2023. We will be meeting for Dinner at 6:00 PM at the Golden Corral in front of Sam's Club. Ladies are encouraged to attend for Dinner and a Program. The Mark Master degree will start at 7:30 PM at the Masonic Center in Grand Junction.

The Mark Master Degree continues in the vein of the Blue Lodge Degrees and is set in the time of the work to finish the Temple after the death of the Grand Master HB. In ancient times, Stonemasons placed an identifying symbol upon their work. This symbol was known as their "Mark". Operative Masons in England and on the continent of Europe have left their "Marks" on stonework dating to the dark ages. The Mason's Mark served several purposes: to identify the work of each craftsman, and to serve as a signature. While the mark had no symbolic meaning in the operative craft, the workman was classed by the quality of his work. Therefore, most of the stonemasons strove to do their best work prior to identifying the piece by placing their mark upon it. The ritual of the Mark Master degree is very impressive and illustrates the inherent value found in honest employment and charitable activity.

Jeff Bush
Eminent Commander | Templar Commandry No. 23

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

Month	Day	Event
February	13	Grand Junction Chapter #24 Stated Meeting
March	13	Temple Commandry #23 Stated Meeting & Valentines Day Dinner
April	19	Grand Junction Council #16 Official Visit
May	3	Temple & Delta Commandry'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 or contact Jeff Bush at (970) 623-3651.

Grand Junction Scottish Rite Consistory

Calendar 2023



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

2023 Calendar of Dinners & Meetings

February 20th | Chapter - Sweetheart Dinner 6:30 PM

March 20th | Council- Sandwich platter served 6:30 pm; Stated Meeting 7:30 pm.

April 17th | Lodge - Salad Bar 6:30 pm; Stated Meeting 7:30 pm

May 15th | CONSISTORY - Hawaiian Shirt Night. All you can eat pizza 6:30 pm. Stated meeting 7:30 pm.

Events

Scottish Rite Reunion - May 5th-6th at the Grand Junction Masonic Center

Summer Picnic - June 19th 5:30 PM at the Grand Junction Masonic Center Patio

Grand Junction Scottish Rite

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

Need to contact the Consistory?

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Chris Eglet, 32°	Junior Warden
Ian Huges, 32°	Master of Ceremonies
Darrell Manroe, 32°	Expert
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Glenwood Chapter of Rose Croix	
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The Grand Junction Consistory

Cordially invites you to attend the

Annual Sweetheart Banquet

The Banquet and Program
 Will take place on

February 20, 2023, 6:30 PM
 At the Grand Junction Masonic Center
 2400 Consistory Court

Menu: Salad, Stuffed Peppers, Vegetables, Rolls, Desert and Drinks

*Widows of our fallen Brothers
 Will be honored guests of the Consistory
 Reservations are absolutely necessary*

*For all who plan to attend
 Call, write or email your reservation by Feb. 17th to:*

Mike Briscoe: (970) 433-6766
 e-mail – xpandid13@gmail.com

Let us know if you need a ride

Masonic Education

Corn, Wine, & Oil

The Elements of Consecration

W. BRO. LEE ANDERSON

Think back to when you were being passed to the degree of a Fellowcraft and the Worshipful Master told you that you were entitled to an explanation of your wages, consisting of corn, wine, and oil. Have you ever wondered where that came from, what it may have meant, what it means today?

First, at the building of King Solomon's Temple, it truly was the wages paid to the workmen of the Temple. They were also used to pay Hiram, King of Tyre, for the timbers and skilled workers he sent to build the temple. They literally represented the necessities of life. Second, they were used in the Temple as offerings to the Deity.

The grain and wine were used as an offering presented at the altar. The first pressing of olive oil, the very finest and most pure, was used as fuel for the lamps and the Menorah, as well as being the key ingredient of the Oil of Anointment for the priests.

These three elements have been key in the history of man and the development of modern society. Beginning around 11,500 B.C.E., in an area known as the Fertile Crescent, this area saw man move from being a hunter gatherer to a more stable society of becoming an agriculturist. The area stretched from the Nile River Valley along the edge of the Mediterranean Sea as far north as modern-day Lebanon, then east to the Tigris and Euphrates River Valleys and down to the Red Sea. The first established society would be the Mesopotamians.

The first crops grown were the cereal grains, wheat, which Biblically is called corn, barley, millet and Emer, another early relative of wheat. These first crops originated from the wild grasses growing in the area. They were improved through time by selection, for taste, ease of harvest and utility. The first fruits were figs and dates, and goats were the earliest domesticated animals.

The growing of olives would begin around 5,000 B.C.E., domesticated from wild shrubs growing in the rocky hills of Asia Minor on the edge of the Tigris and Euphrates River Basin. They were first grown for the oil they produced. The tough-skinned original fruit, when brined, were then found to be edible, as well.

The final crop, grape, was domesticated around 3,500 B.C.E. It was the natural yeast that was found on the skins of grape that created the fermentation reaction to produce wine. It

is no wonder then, why these three elements have for so long been important to the development of modern civilization. They conceptualized the thought of divine pleasure and the manifestation of divine activity. Together they were used at the Consecration of Solomon's Temple and to designate it as hallowed ground. They, as Masonic iconography, are drawn from Biblical tradition, much like the plumb, level, corner stone, the all-seeing eye, and the square. Together, corn, wine, and oil are referred to as the Elements of Consecration. In the Bible, corn is mentioned 106 times, wine 231, oil 191 and the three together 22 times. They conceptualized in Hebrew thought, the concrete form of Divine Blessing. As with any symbol, especially in Masonry, when a literal is given, there is usually another half, an idea, or a lesson.

For us, these three elements are recurring symbols. They are an integral part of the Laying of a Cornerstone, the Consecration of a new Lodge and symbolically, for each of us, as we advanced in each Degree.

Corn or wheat, considered the staff of life, appears in some form and in ways not often realized. Corn is the symbol of plenty.

One of its symbolic representations is the Cornucopia. Look to the Stewards and the symbol of their station, the Cornucopia. As we made our first entrance across the threshold of the newly opened door of the Lodge by the Stewards, we were symbolically being led, first, to what could be the thrashing floor, thus, to be "harvested" from the fields of the world. As grain is thrashed to separate it from the chaff, we were being separated from the mundane world. As an Entered Apprentice, we were moved from darkness to light. As a Fellowcraft, before we were to receive an explanation of our wages, there was a more subtle introduction. The word in Hebrew for an ear of corn is Shibboleth. It is also the word used in Hebrew for flood or deep water, and, to beat out or to thrash, as well. This was the word used by the Gilalites to separate the Eremites, in a sophisticated way and with tragic results for the latter. The thrashing floor also has a further significance for us. It was upon a thrashing floor that Abraham, David, and Solomon would erect an altar to the Deity.

Wine, as an offering, was used by the priests to be consumed away from the Middle Chamber of the Temple. Josephus records that at the Second Temple, there was a massive grape vine of gold, with grapes as tall as a man, suspended on the outer porch. This could only mean grapes, as a symbol, were deeply sacred. When written in Hebrew, the word for wine, "yayan" is numerically identical to "sod" or secret. There is a Hebrew saying that "when the wine goes in, the secrets come out". However, in the more philosophical Kabbalistic interpretation, sod refers to the symbolic meaning, "when our spiritual nourishment is stored away in the dark and left to mature, it results in a deeper understanding of life".

Now, about the olive. The Talmud records a strange warning that "eating a whole olive will cause a man to forget his learning of 70 years", yet later teaches that drinking olive oil, he will gain 70 years of learning. Of course, this can be easily dis-proven. As Rabbi Avrohm Chaim Fleur pointed out: This may be understood allegorically. The whole olive alludes to the flesh, and the outer husk of the fruit, whereas the olive oil is the inner essence. In the pursuit of knowledge, a person should always strive to penetrate to the inner core of a subject to gain comprehension of its essence. Never should a student "swallow if whole". In other words, we should never study matters superficially, because those breed misconceptions and ignorance. This can cause confused knowledge of essentials, leading to errors that may be remembered for a lifetime.

Masonically, when these three elements are poured out upon the floor at the Consecration of a new Lodge, as they were at King Solomon's Temple, or at the Laying or Dedication of a Cornerstone, or as a part of the Fellowcraft Degree, it could also be interpreted to mean that we are sharing anew in the Consecration of our own Lodge, even if it took place generations ago.

It has been so aptly said, "As corn is an emblem of plenty, let us be abundant in the measure of our brotherly love, ever ready to use what means God has given us to assist a brother who may claim our help. As wine is an emblem of cheerfulness, let us foster the spirit of Joy and Gladness so that when the sorrows throw their shadows upon life, we may be enabled to look forward to the brighter day when the trials of our earthly pilgrimage shall be forgotten, and sadness shall be unknown. And oil, as an emblem of Peace, may it be ours to extend the boundaries of Her Empire, so that strife and discord may be banished forever from the mind of man".

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
2400 Consistory Ct.
Grand Junction, CO 81501

