

**All Masonic Trestleboard  
October 2023**



**Find out what is happening in Masonry across the Grand Valley**

# October Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Rainbow Girls   7 PM - GJ Masonic Center	<b>3</b> Eastern Star Stated Communication   7 PM - GJ Masonic Center	<b>4</b> Palisade Lodge Practice   6:30 PM - GJ Masonic Center	<b>5</b> Great Bowls of Fire Chili Cook-Off   6 PM - GJ Masonic Center  Mesa Lodge Stated Communication   7 PM - GJ Masonic Center	<b>6</b> Early Bird Breakfast   8 AM - Strayhorn Grill	<b>7</b> Palisade Lodge Stated Communication   10 AM - GJ Masonic Center  Four Corners Royal Arch Festival
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Grand Junction Cryptic Council   7:30 PM - GJ Masonic Center	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> GJ Temple Board Assoc   6:30 PM - GJ Masonic Center	<b>12</b> Mesa Lodge Ed Night   6:30 PM - GJ Masonic Center  DeMolay Boys   7 PM GJ Masonic Center	<b>13</b> Early Bird Breakfast   8 AM - Strayhorn Grill  Richard Mobley Headstone Dedication   11 AM - GJ Cemetery  GJ Lodge Stated Communication   7:30 PM - GJ Masonic Center	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Feast of Tishri   6:30 PM - GJ Masonic Center  Rainbow Girls   7 PM - GJ Masonic Center	<b>17</b> Eastern Star Stated Comm   7 PM - GJ Masonic Center  Fruita Masonic Lodge Stated Comm   7 PM - Fruita Masonic Center	<b>18</b> Delta York Rite   7:30 PM - Hotchkiss, CO	<b>19</b> Mesa Lodge Officers Meeting   6:30 PM - GJ Masonic Center	<b>20</b> Early Bird Breakfast   8 AM - Strayhorn Grill	<b>21</b> Fruita Trunk-or-Treat   10 AM -12 PM Fruita Masonic Lodge  All-Masonic Happy Hour   4-7 PM - Scotland Yard
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Mesa Lodge Practice Night   6:30 PM - GJ Masonic Center  DeMolay Boys   7 PM GJ Masonic Center	<b>27</b> Early Bird Breakfast   8 AM - Strayhorn Grill	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> Palisade Lodge Practice   6:30 PM - GJ Masonic Cente	<b>2</b> Mesa Lodge Stated Communication   7 PM - GJ Masonic Center	<b>3</b> Early Bird Breakfast   8 AM - Strayhorn Grill	<b>4</b> Palisade Lodge Stated Communication   10 AM - GJ Masonic Center

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## Birthdays

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

- Alan R. Story
- Charles Brown
- David Marshall
- Donald Smith
- Donald Williams
- Garry Hart
- Gary Brown
- Michael Wethington
- Terrance Stath
- Timothy Wollin

## 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.

- Andrew BE
- Austin Pitts
- Christopher Eglet
- Dennis Bechtold
- Harry Marshall
- Jason Allred
- Jeff Koenig
- Merle Nelson
- Naaman Moorehouse
- Paul Brenton
- Robert Cucchetti
- Robert Orr
- Sean Norris
- Terrance Stath
- William Sightler III

## 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. Ron Franklin
- W. Bro. Bill Buvinger
- W. Bro. Mike Murphy
- Bro. Lloyd Stahl
- Bro. Cole Roth

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Advertise in the All-Masonic Trestleboard.

Go to [www.MasonicFamilyGJ.org/TrestleboardAds](http://www.MasonicFamilyGJ.org/TrestleboardAds) for more information.

Ad Size	Quarterly Cost
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.
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- RSVP to meetings
- See who's coming to meetings.
- Search your Lodge's member directory.
- Check the status of Masons from multiple jurisdictions.



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

**Vendors Wanted - Registration info at  
[www.MasonicFamilyGJ.org/2023CraftFair](http://www.MasonicFamilyGJ.org/2023CraftFair)**

# 2023 Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair

*Gifts, Jewelry, Crafts, Food, and much more!*

*Open to the Public*

***Saturday, December 9th***

*From 10 AM to 3 PM*

*For more information & to register go to  
[www.MasonicFamilyGJ.org/2023CraftFair](http://www.MasonicFamilyGJ.org/2023CraftFair)*



# Mesa Lodge No. 55



## Greetings Brothers and Friends,

As usual, there are many things to discuss today.

First, the Great Bowls of Fire Chili Cook-off will be on Thursday, October 5th at 6 PM. Bring a pot of your best chili and compete to see how good your chili really is. There are cash prizes for the top three chilies. It is \$10 to enter the cook-off and \$5 to eat and vote. After the cook-off, we will be learning about the fall of the Knight's Templar.

Next up the Lodge is partnering with Sons of the Veterans of the Civil War to dedicate a new headstone to Brother Richard Mobley on the 130th anniversary of his death on October 13th. Brother Mobley was a charter member of Mesa Lodge, Senior Warden in 1883, a founding member of Grand Junction, and the city's first elected judge. The dedication is at 11 AM at the Grand Junction Cemetery. This event is open to the public so everyone is welcome to come.

The All-Masonic Happy Hour is on Saturday, October 21st, 4-6 PM, at Scotland Yard Cigars and Spirits. The Lodge Education Night is Thursday, October 12th at 6:30 PM. We will be meeting in the Rec Room at the Consistory where we will be discussing the book Start with Why by Simon Sinek. You can find this book at any bookstore or the library. You can also find it online from Amazon or Audible if you prefer to listen to it.

A complete list of all events from all the Masonic bodies can be found on our website at [www.MasonicFamilyGJ.org/Events](http://www.MasonicFamilyGJ.org/Events).

Dues notices for 2024 have been sent. You can pay by mailing the Lodge cash or a check, or you can pay online with a debit or credit card. Whatever is easiest for you. If you need assistance with your dues please reach out to me or W. Bro. John Groves. We ask that you pay your dues by the end of the year because Grand Lodge Per Capita is due by mid-January.

Chartered: Sep18, 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.....Andrew Weber  
 May.....Kenne Whitson  
 June.....BBQ on the Patio  
 July.....(No Meeting)  
 August...All-Masonic Picnic  
 September.....John Groves  
 October.....Chris Geisler  
 November....David Marshall  
 December..Christmas Party

I want to thank all the brethren who went to Fruita Masonic Lodge in September to capture the Traveling Gavel from them. We'll have to see how long we can keep a hold of it.

I'm also looking for volunteers for the adopt-a-family committee. This year Mesa Lodge will adopt a family in need and provide food and toys for them. If you wish to be part of this please let me know.

I'll wrap up by saying I hope you all have a wonderful month and I hope to see you at one of our many events.

Fraternally,

**Gregory Foster**  
**Worshipful Master**

## 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>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

## Open Practice

Mesa Lodge hosts an open 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.

# Palisade Lodge No. 125



## Greetings Brothers and Friends,

October 5th - we have the Great Bowls of Fire Chili Cook-Off hosted by Mesa Lodge from 6-7 PM at the Consistory. It will be followed by the second half of the educational lecture on the Fall of the Knights Templar by W. Bro. Greg Foster's wife, Jessica.

October 7th - is our Stated Communication at 10 AM at the Consistory. Refreshments will be served after.

October 13th - Mesa Lodge and the Sons of the Veterans of the Civil War will be dedicating a new headstone for a founding father of Grand Junction and Charter member of Mesa Lodge. This is open to the public and will be at the Grand Junction Cemetery at 11 AM.

October 19th is our Joint Communication with Fruita Masonic Lodge #120 at the Fruita Masonic building. Dinner is at 6 PM with the meeting to follow at 7 PM. Please bring a dessert if possible.

October 21st we'll be having the All-Masonic Happy Hour at Scotland Yard Whiskey Lounge from 4-7 PM. This is a public event and the perfect place to bring anyone who wants to get to know more about Masonry and what it means to be a Mason.

Looking forward into November, we will be having our annual election of officers at our stated Communication on the 4th.

As always, I look forward to seeing you all in Lodge. Remember to be mindful of those around you. They may be in the dark with only your light to brighten their day.

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

Palisade Lodge No. 125 was Chartered September 17, 1907. Meets the 1st Saturday of the month in Lodge Room 1 of the Grand Junction Masonic Center



Did you know you can get a print copy of the All-Masonic Trestleboard mailed directly to you every month for only \$25 a year?

If you're interested contact us at [Info@masonicFamilyGJ.org](mailto:Info@masonicFamilyGJ.org) or call us at (970) 245-2277 to make arrangements.

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>	Jason Gaskill (970) 270-2386
<b>Senior Deacon</b>	Tom Verdieck (PM) (970) 270-8504
<b>Junior Deacon</b>	Don Halford (970) 250-4277
<b>Tiler</b>	
<b>Chaplain</b>	Chris Eglet (970) 640-4986

# Fruita Masonic Lodge No. 120



*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! - Psalm 133 KJV*

## Greetings Brothers,

For those of you who weren't with us recently, I'm pleased to announce that we were privileged to be caretakers of the beautiful Colorado Masonic traveling gavel for a short week. Members of our Fruita Lodge #120 were able to take the gavel from Grand Junction's Lodge 173 and hold it briefly before Mesa Lodge 55 retrieved it for their lodge.

Last month we conducted the initiation of Paul Trumbull to Entered Apprentice. Lee Anderson presented the Historical Lecture; Tom Verdieck resisted Section III Lecture; and John Groves, the Charter.

October is the month of Joint Communications with Palisade Lodge #125 and Fruita Lodge #120, and Lodge #55 will be hosting a chili cook-off on Oct. 5th

We were honored to our September 19th meeting with a visit from the Most Worshipful Senior Grand Warden of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Colorado, Worshipful Master William Marshall. It was an enlightening experience from us all.

The 8 a.m. Early Birds are still attending the Friday breakfasts at the Strayhorn Restaurant in Fruita. Consider joining your brothers for some great conversations any time you'd like.

Before closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all the assistance you provide to our Lodge. May Peace and Harmony prevail in all that we do

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

Chartered Sep 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  
February.....Gary Weiszbrod  
March.....Mike Murphy  
April.....Jim McBride  
May.....Glen Phelps  
June.....Lee Anderson  
July.....No Meeting  
August.....All-Masonic Picnic  
September.....Glen Phelps  
October.....Glen & Jeff  
November.....Naaman  
December.....TBD

Fruita Lodge No. 120 Officers	
<b>Worshipful Master</b>	Naaman Moorehouse (970) 250-0942
<b>Senior Warden</b>	John Groves (PM) (970) 261-5189
<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>Tiler</b>	Lee Anderson (970) 846-8493

## 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 Nobels,

The Western Colorado Shrine Club meet for its first board meeting after the summer break on Tuesday, September 12th. At this meeting, the Corvette Club announced it wanted to sell its fleet of parade Corvettes to another Shrine Club or Unit. The Club also decided to sell its parade golf cart. If any Unit or Club wants more information about these sales

please contact secretary@shrinerswc.org.

Nobel Mike Briscoe is making a trip to Shrine Children's in Salt Lake City. Any Nobel that wants to go is more than welcome to. Nobel Mike will be bringing a box of quilts made by one of our member's wives, toys, and soda pop tabs. If you have anything you wish to donate please get it to Nobel Mike.

I got confirmation that the circus will not be coming to Grand Junction this year. The Circus couldn't find a time that worked in their schedule with Mesa County Fair Grounds. They are planning their 2024 schedule and do plan on being back in our neck of the woods next year.

## Mark your calendars

- The WCSC Board will meet for its normal meeting on Tuesday, October 9th at 11:45 AM at the Grand Vista Hotel Restaurant.
- The All-Masonic Happy Hour for October is Saturday, October 21st from 4-7 PM at Scotland Yard Cigars and Spirits.
- The WCSC will have its annual members meeting on Saturday, November 4th at 3 PM at the Grand Junction Masonic Center.
- The WCSC Christmas Party will be on Tuesday, December 11th at 6:30 PM at Enzo's in Grand Junction.

That's all for now, I hope to see you at the Board Meeting in October.

Gregory Foster  
President 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.EIJabelShrine.org](http://www.EIJabelShrine.org)*

## GREAT BOWLS OF FIRE CHILI COOK OFF

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### 1ST PLACE \$100 | 2ND PLACE \$50 | 3RD PLACE \$25



• \$10 TO COMPETE • \$5 TO EAT

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WHEN | THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5TH 6 PM  
WHERE | GRAND JUNCTION MASONIC CENTER



# Grand Junction York Rite Bodies



Companions and Sir Knights,

Grand Junction Council No. 16 will meet on Monday, October 9th at 7:30 PM at the Grand Junction Masonic Center and Delta Chapter No. 38 will meet in Hotchkiss on Wednesday, October 18th at 7:30 PM.

The Four Corners Royal Arch Festival is on Saturday, October 7th, in Farmington New Mexico. It is an opportunity

to see how the other jurisdictions perform the Chapter Degrees. The event is outdoors and there is still time to register.

We have been approved to perform the Mark Master Degree for all proficient Master Masons in the area. We will begin planning the degree at our meetings in October. We also got word that the Commandery is extending its offer to reimburse all candidates their initiation fees to the three York Rite bodies when they complete the Commandery Orders. This is an excellent opportunity to grow the ranks of the York Rite.

We will also be planning our Christmas Observance at our meetings this month so stay tuned for more information.

Finally, you should have received an email from our new Eminent Grand Sojourner and Grand Junction Chapter Recorder, Companion Jeff Bush regarding the Keystone Award. We will set up practice sessions for any Companion who wants to practice.

See you in October Companions!

Fraternally,

Gregoy Foster - High Priest  
 Thomas Verdieck - Thrice Illustrious Master  
 Michael Briscoe - Eminent Commander



The Able Kids Foundation offers in-depth testing of the central auditory nervous system by audiologists and provides solutions for individuals with central auditory processing disorder (CAPD).

Our Mission: To eliminate barriers and expand opportunities for individuals with auditory challenges.

"Never believe that a few caring people can't"



[The Royal Arch Research Assistance \(R.A.R.A.\)](#)

is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping those afflicted with Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD).

CAPD is a hearing deficiency that does not allow those afflicted to distinguish sounds that can be heard by those with regular hearing.

Do you know someone who:

- Has Auditory Processing Disorder?
- Is Autistic?
- Has RETT Syndrome?
- Has Asburgers Syndrome?
- Is Diagnosed with ADHD or ADD?

Support the R.A.R.A Today. [Make a Donation!](#)



"A Masonic Charity"

[DONATE HERE!](#)

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, incorporated in 1956, is a charity sponsored by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar.

The Foundation seeks to improve vision through research, education, and supporting access to care to those in need.

<https://www.ktef.org/>



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**Our Goal: 1000 Participants**

Give up a coffee a month or more to help medical research through the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation. You can make a step to support our Masonic Charity by setting up recurring giving here:

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# Grand Junction Scottish Rite Consistory

## Calendar 2023



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

### 2023 Calendar of Dinners & Meetings

November 20 - All-You-Can-Eat Pizza 6:30 PM, 7:30 PM Stated Meeting

### Special Events

Feast of Tishri - October 16, 6:30 PM | Grand Junction Masonic Centre

RiteCare Pancake Breakfast with Santa - Dec 2nd, 8-10 AM | GJ Masonic Center

RiteCare Winter Event - Dec 15th, 4 PM | Montrose Rite Care Facility

### Grand Junction Scottish Rite

Lee Anderson, 32°	<b>Orator</b>
Randy Melton, 32°	<b>Almoner</b>
Jeffrey Bush, 32° KCCH	<b>Treasurer</b>
Jimmy McBride, 33°	<b>Tiler</b>
Wayne Quade, 32°	<b>Prelate</b>
William Nickell, 33°	<b>Secretary</b>

### Need to contact the Consistory?

Phone: (970) 245 AASR (2277)  
 Mail: P.O. Box 3000  
 Grand Junction, CO 81502  
 E-Mail: AASRSecretary@Mac.com

### John Groves 33° Personal Representative

#### Montrose Lodge of Perfection

Gregory Foster, 32°	Venerable Master
Harry Clark, 32°	Senior Warden
Chris Eglet, 32°	Junior Warden
Ian Huges, 32°	Master of Ceremonies
Darrell Manroe, 32°	Expert
Tim Claypool, 32°	Captain of the Host

#### Glenwood Chapter of Rose Croix

John Groves, 33°	Wise Master
Joe Wells, 32° KCCH	Senior Warden
Jason Kohles, 32°	Junior Warden
Randy Melton, 32°	Master of Ceremonies
Andrew Weber, 32°	Expert
Andrew Be, 32°	Guardian of the Temple

#### Gunnison Council of Kudosh

Mike Briscoe, 32° KCCH	Commander
Harry Clark, 32°	1st Lt. Commander
Michael Murphy, 32°	2nd Lt. Commander
Ian Hughes, 32°	Marshal of Ceremonies
Glen Phelps, 32°	Chancellor
Darrell Manroe, 32°	Lt. of the Guard

#### Grand Junction Consistory

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



## 2023 Grand Junction Scottish Rite Feast of Tishri

The Montrose Lodge of Perfection invites all Masons, their families, friends, and prospective members to the 2023 Feast of Tishri on Monday, October 16th at the Grand Junction Masonic Center.

A RSVP is required by October 14th for dinner at the event!

When	Monday, October 16th, 6:30 PM
Cost	\$20 per person (Cash/Check at the door)
Dress	Masonic Casual
Where	Grand Junction Masonic Center 2400 Consistory Ct

**!!! CLICK HERE TO RSVP !!!**

If you have problems or questions please call or text Bro. Gregory Foster, 32° (505) 350-0197

# Masonic Education

ALBERT PIKE--THE MAN NOT THE MYTH

Dr. Rex R. Hutchens

Like a few equally illustrious predecessors, such as Leonardo Da Vinci or Francis Bacon, Grand Commander Albert Pike led not a single life, but many. He was an explorer, so he knew privation; a journalist, so he knew the excesses of the press; a lawyer, so he knew the constant threat of despotism that the law entails; a teacher, so he knew the importance of education; a general, so he knew the horrors of war; a poet, so he knew the soul of man.

His contributions to so many fields vividly demonstrate the productivity possible from the wise use of time. If he knew the exaltation of success, he also knew the meaning of misfortune. The civil war estranged him from his northern roots, so he knew despair; he was a father who outlived eight of his ten children, so he knew sorrow; he once possessed great wealth but died a virtual ward of the Scottish Rite. Yet he was a Mason, so he also knew the unrivaled power of the human will.

His life exemplified the teachings of the Craft, and all of us might envy his steady dedication to those principles. Few, if any, of us have lived so completely. He came to the Craft relatively late in life, at the age of forty, so Freemasonry can take little credit for his character. What it did provide, however, was an outlet for his energy and a vehicle for his creativity.

Though a man of many talents, no aspect of his life received such enduring concentration as his work for the Scottish Rite. He found it in ruins and left it a stately temple to the dignity and rights of man.

Above all else our illustrious Brother Pike taught us the meaning of leadership. No fair-weather friend of the Craft, he assumed the mantle at its lowest ebb: its membership nil, its ritual in chaos, its charities nonexistent.

Albert Pike assumed the intellectual leadership of the Scottish Rite even before he was elected as Sovereign Grand Commander. To him was entrusted the rewriting of the Rituals of the Degrees which either never existed in any coherent form or which had suffered degradation at the hands of the unlearned.

Albert Pike had a subtle motive in his rewriting of the Rituals, seeking to do more than simply improve the presentations of the lessons of the Degrees. He wished to establish the Scottish Rite as an agent for the intellectual

development of the Craft. This goal was furthered by the preparation of a foundational literature for the Rite embodied in the new Ritual and a series of lectures entitled Readings, Legends, Liturgies and Morals and Dogma. These were further supplemented by The Book of Words and the 1st and 2nd Lectures on Masonic Symbolism.

By the exercise of the proper tenor of leadership, he built upon the strength of Scottish Rite teachings, expunged the Ritual of its adversely political and sectarian character and set the Rite upon a course of growth and development that clearly had as its intent to make the Southern Jurisdiction the single most influential body of Freemasonry in the world.

He sought this goal by a steady application of strength and determination, mitigated by patience and self-control. He never forgot that ours is a volunteer organization, utterly dependent upon the good will and commitment of the membership who give to it time which deprives their employment, family, church and community of a portion of their talents. But he as well understood how that commitment of time and talent bore fruit in the character of the man, making him a better employee or employer, a better father or husband, a better churchman or citizen.

Brother Pike set forth certain precepts to guide the Mason in the conduct of his life. These may be found in Morals and Dogma in the Entered Apprentice Lecture as the ten commandments of Masonry and in the Prince of Mercy Lecture as the nine great truths of Masonry. But as Martin Luther noted, "Precepts show us what we ought

to do, but do not impart to us the power to do it." Pike's unique contribution was to impart to us also that power--the power of just government, the power of collective action, the power of truth.

This power is manifested in our actions. He reminded us that reward accorded to merit is a debt; without merit, it is an alms or a theft. From him we learned to make change without creating destruction; to practice charity without fostering dependence; to lead without tyranny; to counsel without criticism.

It is difficult to reflect upon the man without wondering what he would think of our present edifice, the foundation of which he laid. It is certain that he would find no fault with the extensive system of charities that has evolved over the years. He probably would have tolerated the changes in emphasis responsible for the rapid growth of the Scottish Rite in this century. After all, great charities require a broad membership base to support them. He did not hold the rules he devised for the government of the Rite to be inviolate; he

changed them often himself.

Equally evident would have been his deep disappointment in the numerous versions of the Ritual in use within the Rite today.

In contravention of the edicts of The Supreme Council, our Ritual has been continually reworked and elaborated or simplified by sincere, hardworking, dedicated Brethren who all too often have had only the vaguest notion of the intent of the original Ritual. The result has been the corruption of Scottish Rite teachings. The sublime lessons portrayed in our original Ritual have become so simplified or, more accurately, diluted, that the experience of receiving the Degrees has become, for many, a numbing rather than an uplifting experience.

Brother Pike knew that this eventuality was possible, even inevitable, if the sanctity of the Ritual was not preserved from additions by the unlearned. Thus, the authority for the changes in the Ritual was confined to The Supreme Council itself through its Committee on Ritual and Ceremonial Forms, instead of the dozens of Orients, hundreds of Valleys or the now 600,000 plus members of the Rite in his Jurisdiction.

The lack of enforcement of his formally instituted controls over the Ritual of the Rite has resulted in just the changes Brother Pike feared and just the consequences he anticipated.

He would also have been disappointed in the waning of his goal that the Scottish Rite become the agent for the intellectual leadership of the Craft. It is in the area of Masonic research that this trend is clearly seen. There is an almost total absence of Scottish Rite research to be found in the literature. Those few research papers and books which are found usually treat of minor historical matters rather than any analysis of the symbols and teachings of the Scottish Rite. Until this shortcoming is corrected, we shall never attain that influence in the intellectual life of Freemasonry that he sought.

The spirit of Brother Pike bids us to protect from corruption those lessons from ancient history which he gave to us and to reassert his goal of contributing to the intellectual leadership of the Craft. His wise counsel pervades the literature of the Scottish Rite, even in those jurisdictions where his Rituals are not used.

It is often said today that no one reads Pike's writings anymore. This is, of course, an exaggeration. But it is true that his intellectual influence is less today than it has been in the past. That this is unfortunate stems, not from the need to read what Pike wrote, but to learn what he taught.

It is certain that the Scottish Rite possesses the talent to preserve those lessons of the past and once again contribute to the intellectual leadership of the craft, always keeping in mind the example of Brother Pike. Quoting from Pope's Essay on Man, we may say of him that he was:

Slave of no sect, who takes no private road,  
But looks through Nature up to Nature's God;  
Pursues that chain which links the immense design,  
Joins heaven and earth, and mortal and divine;  
Sees, that no being any bliss can know,  
But touches some above, and some below;  
Learns from this union of the rising whole,  
The first, last purpose of the human soul;  
And knows where faith, law, morals, all began,  
All end, in Love of God, and Love of Man.

Pike was a great man because he lived greatly. Although few will ever attain such stature in history and probably none of us will ever decide to begin learning Sanskrit at the age of sixty-five, Albert Pike is a worthy model. For us, he is a reminder that perseverance in the face of adversity and hope in the future are the most excellent qualities we can possess.





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