THE TRESTLE BOARD

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ORIENTAL #20 LODGE F. & A. M.

APRIL 2023



726 N. Center St. Mesa, AZ 85201 (480)962-0232



2023

Master Justin Stevens

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2023 Board of Trustees

Meets the last Monday of the month at 6:30

Term Expires 2023
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THE TRESTLE BOARD

APRIL 2023





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I Recently read that there was a study done indicating that, "Dad jokes" help kids develop into healthy adults. So in a nod to the previous editor of the Trestle Board, WB Roy, who has helped all us "kids" at the lodge with his jokes, here's one for April:

Q: Why is everyone so tired on April 1st? **A:** Because they've just finished a long, 31 day March.

Editor's Note



It looks as though I may have taken on a new task for a while with the Trestle Board and I need a little help.

I want to thank WB Roy Berggren and Br. Ron Neal for volunteering to help with editing articles. Around mid-March I began looking at moving the production of the Trestle Board to Microsoft Publisher or Adobe In-Design and ended up settling with Publisher. It is my hope that one day this publication can be a collaboration between multiple brothers. It is a little time consuming, but I think it is well worth the effort.

I would appreciate any content that you believe might be good addition to the publication. If you read my article last month on, "The Keys to Masonry", you know that "you" have those keys and we need them. Your insights and perspectives are important to the health and future of our lodge. Just a couple paragraphs or a page would be a great contribution to this publication.

My keys don't open all the doors—We need more keys!!!!

Fraternally, Marc



Marc Geyer Editor

The Oriental #20 Trestle Board **APRIL 2023**



Ramblings from the East!!,

It is with great pleasure that I address you today about a topic that is deeply rooted in the history and philosophy of our fraternity. As we prepare for a second degree, my thoughts keep circling back to the great Pythagoras, the famous ancient Greek philosopher, mathematician, and mystic, whose teachings and legacy have influenced many aspects of human knowledge and spirituality, including Freemasonry.

Pythagoras was born on the island of Samos in the sixth century BC, and he is credited with the discovery of the famous Pythagorean theorem, which relates to the geometry of right triangles. However, Pythagoras was much more than a mathematician. He was also a philosopher who founded a school of thought known as Pythagoreanism, which emphasized the study of numbers, music, and the harmony of the universe.

Pythagoreanism was a spiritual and mystical movement that sought to find the divine order and unity behind the apparent diversity of the world. Pythagoras believed that everything in the universe could be expressed in terms of numbers, and that these numbers had a symbolic and spiritual significance. For him, the study of mathematics was not just a means to solve practical problems, but also a path to enlightenment and communion with the divine.

Pythagoras also had a profound moral and ethical vision, which emphasized the virtues of wisdom, temperance, and justice. He believed that the pursuit of knowledge and self-improvement was essential for the well-being of the individual and society, and that one should strive to live in harmony with oneself, others, and nature.

Pythagoreanism had a significant impact on the development of Western philosophy and spirituality. It influenced many other schools of thought, including Platonism, Neo-Platonism, and Hermeticism. It is also worth noting that Pythagoras and his followers had a significant influence on the development of early Masonic traditions.

As we know, Freemasonry is a fraternity that emphasizes the moral and ethical development of its members, as well as the search for truth and knowledge. The teachings of Pythagoras, with their emphasis on the harmony of the universe, the symbolism of numbers, and the pursuit of virtue, resonate deeply with the values and principles of Freemasonry.

Many Masonic symbols and rituals have connections to Pythagoreanism, such as the use of the 47th problem of Euclid, which is based on the Pythagorean theorem, as a symbol of the pursuit of knowledge and understanding. The concept of the "perfect ashlar," which represents the ideal of moral and spiritual perfection, also has roots in Pythagoreanism, as does the idea of the "Golden Ratio," a mathematical concept that is associated with beauty, harmony, and proportion.

In conclusion, Pythagoras was a remarkable thinker and mystic whose legacy has influenced many aspects of human knowledge and spirituality, including Freemasonry. His teachings about the symbolism of numbers, the harmony of the universe, and the pursuit of virtue are still relevant and inspiring today. They remind us of the importance of seeking truth and enlightenment, both as individuals and as members of our fraternity.

May we continue to draw inspiration from Pythagoras and his legacy as we strive to be better men and Masons.

Fraternally,

Justin Stevens Worshipful Master



Greetings from the West, Brethren!

2023, thus far, has been a ramping-up period for Oriental 20. We have shared wonderful fellowship and education, both within the Lodge and with Friend to Friend. As we move forward, I am excited to see your continued participation in both areas.

Many of our Line Officers have risen up from our Friend to Friend program. WB Luke and the Brothers who assist him are doing a wonderful job of bringing qualified candidates into the Lodge. Please continue to show BL, R & T to these potential members as they move toward their Applications for Admission. I am excited to see the men who enter our Lodge this year and most of them will come from this priceless program!

Fraternally,

Br. Michael Harris Senior Warden





Greetings from the South.

For the first time in history, at 11:59pm on December 31st, 1942, the ball in Times Square did not begin it's decent into the new year of 1943. Instead, there was a moment of silence.

The beginning of the year marked the 40th month since Germany had invaded Poland and began what would be called World War 2. It was also the 13th month since Japan had bombed Pearl Harbor. Within days of the attack, the US was officially at war with both Japan and Germany. The U.S. had ramped up full war production. Rationing of shoes and foods had gone into effect.



This year would be a somber year for the Worshipful Master of Oriental 20 Lodge. Seven of our brothers had joined the fight since 1940. And four more would join before the end of the war. While the war waged on, the business of the lodge moved forward.

Born in 1904, the newly elected WM, **Albert W. Gurtler**, grew up in Centralia, Kansas. His father, John, was a well-respected builder in the community and one if the founders of the Eureka Methodist Episcopal Church. John Gurtler died in a tragic accident at work while Albert was a student at Northwestern School of Law in 1927.

At his father's memorial it was said that the fruit of his labor was found in the family circle. John made sure the children received a good education and were giving in their lives, helping to make the world a better place to live. This upbringing certainly contributed to Albert's leadership skills for his year as Master of the lodge.

In 1931, he opened his law office in Mesa. Additionally he served as the city attorney for Tempe in the mid- 1930's and had several businesses and citrus groves in the Mesa, Tempe, and Scottsdale areas. Like his father, he was a member of the Methodist Church. He was one of the founders of the Mesa YMCA and an investor who had several buildings built in Mesa.

At the time **PM Albert W. Gurtler** became Master of the lodge in 1943, he was also the government appeal agent for the Selective Service System. A tough job to have during the war. By maintaining the regular business of the lodge, he was living the British motto during WW2 of, "Keep Calm and Carry On."

I would imagine that his father's legacy was still with him that year along with the desire to make the world a better place......one good man at a time.

WB Albert was also a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason, Member of the Shrine and Hiram club. He is buried in the Masonic section at Mountain View Cemetery in Mesa.

At the end of his year as Master, just like the beginning, the Times Square ball didn't drop for the second time in it's history. Again, a moment of silence as the great war carried on.

Fraternally,

Marc Geyer Junior Warden

✓ March			April 2023	3		May ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat 1 Camelback #75 Breakfast 9 am Meeting 10 am Mesa Starlight 1-6pm
2	Mesa Starlight 16 Mtg 7:30 pm	4 Oriental #20 Dinner 6 pm Stated Mtg 7 pm	5	6 Apache Lodge 69 Meeting 7 p.m. York Rite Meeting 7:30 pm	Meeting 7 pm	8 Special Event ** Breakfast 9 am Followed by Lodge Spring Cleaning event.
9 EASTER &	10 Rainbow # 9 Meeting 7:00 pm	11 Oriental #20 Dinner 6 pm Meeting @ 7 pm	12 Valley of the Stars 62 Mtg 1pm Rainbow #9 Conf	13 Apache Lodge 69 Meeting 7 p.m. Stated	14 Baa Hanii Court #9 Mtg 7:30 pm	15 Rainbow #9 9-3pm
16 Mesa Starlight 1-4pm	17 Mesa Starlight 16 Mtg 7:30 pm	18 Oriental #20 Dinner 6 pm Meeting @ 7 pm	19	20 Apache Lodge 69 Meeting 7 p.m.	21 Bethel 13 JDI Meeting 7 pm	22
23 Bethel 13 JDI 11-1pm	24 Rainbow # 9 Meeting 7:00 pm	25 Oriental #20 Special Event ** Table Lodge 6 pm	26	27 Apache Lodge 69 Meeting 7 p.m.	28	29
30						





Blue Lodge Partners



APACHE LODGE NO.69

Lodge Phone: C- 480-206-6163 Lodge Email: secretary@apachelodge69.com

2023 Master - Alexis A. Bautista

Stated Meetings
2nd Thursday of each month.
Dinner is served at 6:15 pm.
Stated Meeting begins promptly at 7:30 pm.



Camelback Daylight Lodge #75

Lodge Phone: C- 480-206-6163 Lodge Email: swietek.paul@gmail.com

2023 Master - Dwain A. Chase

Stated Meetings
1st Sat of each month @ 10:00 am
Every month; except Jul, Aug
Breakfast is served at 9:00 am

March 7th Stated Meeting

Over thirty present for dinner and all but a few in attendance at the meeting. We had two esteemed visitors from Logia Masonica El Quixote 83 WM Carlos and SW Francisco.





WB Nick L. Gave a presentation about Esotericism, Hermeticism, Alchemy, and the Tree of Life.



Brother Bob S. gave an informative presentation about Astronomy, Astrology and the Relationship to Freemasonry.



March 24th—26th Leadership Conference



















Social Media and the Social Responsibility of a Mason

Br. Marc Geyer Oriental 20 Lodge

Masonry provides an opportunity for making good men even better. Part of this opportunity is developed through educating members on social and moral virtues. These virtues are traits of character, and we pray they are what cements us. We believe in brotherly love, relief, and truth. We are taught that we should practice our great moral duties both within the lodge, as well as outside of the lodge. I remember looking forward to wearing my masonic pins and accessories after I became a Master Mason. I bought hats, ties, belts and emblems to affix to my vehicle. Proud of being a mason, I wanted the world to know that I was part of this ancient institution. Most of my family and friends outside of masonry quickly

knew of this special milestone in my life.

I also felt a sense of stewardship. Being accepted into this institution of good men working to become better men gave me a great sense of subdued empowerment. To me, being a Mason also carried a great responsibility to my lodge and Freemasonry in general.

As masons, we each represent our brotherhood. As we enter this life imperfect we are striving to make ourselves better men. It is in the moments of imperfection that we have our greatest opportunities for positive change. Recognizing those moments and taking appropriate action can bring us into alignment with our moral duties.

Social media has been both a blessing and downfall for freemasonry. Used within due bounds, social media can work harmoniously by informing and educating. When it is used outside those bounds it spreads discord, animosity, and destroys the peace and order of society.

I'm sure all of us have cringed upon reading some social media posts from brothers at one time or another. We may have even given a brother constructive counsel offline at some point. This is one of those, "elephant in the room"

issues. Most of us have no idea that we may have inadvertently, at one time or another, posted something that might be questionable. It may also be that the distinction of where, "Joe Smith" as a mason and

"Joe Smith" as an individual falls when it comes to making a public comment.

Prior to the internet and social media, published public comment and occasional "rants" were basically confined to the local newspapers, the "letter to the editor" section. These letters of opinion typically had little rebuttal or banter in reply and were confined to a small geographical area. Today, commentaries, opinions, memes, and rants are published worldwide 24/7. Everyone has a platform and competes to have their voice heard.

Applying the adage that the loudest voices get heard, many contributors turn to shock and awe to get attention. Unfortunately, with social media this is typically done with offensive pictures or foul language. Hot button issues in politics, demographics, social justice, and the list goes on, cloud much of what we see online. Because this forum is in a public space, replying or commenting on almost anything can open you up to attacks or being misunderstood.

Knowing that some, if not all, of your social media followers know you are a freemason:

What is a mason to do?

- First and foremost, stop and think before you post or engage in social media.
- Take the time to check out how you feel. Do you feel emotionally charged? If so, wait before you post or write it out on a separate document and step away from it.
- weigh what you are about to post against your values. Does it fit with who you really want to be? Is it what a better man would do?
- Is this something you would say in lodge?
- ➡ Will this post promote harmony or discord?
- **Secondly,** use this moment to embrace positive change.
- Use social media as a blessing and constructively inform and educate. Turn your post to promoting harmony without animus. Adjust your language to eliminate what others may deem to be offensive. As masons we want to be the strength and support of society.

- And last, as an upright mason you represent the character of all your brothers. You were welcomed into the fraternity by the belief that you would continuously reflect honor on our great institution. Through this lens you might want to ask yourself:
- How do you want your message received?
- How can you avoid anything that could be considered sarcastic or ambiguous?

Remember to be clear and concise as tone is sometimes difficult to discern in a brief written response.



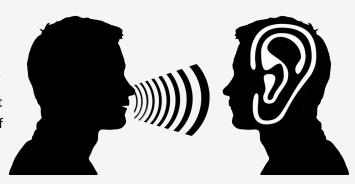
There are guardrails that help us navigate the road to becoming better men. Hopefully, you will never run into them as you drive towards your ultimate destination, but if you do, may they be strong enough in your heart to keep you on track.

What is the true meaning of in.....?

Marc Geyer, JW

Your word....what does your word or words mean?

We use many different words in ritual. They are s liced and diced into various meaning through the construct of our ritual. Arizona is one of only a handful of states that allow plain English text ritual books. The vast majority of states use cipher books and the others still practice mouth to ear only.



Reading compared to hearing or reciting.



There are several different viewpoints or studies that I found showing mixed results on which is better. Reading allows for higher cognitive processing. While listening can lend to hearing inflections and emotions that stimulate both sides of the brain.

There was one study that stood out to me. It was out of Canada at the University of Waterloo. Although the study had a small sampling of 95 participants, it showed that reading information aloud to yourself resulted in the best remembering.

Looks like we're on the right track here in Arizona if reading and hearing yourself speak the words seem to be the best way to retain our ritual in memory. But, is that really the case?

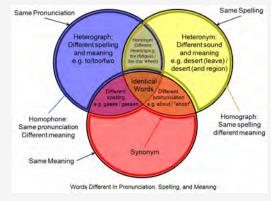
When you read the words in our ritual book do you understand the true meaning behind the written words? It is one thing to memorize, recall and recite and something else altogether to imbibe the true meaning behind the word or words.

The difference lies between retention of knowledge and transfer of knowledge. When we are learning ritual, understanding the meaning behind all the words allows us to make the connections between concepts and ideas.

The words become fluid and fit like pieces of a puzzle. Knowledge is transferred.

It is clear when you hear ritual in which the orator has imbibed the true meaning behind the words being delivered. It is almost as if you can, not only hear the words, but you also feel them as well. It is when you can feel the words that you begin to understand them. Once you understand them is when they become an intrinsic part of you.

Everyone has a different way of learning. Find the best way for you and remember to seek to understand the true meaning of every word.





LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN TO HELP AROUND THE LODGE



We currently have a number of maintenance and housekeeping issues we could use help with.

- Weed spraying and general grounds cleanup
 (This is an ongoing need)
- Touch up painting
- Breakfast and Spring Cleaning on April 8th at 9am

Please send an email to: 20tbeditor@gmail.com or speak to Br. Marc Geyer, Junior Warden or WB Tim Lindquist, Secretary, if you can help.



Brethren,

Please join us at our Table Lodge to remember the life and works of our brother, MWB Rex Hutchens!!



All Masons are encouraged to attend (EAs and FCs please contact Oriental Secretary for details on attending).

The event will begin at 6:00 pm, April 25, 2023 at Oriental Lodge #20 and will be followed by readings, discussion, fond memories of Worshipful Brother Hutchens. With special guest speaker MWB Randy Jager.

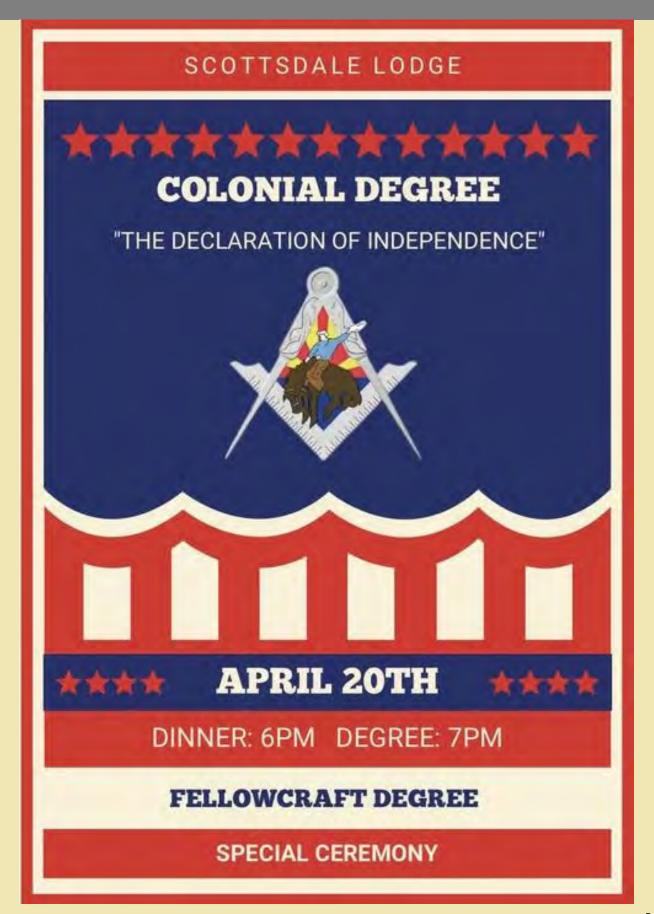
Cost is \$75 per person for three course meal and souvenir cannon. Seating will be limited to 72, please reserve your seats early.

Scan the QR code here or go to: https://Oriental20tl.eventbrite.com For tickets to reserve your seat

All proceeds will be donated to a charity selected by MWB Hutchens family Suit and tie requested.

Oriental Lodge #20 726 N. Center Street 726 N. Center Street Mesa, AZ

480-287-4416 secretary@oriental20.com



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ** LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE **

Freemasonry in the Wild West

HOSTED BY

19055 E - K MINE ROAD, BLACK CANYON CITY, ARIZONA

Dougla Solomon

SATURDAY

A PRESENTATION ON

THE HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY IN ARIZONA'S WILD WEST

DOORS OPEN AT 3:00PM

PRESENTATION STARTS AT 4:00PM WITH DINNER TO FOLLOW

·TICKETS \$30 PER PERSON·

INCLUDES I RAFFLE ENTRY AND DINNERS

·ADDITONAL RAFFLE TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT LODGE·

PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS LODGE ROOF REPLACEMENT FUND

TICKETS FOR PURCHASE AT: WWW.PIONEER82.COM OR AT THE DOOR

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO EMAIL: M.ZAC.MAY@GMAIL.COM



Masonic Family Fun Night

This event is to help build the camaraderie between the Masonic Lodges and the Youth Groups

Sunday, April 30, 2023 5:00pm - 8:00pm

MAIN EVENT

Avondale 10315 W. McDowell Rd, Avondale, AZ 85392

Youth Leaders vs Masonic Leaders 6:00pm - Laser Tag 7:00pm - Bowling

Bring your family & friends to this public event and spend a fun evening playing games, bowling, laser tag and more! Turn in your receipt and a donation will be made back to DeMolay (Glendale & VOTS), Glendale Rainbow and

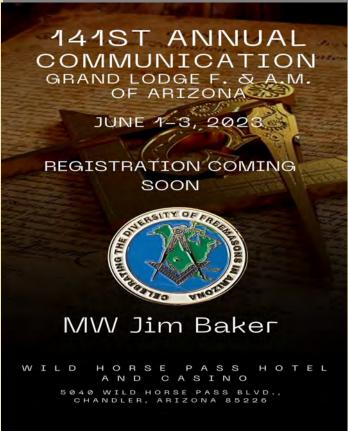
Bethel 19, Sun City Job's Daughters!







No alcohol will be permitted during this event!



Have or know of upcoming Masonic events?

Send them to 20theditor@gmail.com





Master Masons!

Montezuma Lodge #35 will be hosting a Table Lodge on Saturday, September 9th, 2023 at 6pm at the Phoenix Masonic Temple at 345 W. Monroe Street in Phoenix, Arizona featuring celebrated Masonic author, P.D. Newman.

This event will fill up quickly so get your tickets asap. Tickets are \$75 which includes dinner and wine. To purchase tickets by credit card, go to:

https://www.eventcreate.com/e/montezumalodge35

Or send your checks to:

Montezuma Lodge #35

345 W. Monroe Street Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Or visit us in person to pay cash. To pay with zelle, email our secretary at awarianka@gmail.com for the link.

Brother Newman's presentation is entitled:

"Theurgy: Theory and Practice"

THIS will be a night you will not want to miss.

P.D. Newman is the author of the groundbreaking "Alchemically Stoned" as well as "Angels in Vermillion: From Dee to DMT".

Clear your calendars and get excited about taking a deep dive into Masonic philosophy, history and education with one of the greats of our beloved Crafti

Oriental Blue Lodge Anniversaries April

Come to our Stated Meeting April 4th @ 7pm to celebrate!!

<u>Name</u>		Raised	<u>Years</u>
Kenneth	Swanson	4/12/1965	58
Lawrence	White	4/30/1968	55
Stephen	Beardsley Sr	4/30/1974	49
Jack	Stewart	4/26/1978	45
Robert	Sylvester	4/13/1983	40
Thomas	Rhodes	4/21/1987	36
Marko	Vandevier	4/15/1997	26
Ronald	Neal	4/18/1998	25
James	Hurd	4/18/1998	25
Tom	Callender	4/18/1998	25
Chris	Schneck	4/18/2000	23
Michael	Fenno	4/24/2001	22
Louis	Shire	4/13/2002	21
Michael	Scelsi	4/29/2003	20
Sergio	Romo	4/14/2009	14
David	Mawyer	4/20/2010	13
Alen	Dranikov	4/14/2015	8
Cameron	Reed	4/13/2021	2
Gregory	Dwyer	4/20/2021	2
Ryan	Winkle	4/27/2021	2
David	Morgan	4/19/2022	1



April Birthdays

Come to our Stated Meeting April 4th

@ 7pm to celebrate your birthday!!

<u>Name</u>		Birth Date
Matthew	Adams	4/14
Shawn	Barinka	4/21
Roger	Dawson	4/5
Bruce	Gladney	4/29
Dennis	Haworth	4/17
Martin	Lebowitz	4/9
David	Morgan	4/10
Melvin	Patterson	4/28
Michael	Roldan	4/1
Louis	Shire	4/11
Todd	Sturner	4/9
Robert	Sylvester	4/25
Walter	Taylor	4/4
Donald	Wilson II	4/19



Appendant Bodies List

If you are a member of one of these appendant bodies and have not attended for awhile, make this year the year you come back. You will surely be welcomed. You can reunite with old acquaintances and meet some new ones. So, come on out at the time and dates noted. We would love to see you again.



MESA STARLIGHT NO. 16

Order of the Eastern Star

Meets 1st - 3rd Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Nicole Houlette Howard Houlette Renee Hurd

Worthy Matron Worthy Patron Secretary



BAA HANII COURT NO. 9

Order of Amaranth

Meets 2nd & 4th Friday at 7:30 p.m.

DeLores Nolan George Rusk Shirley Davis Royal Matron Royal Patron Secretary



MESA ASSEMBLY NO. 9

International Order of Rainbow for Girls

Meets 2nd & 4th Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Anna Maria Delgado Rose Hanne Augustine Delgado Don Wilson, PM Worthy Advisor Mother Advisor Rainbow Dad Board Chairman



BETHEL NO. 13

Job's Daughters International

Meets 1st & 3rd Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

Katie H. Alexandra Houseman Honored Queen Bethel Guardian



VALLEY OF THE STARS NO. 62

Order of Eastern Star

Meets 2nd Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

Mickie McKay Bill Udell Worthy Matron
Worthy Patron
Secretary



TRAVELING MEN



5th Annual Lost Dutchman 3rd Degree









As you heard the clap of the gavel report off the face of the rocks...

Brother David Soto was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.





It was a perfect day, in a perfect setting.

Thank you to:

Apache #69

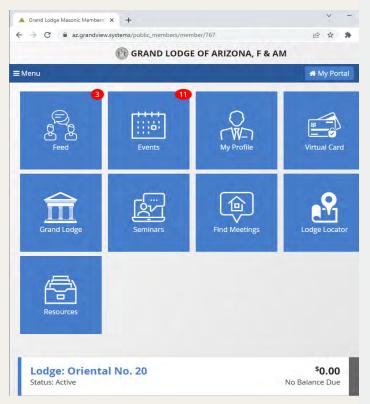
Gila Valley #9

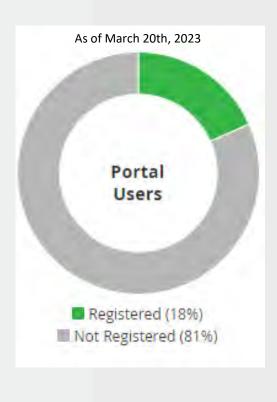
White Mountain #3

Arizona Masonry At Your Fingertips

Have you set up your Grandview account?

If yes, how long has it been since you last logged in?





Oriental 20 Brethren,

We want everyone to take advantage of the tools and great features the portal on Grandview has for our membership. If you need help logging in, please ask one of the lodge officers and we will be happy to help get you set up. Currently, only 18% of our membership are registered. Our Goal is to get that number to 23% by the end of May. Let us help you, help us, and reach our goal.



Scan the QR code or go to:

https://az.grandview.systems/users/sign_in

to set up your account or check in to see what's new.