



**Oriental 20**  
*Free & Accepted Masons of Arizona*

# TRESTLE BOARD

From the: [East](#) | [West](#) | [South](#) | [Editor](#)

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**Junior Warden:**  
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**Marshall:**  
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John Herman  
**Tyler:**  
Keith Williams  
**Musician:**  
Suresh Muthumani PM



## Oriental Lodge #20

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PO Box 123  
Mesa, AZ 85211-0123

*Calendar:* <https://oriental20.com/lodge-calendar/>

*Web:* <https://oriental20.com/>

*Email:* [secretary@oriental20.com](mailto:secretary@oriental20.com)



Friend to Friend meets every Tuesday after 6pm dinner

## Trustees

### Terms expiring 2028

Jason Clark  
Chris Nye

### Terms expiring 2027

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### Terms expiring 2026

Bruce Gladney  
David Morgan



## From the East: The Key and the Door: What Opens a Masonic Heart by WM Frank Donald

There is a quiet moment, just before the gavel falls, when the Lodge is still. In that silence, a brother can almost hear the heartbeat of Masonry itself—steady, ancient, patient. It is in that moment that we remember why we gather, and what we’re truly trying to open: not the door to the Lodge room, but the one inside us.

Every Mason carries keys. They’re not metal, not carved, but earned—understanding, patience, humility, and courage. They unlock the doors of ignorance and pride. They open us to the light we promise to seek. And every meeting, every handshake, every moment of reflection is another turn of that key.

But here’s the trick about doors: they only open if we approach them. Masonry gives us the tools, but not the will. The door of the heart must be opened from the inside.

We often talk about “seeking more light.” But sometimes, the greater challenge is to *let it in*. That means letting go of certainty, of status, of comfort. It means seeing a new brother not as an apprentice to be tested, but as a soul willing to try. It means understanding that the lock of life was made to be opened—by faith, by hope, and by fraternity.

In this year, as we reflect on Family, Faith, Hope, Charity, and Fraternity, let us remember: Masonry doesn’t build doors to keep others out. It builds them to teach us how to enter with humility and leave with light.

**Family: The First Lodge We Ever Knew.** Before we ever stood between the pillars, we were already learning Masonry—around kitchen tables, in small acts of kindness, through parents or mentors who taught us how to be decent, responsible, and kind. Family is the first Lodge, and love is the first ritual.

In the Masonic family, that truth deepens. Our spouses and children share the gift of our time, our dedication, and our absence when duty calls. They keep the lights burning at home while we labor in the quarry of service. They are, quite literally, our first and most enduring support system.

To call the Lodge a “family” is not poetic exaggeration—it’s a mirror of the structure that makes any household thrive. There’s guidance and growth, discipline and patience, laughter and forgiveness. In both, we learn that love without responsibility is sentiment, and responsibility without love is tyranny.

It’s also where our extended Masonic family shines. The youth organizations—Rainbow, DeMolay, Job’s Daughters—are not side projects. They are the roots from which the next generation of builders will grow. When we attend their meetings or sponsor their programs, we are helping a young person pick up their first symbolic trowel.

In Masonry, the family is the cornerstone of the temple. If we don’t care for that foundation, all our higher work—ritual, philanthropy, or fellowship—crumbles into vanity. The family reminds us that light is shared, not stored. The first duty of a Mason is not to the Lodge—it is to love well at home.



SW David Morgan Sacred Geometry Education Nov 25, '25.



As of today, 43 Oriental members still owe 2026 dues. Please renew.

### *From the West:* by Br David Morgan

Greetings for February!

For our first Trestle Board of 2026, I wanted to introduce myself and talk a little bit about what brought me to Freemasonry, and what keeps bringing me back to Freemasonry.

My name is David Morgan, and I will celebrate my 4 year anniversary as a Master Mason a little later this year. I am married to my wonderful wife Katie, and have three amazing kids: Jack, Tansy, and Bash. This year I am the Senior Warden of the Lodge, which primary duty puts me in charge of all the scheduling.

I was first interested in Freemasonry when I was younger, but had a mistaken impression that you had to know a Mason and be invited in to join, and so never pursued it beyond a cursory historical glance. That changed when I was reading a blog written by a Freemason, and another person asked him on his forum, how one goes about becoming a Freemason. His answer was simple; go knock on their door and introduce yourself. I thought, it couldn't be that simple, could it?

I researched the Lodges around me and learned that Oriental 20 was just down the street from where I lived at the time. I found out when their next meeting was scheduled, arrived an hour early and found myself introduced to WB Luke Evans, who runs the program for individuals interested in joining (Friend to Friend).

Unfortunately, I did so in October of 2019, and found myself hitting the 6 month mark where I could put in my petition the same month (April 2020) where Arizona Freemasonry shut down due to Covid. Thankfully, WB Luke was tech savvy enough to hold meetings via Zoom every week, and I met many Freemasons from around the world, who would hop in to our discussions. I credit WB Luke with keeping me interested all through Covid with his engaging Zoom meetings and discussions, and I finally had my EA degree in June of 2021.

I frequently sat in the very easiest roles of the officer line, and officially joined it when I became a Master Mason in April of 2022. My time in the officer line has truly helped me grow as a person, and the wonderful Masons, both old and new, that I continue to meet encourage me to do even more.

If you had asked me to describe myself in 2019, I would have told you I was very introverted, had few friends, and spent most of my free time alone playing video games. Now I am regularly performing lengthy ritual in the Lodge, have many good friends due to meeting them in Freemasonry, and spend a good deal of my time engaging with others. I scarcely recognize the person I was in 2019, and that is very much due to my time in Freemasonry. I'm excited to see where this year will take me.

Fraternally yours,

David Morgan, Senior Warden

### What's Happening at Oriental



Danny Jones 3rd Degree Nov 11



Arnie Omitt installed as Jr Steward



*From the South: Refreshment and Repose*  
 by *Br Ryan Sparks*

Dear Brothers,

I've been catching myself lately answering the age-old question "How have you been?" with something like this: "Good, just busy."

"Busy" has become the modern badge of honor. I think I often find myself asking – how do I fit more stuff into less time? I find myself treating time like a suitcase that won't quite close. And, strictly speaking, it usually works.

But as Masons, we know that time is not elastic. The 24-inch gauge is our first working tool, yet it is one I constantly come back to. And it's pretty hard to master – it is rigid, it does not bend, it measures exactly twenty-four units.

As Junior Warden it is my duty to superintend the Craft during refreshment. While this is often interpreted as the time for meals and social fellowship, esoterically, it is the vital need for restoration or relief. There is no "Beauty" in a structure that is about to collapse under its own weight; there is only stress. When we force more into our day than the Gauge allows, we must steal it from somewhere. Usually, we don't steal it from our work, and we rarely steal it from our obligations to others. Instead, we borrow against our allotment for refreshment and repose. We borrow from our own well-being.

The 24-inch gauge admonishes us to respect the geometry of our own limits. You cannot fulfill your obligations if you ignore part of

### What's Happening at Oriental



Br Chris Nye leads education on Hermetic Symbology within the Blue Lodge on Jan 20, 2026.

the lesson. I think it's okay to recognize that we must "secure our own oxygen mask before assisting others." You might think this is incongruent with our call of charity and service. But rest and repose are not selfish, they are structural and geometric.

I would like to challenge you to look at your own 24-inch Gauge. Are the markings for labor worn deep, while the markings for rest are barely visible? Let us remember that to be of service to our Lodge, our families, and our communities, we must first ensure we are standing upright, level, and well-rested.

Fraternally,  
Ryan Sparks, Junior Warden



### *Greetings from without the Door. By Keith Williams Tyler.*

My name is Keith Williams, and I am proud to hail from Oriental Lodge No. 20. I am honored to serve as the Tyler for the year 2026. My Masonic journey is as follows: **Initiated:** June 20, 2023, **Passed:** August 29, 2023, **Raised:** March 12, 2024. I Joined the Shriners on April 19, 2025, and I am currently a member of the **Greeters Club**.

I am proud to be a Freemason because of the Brotherhood our Fraternity exemplifies. It is comforting to know that I am never alone, and that a Brother is always just a phone call away. As the Tyler, I will always greet you in the West.

### What's Happening at Oriental

### Note from the Editor. **By Tim Lindquist PM**



As my first release, I hope you enjoy this issue of the Oriental 20 Trestle Board. I am grateful to the contributors for their excellent articles, and to the members who I hope all benefit from the articles and images found in this issue. Special recognition to Br Ron Neil who takes pictures of our events and places them on our Next Cloud instance. The plan is to resume releasing an issue every other month, so expect the next issue in early April. Contributions are encouraged, most especially from pedestal officers, but also from all officers and any member with short articles relevant to all our members. Rather than replicate calendars of events, I plan to reference them with links that you can either click or copy and paste into your browser. As we all are, this is a work in progress, and I welcome contributions and suggestions.

Fraternally,  
Tim Lindquist PM Editor

At left, Drake Hawkins PM is honored on his Masonic Anniversary at the Stated Meeting on Feb 3, 2026.



At left, Don Dunne received his 3rd Degree at Oriental on Nov 18, 2026. Congratulations.

Below, Congratulations to Kory Chapin who received his 3rd Degree in Lodge on Jan 13, 2026. Great to see MW's Rusk and May in Lodge and Big welcome back to WB Ed Benedicto.

