



Oriental 20
Free & Accepted Masons of Arizona

TRESTLE BOARD

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

Officers

Master: Frank Donald

Senior Warden:
David Morgan
Junior Warden:
Ryan Sparks

Treasurer:
Bruce Gladney
Secretary:
Marc Geyer PM

Senior Deacon:
Michael Hilton
Junior Deacon:
Chris Nye
Senior Steward:
Matt Donald
Junior Steward:
Arnie Omitt

Marshall:
Bill Nacopoulos
Chaplain:
John Herman
Tyler:
Keith Williams
Musician:
Suresh Muthumani PM



Oriental Lodge #20

726 N Center Street
PO Box 123
Mesa, AZ 85211-0123

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

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

Email: secretary@oriental20.com



Friend to Friend meets every Tuesday after 6pm dinner

Trustees

Terms expiring 2028

Jason Clark
Chris Nye

Terms expiring 2027

Michael Hilton
Ron Neal

Terms expiring 2026

Bruce Gladney
David Morgan



WM Frank Donald conferred Adam Chaitin as Master Mason on February 10th with the help of the Lodge Officers.

From the East: Faith and Hope: Two Pillars We Lean On by WM Frank Donald

The Temple stood on two great pillars—strength and establishment. But there are two invisible pillars that still hold up our lives: faith and hope.

Faith is not the same as belief. Belief accepts what is told. Faith endures when belief trembles. It’s what keeps a Mason steady when the world shakes around him. Faith reminds us that the Great Architect has a design, even if we can’t read the blueprint from where we stand.

Hope, though, is the emotion that faith gives birth to. Faith is the foundation; hope is the step forward. When despair says, “There’s no point,” hope replies, “Maybe not yet.”

These two forces are not abstract virtues—they’re the energy of the Lodge itself. Faith that the ritual still matters. Hope that the next generation will continue it. Faith that our efforts count, even if unseen. Hope that our light will be enough to guide someone else home.

A Lodge without faith becomes routine. A Lodge without hope becomes cynical. But when both are present, even a small group of men can move mountains—patiently, one stone at a time.

We often talk about how Masonry is timeless, but it survives because men of every generation keep believing that better days are possible. Hope is the mortar that holds our faith together.

Charity: More Than Coins in a Basket.

When most people hear “charity,” they think of donations. Checks written, coins dropped, hands extended in polite gratitude. But Masonic charity asks for something rarer: the giving of self.

True charity is the willingness to be inconvenienced. It’s driving a brother to his appointment. It’s showing up early to set chairs and staying late to wash dishes. It’s calling someone you haven’t seen in a while, not to ask for dues, but to ask how they are.

Charity, in its purest form, is love in motion.

We forget sometimes that Masonry’s first act of charity is *the ritual itself*. Every degree, every lesson, every whispered word is an offering of time, patience, and mentorship. No one charges for it. We do it because we care about building better men.

But charity also has an inward dimension. To be charitable toward others, we must first be charitable toward ourselves. Forgive your own failings. Understand your own limits. A brother at peace with himself is a better brother to others.

Our charitable acts—small, quiet, sometimes unnoticed—are the living proof of our Craft’s endurance. Because money runs out. Time ends. But kindness multiplies. When a Mason practices true charity, he unlocks the door to a world that desperately needs it.



Senior Warden David Morgan and Senior Deacon Michael Hilton explain the finer points of Freemasonry to a Lodge visitor at Oriental's Open House held on March 21st.

From the West: April Greetings. by SW Br David Morgan

April Greetings!

This month, I wanted to talk a little about what I think Freemasonry means and how we can go about showing that to our community and the world.

One of our popular tag lines is, "Freemasonry makes good men, better men," but this is largely unsatisfactory as an answer about what Freemasonry is. A better answer would explain how we make good men into better men. For me, there are three main ways this is done in Freemasonry.

First, through the ritual work on the three degrees of Masonry. The ritual work is designed to impart moral lessons through Biblical scripture and allegory and old stone mason tools used as symbols. Freemasonry does not have a monopoly on this, by any means, but the nature of the ritual (knowing that you are going through the same process all Freemasons before you have gone through) helps to build a strong bond through that shared that experience. Seeing the ritual done well, is also inspiring for both the candidate and those sitting on the sides watching.

In that same vein, I firmly believe that you become the people you hang out with. Another way of looking at this is that you are the average of your five closest friends. This is why falling in with a bad crowd can be so detrimental to people. If you surround yourself with a bunch of men who wish to better themselves, then you cannot help but better yourself as well.

And lastly, Freemasons become better men by doing charitable works. Once again, we do not have a monopoly on this, but Charity is the one work that persists even beyond death. This also doesn't strictly mean giving money or time to the poor or charitable organizations. Masonic charity starts with looking after our fellow brothers, by helping them when they are in need, even if its just lending them an ear to listen to their troubles. By helping our brothers and our communities, we improve our own lives as well.

It is through these ways that we make good men better men.

Fraternally yours,

Sr Warden David Morgan



From the South: Who am I as a Mason? by JW Br Ryan Sparks

Dear brothers,

After reading David’s thoughtful introduction and Franks piece about bringing our keys to the lodge last issue, I thought I might spend a few paragraphs introducing myself and talking about masonry in my life.

My name is Ryan, I am 28 years old and I am from Lakewood CO. I moved to Arizona in 2016 to attend Arizona State and I found a home here amongst very welcoming people and cacti. I honestly am not sure where I first heard of freemasonry - perhaps when I learned about the many deep conspiracy theories surrounding the Denver International Airport. Legend has it Freemasons were supposedly involved in its construction and laid a time capsule in one of the terminals to be unsealed in 2094. I guess I joined to see if I could figure out what’s in it before then. Imagine my disappointment to learn it’s just \$2B in Templar gold and the real debris from the Roswell incident (just kidding).

I really first learned about masonry from a good friend of mine who you all probably know - Br Nick Lindquist. I met Nick while working as his student worker at ASU, and I also worked just down the hall from his dad, Tim. I got to know them at work and learned they were masons and became quite interested in the fraternity myself. An uncle of mine was a Mason, as well as a cousin of mine in Tennessee - Josh Connor, who flew out to attend when I was raised. Through my time with the lodge I've learned a lot about life, communicating with others, and my own spirituality. I've been pushed to do work on things I didn't know I was capable of, and learned a lot about how to run my own "internal" lodge in my mind and body.

These past few months, one thing I’ve been reflecting on is just how many comment situations in our every day lives resemble the masonic lodge room. Much like lodge, different people have different roles and duties and the same thing exists for a lot of my meetings and events that I attended outside lodge. In many cases, there’s a master who’s responsible for getting the show on the road and making sure that everything happens in meetings. There’s usually a person who leads the meeting and knows the agenda and tells everybody what they’re doing, who’s usually a senior warden and the junior warden who are responsible for assisting in opening



Junior Warden Ryan Sparks passes Br Bob Infalt to the Degree of Fellowcraft Mason on March 31st.

What's Happening at Oriental



and closing the meeting and responsible for making sure everybody in the meeting is comfortable.

I also think it's interesting how people rotate roles and while the role can be served by any number of people, each moment in time the role has only one person. We each get our time and completely embody that role for the time we occupy it. We serve the functions of that role and provide our own insight and our own way of handling the responsibilities. This makes me, as Junior Warden for example, "immovable" per se - I have a station and for the duration of a lodge meeting, I don't represent the Junior Warden - I am the Junior Warden. My way of doing it may differ ever so slightly from the way other people handle it. Even if the ritual says it should be done one

Right: Kitchen crew for Oriental #20 Open House on February 21st.



Below: Cosmo Magliozzi and Cosmo Jr. on February 20th as Oriental hosts Colonial 2nd Degree. Cosmo confers Fellowcraft Degree on his son. Now, that's a great Masonry moment.



way, in the moment of time I'm delivering the words I get a choice on what I say and how I say it. Maybe I try to get as close as I can to the right words, but what happens, happens.

I think it's easy to sometimes feel restless, eager to jump to the next role rather than fully appreciating the one we currently have. But just as a lodge requires a certain number of brethren duly assembled to function, the same ecosystem exists in our daily lives. A Master cannot run the lodge alone, just as a single leader cannot run a team or a family by themselves. Every station is vital. No one role is "better" than another, they simply bear different responsibilities. For a lodge meeting, a corporate project, or a family gathering to succeed, everyone must be present and committed to their station. Rather than constantly looking ahead to the next thing, we should find enthusiasm and purpose in serving exactly where we are.

If we treat the people we interact with in our day-to-day lives with the same fraternity, patience, and humility that we extend to our brothers in lodge, we are truly doing the work of Masonry.

Fraternally,
Ryan

What's Happening at Oriental



Above, Past Master night Mar 24th. Marc Geyer, Justin LaPolla, and Clive Weston after Marc conferred and Clive raised Justin to be a Master Mason. Again, Masonry is a family affair.

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

I hope you enjoy and find this issue of the Oriental 20 Trestle Board useful. Again, I am grateful to the contributors for their excellent articles, and to Br Ron Neal who takes pictures of our events and places them on our Next Cloud instance. Contributions to the next issue 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, please find the links on the first page of each issue. 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.

What is Freemasonry? **By Tim Lindquist**

I decided to contribute an article of my own in this issue. Its an article that I have been refining.

It always happens: Someone who is not a Freemason finds out I am a Freemason, and he asks me the simple question: What is Freemasonry? Surely you have been asked; how do you respond? Think about it, its not so easy to answer. I find



One would think from the pictures to the left and below that the primary qualification for being a Past Master may be the ability to line up chronologically. At left, PM's from 2013-'16 who introduced themselves in order at the March Stated Meeting.

Below are the following year's PM's: '93-'95, '13-'19, '21, and '23-'25. MW Jim, Roy, Don, Ben, Cosmo, MW George, Suresh, Nick, Luke, Tim, Don, Justin, Mike, and Marc. We all enjoyed PM's night and the ability to contribute to Justin LaPolla's raising. Thanks to Marc for organizing Oriental's PM night.



What's Happening at Oriental



Top Left: Bob Infalt and wife at Goat N Ram social on March 17th. Above and below: Ralph Perrotte's 2nd Degree at Camelback Daylight on February 7th. Bottom: Colonial 2nd Degree on February 20th.

myself giving an answer and then just a minute later thinking: I should have added this or that. Masonry has many facets. Some who ask already know something about our fraternity, or already have pre-(mis)conceptions. Many have not heard of us, and few outsiders have a comprehensive understanding of our organization and its aims. So, here is how I've organized my thoughts to be prepared to respond. And I ask you, what is your response?

I first relate that Freemasonry as an organization has been around for over 300 years, and it is heavily dependent upon traditions and thoughts from that period in the UK. But, it grew out of the traditions of the stonemason craft guilds of the fourteenth century. Its hard to understand this background without understanding how important stonework was to all forms of building back then. Just take a trip to Europe to visit historical buildings if you want a deeper appreciation. Many operative masons had to be trained and organized so that their employment could be faithfully relied on for certain talents and skills. The stonemasonry craft guild regulated the qualifications of stonemasons together with their interaction with clients, governments and the church.

Next, I resort to Dan Brown and others; its not a secret organization, but its an organization that has secrets. That's kinda a tough one. If you look hard enough, you can find all of our secrets publicly available on the internet or in print. I point this out to the person asking the question, just to allow me the opportunity to explain why we keep secrets. Are they still secrets if they are publicly available? Yes of course. The importance is not the thing being kept secret, its the fact that we have individually promised to keep the secret. Good men



become Better men when you can rely on them being true to their word. And, helping good men to become better men is the foundation of Freemasonry. Its a similar thing when it comes the penalties of Masonry. They are individual too. If someone inappropriately reveals a masonic secret, it's **primarily** a violation of their own individual word. The penalty itself is a symbol of how important it is (should be) to us individually to keep our word. Don't expect a brother to exert the penalty on another brother for breaking a masonic secret. It should never happen. The penalty should be the hurt you suffer from breaking your promise. We are punished by our sins, not for our sins. Incidentally, I only mention the penalties if I'm asked specifically about them, but I definitely talk about secrets and their importance.

Next up in my explanation that fraternity is: "a system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols." We are good men working to become better men, and we do this by considering allegoric messages hidden in a wide variety of stories, and in symbols. Most of the stories are historical or biblical. By using symbols, such as the tools of operative masonry: the square (morality), the level (equality), and the plumb (rectitude of conduct), for example, we convey important messages of morality. "Allegory & symbols" provides an explanation of the Blue Lodge, as well as appendant bodies. The Blue Lodge is aimed at illustrating symbols with moral lessons, and telling stories which are veiled with allegory. We learn how to learn our fraternities values in the Blue Lodge.

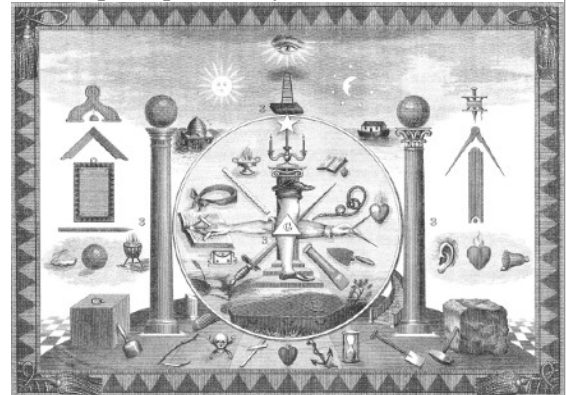
I try to include that Freemasonry is not a religion: we administer no sacraments, we have no theology, and we do not claim a path to salvation. But Masons do believe in a God and commonly belong to an organized religion. We are more concerned that you are a religious person than what religion you practice. Religious tolerance is one of the important messages of our country's founding fathers, as well as of Freemasonry.

If I still have the individuals attention, I recount how many important figures in the history of our country were Freemasons: 14 Presidents and 9 signers of the Declaration of Independence were Masons. Famous Astronaut's including Buzz Aldren, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, and Virgil Grissom were/are Freemasons. Finally, its important to mention the fact that Masons are philanthropic. We give over \$2 Million per day, including supporting over 20 Shriner's Hospitals nation-wide, where children can receive no-cost treatment.

As I said, our fraternity has many facets. I generally do not get the time or attention of the person asking the question to go into our organization further -- Lodges, Offices within a Lodge, the Grand Lodge, appendant bodies, and so forth. Yup, it's hard to explain Freemasonry in one or two sentences, and maybe this is why so many outside our fraternity mis-understand us. Think carefully how you answer this "simple" question; you are a view into our fraternity.

Fraternally, Tim Lindquist PM Editor

At right: Masonic images by George Kennings (1874): Available at: <https://freemasonry.bcy.ca/art/>



Below: Oriental Lodge visits Chandler Thunderbird #15 on February 17th. Great turnout.

