



TRESTLEBOARD

VIEW FROM THE EAST

By Douglas Arps, Jr., Worshipful Master

Greetings from the East,

Well Brothers, 2024 is over and it is now time to bring in the new year. It was my pleasure to serve as Worshipful Master for 2024 and also to serve for 2025. We got some new candidates into Masonry which is always awesome and they are younger men; maybe this younger generation is starting to get interested in guidance. Either way I think it is awesome and hopefully some of the other prospects decide to look for some further light.

Did everyone enjoy the holidays with their family and friends? Hope everyone had safe travels back and got to make some great memories. A few things that are happening in the new year are: we're going to assist the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association in a poker run by providing a light breakfast at registration on February 1st at the Hyundai dealership; on February 22nd Imperial #390 is hosting a George Washington Dinner over in Imperial, CA. Contact Brother Ira for more information; February 23rd will be our annual BBQ fundraiser down at the Lodge. It will be a drive through again but we will have some seats set up inside for Brothers and our Masonic family to sit and have some fellowship. Also, March 7th-9th we will once again be assisting the Caballeros de Yuma with Midnight at the Oasis. We will be looking for volunteers to help check IDs and give out wrist bands.

As most of you guys know MWB Mike Dale travels a lot with Grand Lodge and I'm pretty sure wouldn't mind some company on those travels, so if we like to travel with him just reach out to him.

Here's an article about Brother George Washington, in honor of his birthday coming up soon. Enjoy.

George Washington was one of early America's foremost businessmen. Not only was he successful at harvesting several cash crops, but he also operated a successful gristmill and a distillery that produced more than 11,000 gallons of liquor over a period of a year. He organized a fishing operation that netted some one million shad and herring in a short six-week season. He invested in real estate in a major way, expanding his Mount Vernon estate from 2,000 to 8,000 acres. He purchased more than 60,000 additional acres of land in what would today be seven different states and the District of Columbia. Among his holdings were 2,000 acres near Berkeley Springs, WV, 4,000 acres of the Dismal Swamp, and lots in both the city of Alexandria and new nation's capital. He also owned more than 33,000 acres in the Ohio Valley, more than 1,000 acres in Maryland, 5,000 acres in Kentucky, and 3,000 acres near the site of present-day Cincinnati. Despite the fact that he was constantly

(continued on page 6)



STATED MEETING

Second Thursday of each month,
September through June

Dinner at 6:30pm

Meeting at 7:30pm

REGULAR MEETINGS

Degree work most every
Thursday at 7:00pm

Call (928) 783-7993 or visit
www.yumalodge17@gmail.com
for schedule

OFFICE HOURS

Call (928) 503-4356 for an
appointment.

TRESTLEBOARD

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Sam Azar (Nada)
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Senior Steward

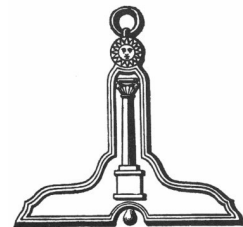
Roy Wright (Rebecca)
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Junior Steward

Marshal

VIEW FROM THE WEST

Submitted by Brad Hamner



Fraternal Greetings from the West

The turn of the new year is often a time of reflection. The holidays have begun to wind down, the bustle of the Christmas shopping season has ended, and the relatives and friends who came to visit have returned from whence they came. This (often abrupt) return to normalcy provides the perfect catalyst for introspection and reflection, timed well with the passing of another revolution around the sun.

As we look forward to a bright new year as men and Masons, let us not forget to spend time reflecting on those we love, as well as those we have lost. The latter was the subject of the Rob Morris-penned poem "New Year's Reflections", which I have reproduced in part here. To brethren wheresoever dispersed, I wish you a wonderful, happy, and prosperous new year full of peace, prosperity, and reflection.

"New Year's Reflections"

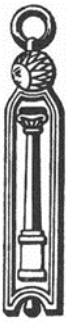
*Shall we see it, loving Brothers,
Ere another New Year's day?
Shall we join those loving others,
Whom the past year tore away?
Shall we change this toil and drudge,
For the bright Celestial Lodge,
Shall we tread that one more station,
Take that fast and best degree,
Whose consummate "Preparation"
Is to set the spirit free?
Lay our bodies off, that then
Souls unburdened may go in,
Shall we find beyond the river, —
Shall we find beyond the tomb, —
Those who left us, not forever,
Let us till we, too, should come?
Shall we learn the long-lost word
That admits a man to God, —
Then, be zealous, loving Brothers,
While your lives so swiftly tend;
Emulate those faithful others
In the prizes they have gained;
O'er the river, on the shore,
They are happy evermore, —
Toil, — your wages rich are ready;
Bear, — your burdens all shall cease;
Give, — however poor and needy;
Pray, — and God will give release
From this bitter toil and drudge
To the bright Celestial Lodge
-Rob Morris*

Brad Hamner
Senior Warden

GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH

Submitted by Hector Aponte

Reflective Writing



Well, it is 2025. It is a custom amongst many of us to promise ourselves, and sometimes to family, about something that we want to start (or stop) doing in the new year. We call these “New Year Resolutions”. Most of the time, these resolutions have to do with our physical health. We promise ourselves that we are going to hit that gym, eat better, etc. What about our mental health? We may decide to go on a vacation, visit family and friends, but then you realize that this only lasts a few days, maybe a week? What about the other 51 weeks?

Enter Reflective Writing. Reflective writing is an ancient practice. It’s a journaling technique inspired by the philosophy of Stoicism, an ancient Greek philosophy emphasizing self-discipline, emotional resilience, and rational thinking. The goal is to cultivate a more mindful and intentional approach to life by reflecting on one’s thoughts, actions, and emotions.

Stoic journaling, a form of contemplative writing, is a powerful tool for self-reflection and personal growth. It draws on the teachings of Stoicism. It is said to have originated from the Stoic philosophers of Ancient Greece and Rome, who emphasized the importance of self-awareness and cultivating a virtuous life. Stoic journaling is a reflective, purposeful practice that helps to cultivate a deep understanding of your thoughts, feelings, and actions.

Through this practice, you can gain insight into yourself and your place in the world. You can also gain a greater awareness of yourself and the world around you and cultivate a greater sense of purpose and resilience. Stoic journaling is reflecting on one’s thoughts, emotions, and behaviors, and examining them through a Stoic lens. It involves reflecting on your daily experiences and using Stoic philosophy to gain perspective and cultivate wisdom.

Stoic journaling encourages stoics to take a few moments each day to look inward and reflect on their current situation, feelings, and emotions. It helps them become more aware of their thoughts and feelings, enabling them to make more conscious decisions and live happier and more meaningful lives.

Regularly journaling allows Stoics to be honest with themselves, reflect on the past, and plan for the future. The practice helps shift one’s focus away from everyday life’s stressors and encourages them to look within and examine their actions.

With regular practice, Stoic journaling can become an invaluable tool in one’s journey toward self-improvement.

I am going to give this a try and will report later, maybe the last article of this year about how this resolution went. In the meantime, I leave you with this:

“When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive — to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love.” – Marcus Aurelius

Hector Aponte
Junior Warden



2025 OFFICERS (CONTINUED)

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Tyler

Ira M. Hearen, Jr. (Elizabeth)
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Change of
Address

Secretary:
yumalodge17@gmail.com

Trestleboard:
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Yuma Territorial Lodge 17

Stated Meetings: Second Thursday at **7:30pm**
(Dinner preceding the meeting at **6:30pm**)

Degree Work: Most every Thursday at **7:00pm**.

Trustees' Meetings: Some Mondays prior to Stated Meeting at **6:30pm** (check with WM).
Lodge members welcome.

York Rite Bodies

Stated Meetings: First Monday at **7:30pm**.

Practice: Third Monday at **7:00pm**.

Order of the Eastern Star

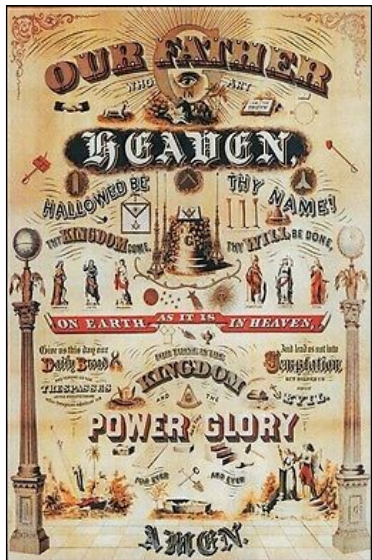
Meetings: Second and fourth Tuesdays at **7:00pm**.
(Dinner preceding meetings at **6:00pm**.)

Yuma Shrine Club

Meetings: Contact Michael Kofta for meeting day/time



facebook.com/YumaMasons



January 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3	4
5	6 	7	8	9 STATED	10	11
12	13	14 	15	16	17	18 Imperial #390 Installation of Officers (Imperial, CA)
19	20 MLK, JR. DAY	21	22	23	24	25 Robert Burns Dinner (Tucson)
26	27	28 	29	30	31	

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Degree Work/Practices – Check with Line Officers
- Lost Dutchman Outdoor Degree – March 1st
- Midnight at the Oasis – March 7th–9th

February 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Combat Veteran's Poker Run Yuma #14 OV
2	3 	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 	12	13 STATED	14	15
16	17 PRESIDENT'S DAY	18	19	20	21	22 George Washington Dinner (Imperial, CA)
23 BBQ Fundraiser	24	25 	26	27	28	



FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

Submitted by WB Michael Kofta, PM

Brothers and Sisters,

Congratulations again to our new Lodge Officers on your election and appointments! Looking forward to seeing good work coming from all of you in the New Year. May the Great Architect of the Universe guide you in your work in this new Lodge year.

Thank you for all that showed up for the York Rite Christmas program. Apparently, the turnout was larger than last year which was more than what they have had in a few years. It is good to see the Masonic family gathering at these events.

Winter is officially now upon us. Most of our die-hard snowbirds have flown South to roost with us for a while (some actually drove). Welcome back! A lot of friendly faces are reappearing again now as well. We have also had some of visitors return back to the North already.

There are a lot of Grand Lodge events as well as outdoor degrees starting to fill the calendar as well. There is the Installation at Imperial #390 on January 18th, Robert Burns Dinner on January 25th, Scottish Rite Installation of Officers on January 23rd, and Imperial #390 George Washington Birthday celebration February 22nd at 5:00pm (CALIFORNIA TIME) at the American Legion Hall in El Centro.

The Annual Masonic BBQ is just around the corner in February. The dining hall at the Lodge will again be open to Masonic families during the BBQ and the public will have the opportunity to do the "drive through" again. It worked well the last few times that we did it. Opening the Lodge to Masonic families will continue to bring back the "fellowship" the Brothers missed in the past.

Dues notices have gone out and we have had a lot of dues cards that have been mailed out already. Brothers, please stay on top of this and get your payments in early. We lost five members last year to non-payment of dues. Let's not let this happen again this year. Please try to get your dues in sooner, last minute payments keep your Secretary working late hours.

Attrition in Lodge membership due to death and suspensions is making it harder to pay our bills. We may have to raise dues again to be able to keep our doors open. We had 13 deaths and five suspensions this last year and only five gains (new Master Masons and Affiliations).

It is imperative that you check and update your information in Grandview so that our Lodge member information is accurate and up-to-date. If you make any changes in Grandview, please let me know so that I can update our Lodge database.

Ritual Rehearsals will be scheduled by the Worshipful Master so that we can produce great ritual work for our Candidates. Please attend as many of these as you can and help out where you can.

If you need any assistance in general, with practicing or on proficiency, feel free to contact me.

Fraternally,

Michael A. Kofta, PM
Secretary, DDGL, District 6



THE MASONIC RITUAL AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ANCIENT MYSTERIES

Submitted by Antero Trujillo, Chaplain

Freemasonry as an Initiatic Society uses symbols and allegories to transmit Principles of Morals and Ethics, destined to glorify, invoke, and obtain the protection of the Great Architect of the Universe. All this context is the Mysteries of Freemasonry, which are communicated through the Masonic Ritual. The Ritual has proven to be an efficient method of transmitting these mysteries in their various degrees, which has endured for more than two centuries.

The question is, where did the Ritual originate? Different origins are speculated such as that they descend from the workers of King Solomon's Temple, the Crusader guilds of the Middle Ages, and the enlightenment in the Renaissance era. In the opinion of Sir Knight Jason Crowe¹, that would be the ancient pagan mysteries based on the conclusions of Albert Mackey in the 19th century. He dedicated himself to comparing different theories in his book entitled "The History of Freemasonry", in which he cites up to 12 different theories. Of all of them, due to the many common links, the Ritual of Freemasonry would be due to the great ritualistic mysteries of antiquity.

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VIEW FROM THE EAST (continued)

distracted from his own business ventures by the call of his country, Washington was a successful entrepreneur who believed whole heartedly in investing in the future of America.

Washington was in command of the entire Virginia Regiment in the French and Indian War when he was just 23 years old. At the onset of the French and Indian War, Washington joined General Edward Braddock's ill-fated mission to the Monongahela in 1755 as an aide-de-camp. This was by no means a shining moment in Washington's career. Washington warned Braddock that the guerrilla-style tactics used by the enemy would require a different approach to warfare. But Braddock ignored Washington's counsel and his forces were severely defeated. The General himself was mortally wounded when General Braddock fell. The men around him naturally turned to Washington, who organized the retreat and kept the army from disbanding. By the end of the battle, a large percentage of the English soldiers had fallen and Washington himself had four bullet holes in his coat and was on his third horse. Yet the young Virginian was an unquestionable hero; even in defeat, he was almost immediately appointed a colonel and given complete command of the Virginia Regiment Washington at just 23 years old, and off to an auspicious start in his military career.

Washington never went to college, but he was one of the most well-read and accomplished writers of all American presidents. Washington's father died when he was eleven years old. As the oldest son of a second wife, Washington discovered there was little money or time for him to attend a university. Instead, he became a surveyor at age 16 to help support his family. Still, Washington was a voracious reader, and he eventually assembled a personal library of some 900 books of all descriptions. He was also a prolific writer. At the age of 14, he copied down 110 rules of civility. Five decades later, he was still writing lengthy letters to governors, congressional leaders, and influential friends in support of our new government. Scholars at the University of Virginia are currently assembling the papers of George Washington and before the project is over, the editors expect to issue about 90 separate volumes. In an age before typewriters and word processors, Washington recognized the power of an old-fashioned quill pin.

In all likelihood, Washington could have been America's first king, but he turned down a crown. Scholars seem to agree that the most critical moment of Washington's military career came not during the war itself but at the close of the Revolutionary War. Many of Washington's officers were furious that they had not been properly paid or appreciated for their efforts in the Revolution. So they started to plan a second revolt this time against Congress. There was talk of placing Washington as King of a new nation. But Washington was not about to become a monarch like the one he had worked so hard to defeat. So he used his powers of persuasion to stop the revolt before it really started. Unlike successful leaders of past revolutions, Washington willfully and unconditionally surrendered his power just when it reached its apex. When many world leaders expected Washington to assume his rightful place as the leader of a new nation, he laid down his sword and took up his plow. Today we take our freedom so much for granted and accept democracy as so natural and so right that it is hard to imagine the importance of Washington's voluntary retirement. But in 1783 it was an earth-shattering event. The highly skeptical King George III, perhaps confident that Washington's retirement was some sort of scam, predicted that if the commander-in-chief gives up all his power and returns to his farm, he will be the "greatest man in the world". Just a few years later, when Napoleon lay on his deathbed defeated and forlorn, his last words were "they expected me to be another Washington". It was as if the people of France had expected the impossible – how could anyone live up to Washington's standards?

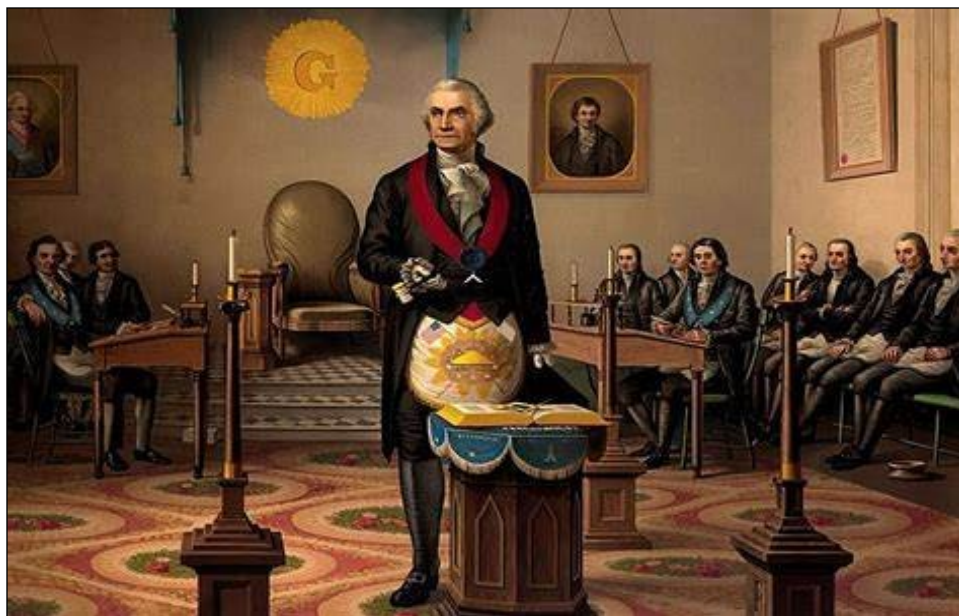
Washington was one of the wealthiest men in Virginia, but also one of the most frugal. After his father died when he was just 11 years old, Washington, his mother, and his siblings had to struggle to make ends meet. At the age of 16, Washington started work as a surveyor to help his mother cover the family expenses. Washington's fortunes changed after he inherited Mount Vernon from his older half-brother and he married the wealthy widow Martha Dandridge Custis. But throughout his life, he remembered the value of a dollar. When he needed a much larger home, he continued to add to a simple frame house instead of tearing down a perfectly good structure and starting from scratch. The staircase in the small original house was recycled when the house was expanded, to serve as the access to the garret. When the Revolutionary War started, he purchased a used traveling trunk, much like you or I would at a yard sale today, and placed his family brass nameplate directly on top of the last owner's initials. He was always pressing his farm managers and slaves to recycle old materials, and to use fallen wood from the forests rather than cut down trees. A stickler for detail, Washington once calculated that a bushel of timothy seeds would include on average 13,410,000 kernels. Washington died a wealthy man because he believed in his friend Benjamin Franklin's edict, "a penny save is a penny earned".

Washington owned slaves, but at the end of his life he was against slavery. Washington became a slave owner at the age of 11. He inherited about ten slaves at the death of his father; by the time he died, Washington and his wife owned more than 300. Yet over the course of 50 years, Washington's opinions about the institution of slavery changed dramatically. His travels North taught him that agriculture could be carried out successfully without slave labor, and he witnessed young African Americans fighting fiercely for the colonists' cause in the Revolution. Unlike most of the founding fathers who owned slaves, Washington freed his slaves in his last will and testament and set aside funds to help them begin a new life. He wrote on several occasions that he was opposed to slavery noting that "there is not a man living who wishes more than I do, to see a plan adopted for the abolition of it."

Washington's teeth were not made from wood, but they were definitely false. Lots of people were "dentally challenged" in the 18th century and because there were far fewer methods to prevent decay than we have today, few adults possessed a full set of pearly whites. It seems that Washington tried to crack walnuts with his teeth when he was a teenager, and not long after they began to loosen and fall out. Washington's dental problems were clearly evident by the time he reached his late twenties, when a fellow soldier noted that Washington's "mouth is large and generally firmly closed, but...from time to time disclosed some defective teeth." Although Washington followed the advice of contemporary dentists, using dental powders and a toothbrush remarkably similar to our own, his dental dilemma persisted. In the 1780s, a French dentist tried unsuccessfully to transplant teeth to Washington's mouth, and some evidence exists that several enterprising slaves at Mount Vernon sold their teeth for this experiment. By the time he took the oath of office as president, Washington was in full dentures, which produced a noticeable change in the appearance of his face, as well as a somewhat hollow and flat voice. Despite legends to the contrary, Washington's false teeth were not constructed from wood. Teeth were carved from the larger teeth of animals such as cows or in some cases, from ivory tusks. They were then attached to a metal frame, fitted with tiny springs. Washington tried several different pairs of dentures, but always complained that they were ill-fitting.

Washington was in the midst of many savage battles, but he was never hit by a bullet or touched by a sword. Washington's life was full of "near misses". Although he was often in the forefront of chaotic battles where many men fell dead and wounded, Washington was never injured. He also survived bouts of malaria, a severe case of smallpox, typhoid fever, a slight case of tuberculosis, two near-fatal encounters with the flu, and a serious case of pneumonia. An infection in his leg nearly took his life. Fortunately, Washington faced each of these trials with courage and determination. It may simply be luck or coincidence that the Father of our Country came so close to death, both on the battlefield and from illness on so many different occasions, but a better explanation may be inscribed opposite George Washington's portrait on the dollar bill. The words "In God We Trust" were exceedingly meaningful to George Washington. -- by James C. Rees

Brotherly Love,
Douglas W. Arps, Jr. "DJ", WM





THE MASONIC RITUAL AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ANCIENT MYSTERIES (continued)

Ancient mysteries were composed of various initiation rituals, which were practiced throughout the ancient world, they were of a religious nature, including the exoteric and esoteric aspects – the former was for the common people and the latter was hidden and reserved for a select group of initiates. The ancient Egyptian mysteries seem to have been the common origin that migrated to other regions and adapted to local beliefs.

The mystery of Osiris, of Egyptian origin, is one of the most elaborate. Legend describes Osiris as a benevolent ruler, victim of betrayal that caused his death. His Queen Isis undertook a long search and managed to discover the body of Osiris far from her Kingdom. She returned with him to Egypt where he was received with great celebration and was resurrected and turned into a God. This legend is the origin of the mysteries of Osiris which was administered by a powerful Priestly Caste. These ceremonies were of great symbolism and were communicated in three stages or degrees: the first of them called The Lesser Mysteries of Isis, the aspirant was prepared under a special diet, with abstention from immodest acts and an irreproachable life, introduced to the study of the laws of nature and to the cycles of life and death.

The second degree, the great mysteries that consisted of the so-called “Mysteries of Serapis”, little is known about the mysteries of Serapis. It is possible that in this the experiences of Osiris on the verge of death before his resurrection were communicated.

In the mystery of Osiris, which would be the Third Degree, the aspirant attains perfection and knowledge of the Dogma of life after death and finally resurrection. All the above happened in the most dramatic way possible. It is known that important personages from other nations such as Herodotus, Plutarch, and Pythagoras were initiated into these mysteries of Osiris. Crowe¹ again quotes Albert Mackey, who claimed that this was the seed that eventually spread to Greece and Rome and led to the adoption of similar methods in the practices adopted in the local pantheons.

The Mithraic Mysteries

The foundation or legend of these mysteries is based on the God Mithra of Indo-Persian origin, later adopted by the Romans, as the patron of the cult of Mithra or Mithraic mysteries, 100 years BC. He was depicted as a young Sun God, brandishing a dagger that he plunges into the neck of a bull, at the same time a dog licks the blood. The symbolism is described as Mithra’s rays penetrating the earth like the dagger that provides food for life represented by the dog¹.

The authors describe in initiation tests of these mysteries as fearful and intimidating of the ancient world, the aspirants were subjected to seven stages or degrees that were communicated in secret caverns far from the profane. As the process progressed, the aspirants were anointed with oils, crowned with laurel branches, and equipped with magical armor for everything that would come after as the tests that evidenced their strength intensified, and which finally included symbolic death and resurrection.

At the conclusion of the tests the aspirant was led to a seventh cavern where he was brought before the Arch Magus and invested with the secret words, the oath and dogma of the Mithraic Mysteries that leads to perfection^{1 2}.

The Eleusian Mysteries

The legend of these mysteries originates with the Myth of Persephone and Demeter, Goddesses of the Greek Olympus¹. The myth refers to the abduction of Persephone, daughter of Demeter, by Hades, who took her to the underworld and took her as his wife. Demeter, goddess of the harvests, turned to Zeus to intervene on her behalf, thus managing to recover Persephone. Eleusinian mysteries apparently celebrated this myth as early as 1800 AD. According to Mackey² they were known as lesser mysteries and great mysteries.

In the lesser mysteries the aspirants were purified on the banks of the Illusis River and were participants in numerous rituals. They took the oath and prepared them for initiation. At the end of the year the elected were led in great procession from the plains of Trissia to the Temple of Demeter at Eleusis, where they completed their initiation into the Greater Mysteries of Eleusis. Those deemed fit entered the temple where they were indoctrinated in the drama of the mysteries consisting of descent, search and ascent, or restoration, representing the myth of Demeter and the recovery of Persephone.

Points of Agreement with Freemasonry

It is evident that there are points of coincidence between the ancient mysteries and those that are inculcated and practiced in the Masonic Ritual.

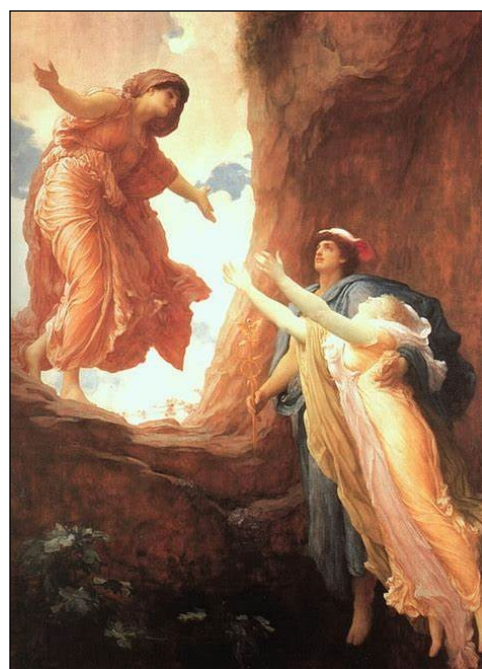
The mysteries of the ancient world were a magical religious nature intended to create a link between the earthly and heavenly, between the material and the spiritual, between the human and the divine, otherworldly powers were invoked. The structure of Masonic Rituals is intended to glorify, invoke, and obtain the concurrence of the Great Architect of the Universe, to enter a supernatural dimension in which its member can eventually access spiritual and moral development.

Albert Mackey² describes the following commonalities:

- The preparation, analogous to the Entered Apprentice Degree.
- The initiation, analogous to the Fellow Craft Degree.
- The perfection, analogous to the Master Mason degree.
- The secret character and oaths of secrecy.
- The use of symbols to inculcate values.
- The dramatic form or initiation.
- The division of progression into degrees or steps.
- The secret methods of recognition.

References:

1. Crowe, J. (2018), *Knight Templar, Volume LXIV, Number 5.*
2. Mackey, A. (1998), *The History of Freemasonry, New York, New York, Barnes and Nobel.*
3. Mackey, A. (2004), *A Lexicon of Freemasonry, New York, New York, Barnes and Nobel.*



STATED MEETING



We had a great turnout for our November Stated Meeting on November 14th! The members of Eastern Star provided a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner before the meeting as well. It was a great night overall!



It was a fun, cheerful night at our December Stated Meeting on December 12th! Several Brothers got into the festive holiday spirit!

DEGREE WORK



Congratulations to our newest EA, Brother Linus Bowden! Linus is the grandson of Brother Gene Bowden, Past Grand Patron for Arizona Grand Chapter of Eastern Star.

Congratulations to our newest FC, Brother Anthony Provaznik

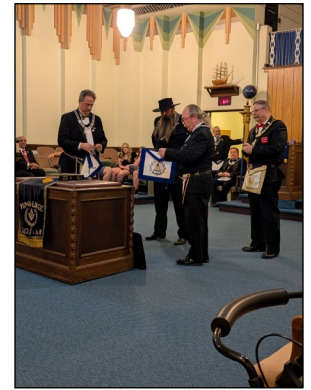


Several Brothers from Yuma Territorial Lodge 17 assisted Imperial Lodge in Imperial, CA in raising Brother Jorge Manzano to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The ceremony was held at the old Brawley Masonic Lodge building. Congratulations Brother!

Installation of Officers



Installation of Officers



Congratulations to Worshipful Master DJ Arps and the 2025 elected and appointed officers! It was a great day with lots of special guests. The Worshipful Master once again killed it with the food for the reception!



The Lodge was presented with some special gifts, including a new photo board for the Worshipful Masters of Yuma Territorial Lodge 17. WB DJ was also presented with his Past Master's apron.

MWB Michael Dale was chosen as the 2024 Mason of the Year for our Lodge. Congratulations Brother, it is a well deserved award!

Thank you to the Installing Officers and everyone who was able to attend. Here's to a great 2025!



STAR IN THE EAST

By Linda Neal, PM, Associate Matron

Greetings Everyone,

Happy New Year to you all! We are excited for the new year and all the good things to come!

We had a fun and festive time at our meeting on December 12th. Everyone dressed in their Christmas best, handed out goodies, and shared a wonderful Christmas dinner before the meeting. We also invited representatives from Wreaths Across America to receive our donation to their organization. Sister Ruth and the sheriff then went to one of the local cemeteries to lay wreaths on veterans' graves. Several members then traveled to Lake Havasu on December 18th to attend Friendship Night with Havasu Chapter #61.



Several of our Star Brothers have been traveling to various functions, both for Star and for the Masons. It's always great when our Yuma members can go around the state and represent our Chapter. It let's other people around the state know that the road "all the way to Yuma" goes both ways! Our Brothers have also been traveling with Brother Mike Dale in HIS travels as Grandmaster of the Grand Lodge of Arizona.

Our Chapter is busy getting ready for our Official Visit on Saturday, February 1st. Our theme will be the Old West, so we look forward to dressing the part! We love having visitors and showing off how amazing our Chapter is, and we especially love having our Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron come visit us! Speaking of visiting,

Sister Ruth has been busy visiting other Chapters around the state as part of her duties as Grand Conductress. She is bringing lots of cheer from Yuma and representing our Chapter as she goes up the line to becoming Worthy Grand Matron!

We are excited for our annual flower delivery for The Flower Mine coming up for Valentine's Day. We love bringing cheer to residents of Yuma and seeing the smiles and joy it brings! Seeing that makes all the driving worth it!

Upcoming birthdays:

- JANUARY – Antero "Doc" Trujillo (3rd); Bertha "Bert" Wagner (14th); Myrtle Bazzell (16th); Jay Learn (18th); Barbara Gier, PM (19th); Linda Gillis, PM (19th); Sean Godfrey (25th); Diane Grider, PM (26th); Eileen Whitmore (26th)
- FEBRUARY – Cynthia Johnson (2nd); Abbey Bowden (7th); Michael Dale, PP (7th); Cynthia Ray (18th); Tim Williams (24th); DJ Arps, PP (27th), Deb Learn (28th)

Until next time, if you know someone who isn't feeling well, would appreciate a phone call or card, or may need assistance running errands, please call Worthy Matron Sabrina Arps at (928) 246-6580 (or any Chapter member) to let her know. We hope to see everyone's smiling faces at our meetings. Eastern Star members are welcome to visit our meetings, so if you know of some visiting, please invite them! Take care and be safe!

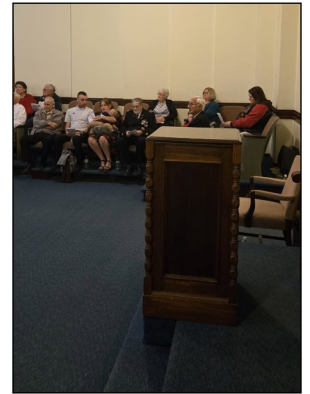


YUMA CHAPTER NO. 14, ORDER of the EASTERN STAR

The meetings are held the SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAY of each month, September through June. All members are welcome. A light meal is served at 6:00pm, followed by our meeting promptly at 7:00pm. Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please call the Lodge at (928) 783-7993.

YORK RITE HAPPENINGS

Yuma Commandery #10 held their annual Christmas Observance on December 16th. Reverend Dr. Austin Mansfield from Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church lead everyone in scripture and a wonderful sermon. It was a beautiful service! Thank you to everyone who attended!



Masonic Anniversaries

When you became a Master Mason

JANUARY

Donald Beaton	Wilbert Orem, Jr.
Ernest Cunningham	Menelaos Patsiouras
Vernon Dugan	Robert Payne
Carl Greenwell	Maurice Peters
David Johnson	Gary Stigall
Mark Jones	William Treherne
Jay Learn	Jeremy Voorhies
David McBride	Leon Wilmot
Mark Melton	

FEBRUARY

Jesus Barraza	Robert Lehl, Jr.
Chris Dempsey	Kelly McDowell
Bob Dennis, PM	Freeman Mitchell, Jr.
Randall Gaetz	Richard Ruzanka, PM
Robert Gordon III	Merritt Thomas
Glen Harris	Daniel Weddle
Harold Hawes	Mikel White, PM
Travis Kniss	

***** ATTENTION *****

Deadline for the March/April 2025 Trestleboard is

FEBRUARY 20TH

***** ATTENTION *****

PUBLISHER'S CORNER

If there is anything you would like to see in the Trestleboard or have any suggestions, please feel free to let me know! If you see any corrections that need to be addressed, please let me know those as well so they can be corrected. If you attend an event, don't forget to take pictures and submit them, either to me or on the Yuma Lodge Facebook page. Take care and stay safe!

Sincerely,
Sabrina Arps



COMMITTEES

MASTER'S PROGRAMS

Audit

Worshipful Master

Budget

Worshipful Master

By-Laws

Mike Kofta, PM, DDGL

Benjamin Hinderer, PM

Cemetery Clean-up

Trustees

Facilities Maintenance

Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

Timothy Williams, PM, DDGM

Funeral

Worshipful Master

Grievance

Michael A. Dale, PM

Library/Archives

Benjamin Vik

Masonic Education & Ritual

Mike Kofta, PM, DDGL

Timothy Williams, PM, DDGM

Michael A. Dale, PM, MWGM

Masonic Relief

Worshipful Master

Master's Advisory

Michael A. Dale, PM, MWGM

Timothy W. Williams, PM, DDGM

Wives, Widows, and Orphans

Michael Kofta, PM

Brad Hamner

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Candidate Instruction

Michael Kofta, PM, DDGL

Officer Instruction

Michael Kofta, PM, DDGL

FUNDRAISING

Chairman – Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

Brad Hamner

Barbeque

Brad Hamner

Trustees

Midnight at the Oasis

Worshipful Master

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Bikes for Books

Brad Hamner

Public Schools

Brad Hamner

Michael Kofta, PM

Roadside Clean-up

Ira Hearen, Jr.

MEMBERSHIP RELATIONS/FRATERNAL SUPPORT

Birthday Cards

Benjamin Hinderer

Facebook

Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

Mason of the Year

SW & JW

Membership Participation/Retention

Worshipful Master

Sickness and Distress

Antero Trujillo

Telephone Calling

Michael Kofta, PM

Trestleboard

Sabrina Arps, Publisher

Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

Website

Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

Wills and Bequests

TBD





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