

Newsletter Issue No. 04 April, 2022

# The Trestle Board



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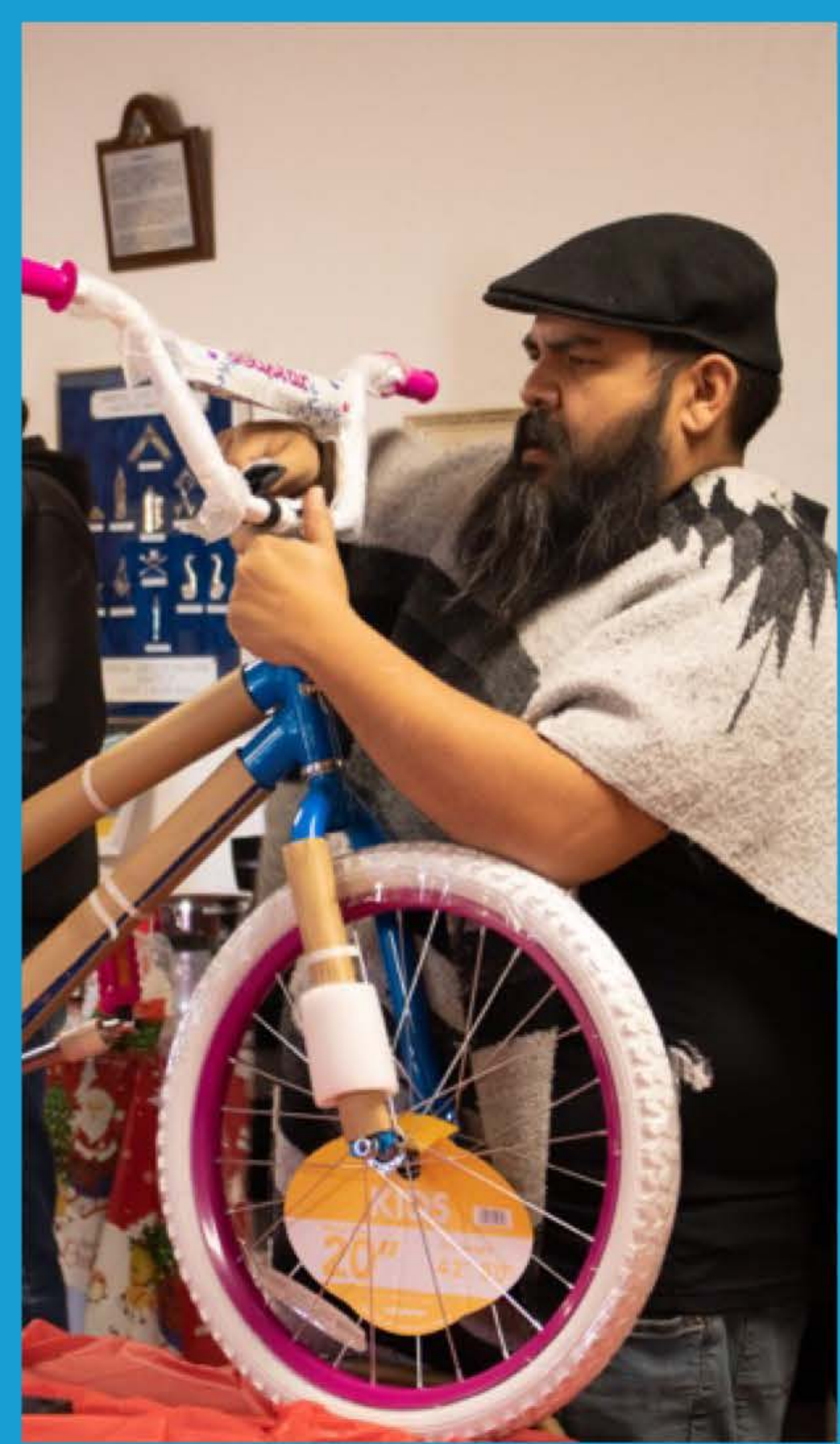
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# Bikes for Books Build Day



**HELLO BRETHREN!  
THIS YEAR'S BIKES FOR  
BOOKS PROGRAM HAD A GREAT  
KICKOFF THIS YEAR  
FOR OUR BUILDING TEAM!  
NOT ONLY DID WE  
HAVE MANY BROTHERS SHOW  
UP TO HELP BUILD, BUT WE  
ALSO HAD MAYOR  
HULL STOP IN A HELP  
BUILD SOME BIKES.  
IN COMPARISON  
TO YEARS PAST ON BUILDS, THIS  
YEAR WE WERE FAST,  
EFFICIENT AND HAD ALL THE  
BIKES DONE WITHIN ONLY A  
COUPLE OF HOURS.  
THANK YOU EVERYONE WHO  
CAME AND HELPED US GET  
THE BIKES READY FOR  
THE RIO RANCHO  
SCHOOLS, AS WELL THANK YOU  
BRETHREN FOR PROVIDING  
REFRESHMENTS FOR OUR BROTHERS  
WORKING HARD THAT DAY.**





<https://brickmasons.com/blogs/masonic-education/the-masonic-mosaic-pavement>

# The Masonic Mosaic Pavement

Presented By: Bro. Tyler McKenzie SW

The flooring of Masonic Lodges is usually made of a mosaic pavement. A mosaic pavement consists of several stones of mixed colors joined together in a pattern to imitate a painting. Italians call this *musaico* while the French people called it *mosaïque*. In English, it is called *mosaics*. Some historians have it that Moses used a mosaic pavement for the flooring of the tabernacle. The Masonic tradition also corroborates this as it is believed that King Solomon's Temple was decorated with a Masonic pavement consisting of black and white stones. There is no substantial evidence to actually support this. Some historians have it that the outside courts were also covered with the Mosaic flooring.

John 19:13 "When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha."

The word 'pavement' mentioned in the above passage is 'Gabbatha' in Hebrew. This is in the original *Lithostroton* which was used to connote a mosaic pavement by Pliny. The Greek and Hebrew words for this meant a pavement made with several ornamental stones which we now refer to as a Mosaic pavement. So, it is very likely that the mentioned part of the Temple was decorated with mosaic stones like a Mosaic pavement. In the Talmud, we were told that there is a Mosaic pavement in the Conclave where the Grand Sanhedrin held meetings.

In Masonic history, the floor has traditionally been a Mosaic pavement like that of the Temple. The mosaic pavement is a symbolism of the Masonic Order. The Masonic pavement is met with the rituals of the 18th century, and it is classified as one of the Lodge ornaments along with the blazing star and the indented tassel. The black and white stones represent good and evil.

## INDENTED TASSEL

In Masonic Lodges of the 18th century, Lodge furniture consisted of the Mosaic pavement, the Masonic Blazing Star and the Masonic indented tassel or tarsel as it was called in the old days. The Masonic tassel also refers to a Tessellated Border. Some used this to signify a Trestle-Board. In the French and English versions of the First Degree Tracing Boards, we have four tassels at each angle which are all connected to a cord that surrounds a tracing board. This makes up the true tessellated border. The four tassels that surround the tracing board refer to the four major points which are Pedal, Pectoral, Guttural and Manual. These points signify the four cardinal values of Justice, Fortitude, Prudence and Temperance.

Num 15:38 Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue:

Num 15:39 And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring:

The indented tassel is a sign of beautiful tessellated skirting or border that surrounds the ground floor of King Solomon's Temple.

It is called "die Schnur von starken Faden," by the Germans which means the cord of strong threads. The Germans describe it as a border that surrounds the tracing-board of the Entered Apprentice degree with a cord tied in a lover's knot and has a termination of two tassels at both ends. It is also called "la houpe dentelee," by the French people which is a cord that forms true-lover knots and surrounds the tracing-board.

The tessellated border consists of 60 threads in Ancient Masonic jurisdictions as some lodges were not allowed to have more than 60 members in those old days.

In America, the tessellated border is not seen as a cord. Instead, the tessellated border is a decorated part of the Mosaic pavement, and it is made of small square stones.

## SYMBOLIC MEANING OF THE MASONIC PAVEMENT

The Masonic Pavement is a symbol of the fraternal bond that unites Freemasons. In French Masonic ritual, the Masonic mosaic pavement teaches Freemasons that they are part of a society that surrounds the earth and that the cords that bond Freemasons together should be tighter. The Masonic pavement is a symbolism of the care of providence that surrounds us and keeps us protected while we live our lives uprightly as guided by the four cardinal values of justice temperance, prudence and fortitude. It is a symbol of the comforts and blessings that surround us and a teaching that we should rely on the Divine Providence of God.



*Congratulations  
Brother Bill Welchel  
and  
Welcome to the Fraternity*

# The Key to Solomon's Key - a book review

By Bro. Burx Norrod

When going through the quarries of Masonic knowledge as newly minted speculative Freemasons - we become exposed to King Solomon's Temple in various ways - and get further explained in our lectures, as well as Q&A. With this - we come to understand that Lodges are representations of King Solomon's Temple ... and we're using these working tools to symbolically build this ... building not made with hands. NUMEROUS explanations can be had over this ... one where we could learn that WE are King Solomon's Temple ... and we use the working tools to implant in our subconscious minds how to go about living our lives.

You can imagine how an inquisitive mind would want to go about learning even more about who King Solomon was, and about the Temple he ended up building. As such - I got my hands on many books and other material that helped me to better understand all of this ... and the exposure of these two books: The Testament of Solomon and The Key to Solomon's Key.

Before I digress ... I have to point out that the 'Masonic Bible' that is given to a candidate is one that is of the Protestant's King James Version. There are a few reasons why this is done due to its history - but some reasons I find to be unsubstantiated - such as Sir Francis Bacon, a Freemason, had influence over the editing of this version of the Bible. The beautiful Bible Presentation Lecture I've heard time and time again also notes this volume of sacred law to consist of 66 books. However - any biblical scholar or elementary google search will let you know that the Catholic version of the bible has 73. At any rate - these books were those selected by the leading religious authorities of the time to support their dogmas ... reason why other books have been left out - that would have contradicted various teachings - to include the Testament of Solomon

The Testament of Solomon isn't a very long read ... but provides a version of how King Solomon's Temple was built, well recognized in the Islamic world, but not recognized in the Christian or Jewish religions, and probably for good reason - as it speaks to how King Solomon himself obtained a ring ... and with it was able to communicate with animals and control demons. A total of 72 with that measure ... and is further outlined in that book - as well as in the book the Lesser Key of Solomon. I found that these 72 entities are layers of our own consciousness if not taken literally, and once being able to understand these 72, we understand more about who we are as beings, and are elevated to our 'higher selves', and no longer do we have to go about 'chasing our demons', as they say.

This is what had perhaps taken me on that journey into the rabbit hole of the abyss ... and gave me a mind-blowing experience - as not only did it get me digging deeper into who King Solomon was - but more importantly - the Temple itself ... and to find out, there is NO historical evidence that he or the Temple actually ever existed!

Question Everything. This has been my mantra with going about most things in life ... and more especially with our Fraternity that has been described as a 'peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegories, and illustrated by symbols'. Wanting to know who came up with our rituals, and why, has always been an interest of mine ... as it has helped me to better understand the Craft as it exists today.

# The Key to Solomon's Key - a book review continued

By Bro. Burx Norrod

Many Freemasons have books by Albert Pike ... more especially Scottish Rite Masons, with Albert Pike's book *Morals & Dogma*, but like the Holy Bible - makes me wonder how many actually take the time to read it, page by page, chapter by chapter. On page 804 of this esoteric book - it states, "The Hermetic science of the early Christian ages, cultivated also by the Arabs, studied by the Chiefs of the Templars, and embodied in certain symbols of the higher Degrees of Freemasonry, may be accurately defined as the Kabbalah in active realization, or the Magic of Works".

In this book *Key to Solomon's Key*, Bro. Lon lists the 7 Secrets of Solomon. This chapter alone would be reason enough to get the book in my humble opinion. He recaps the Masonic story of Solomon in these regards, personifying the spectrum of consciousness:

- God at the top - the Great Architect of the Universe.
- Solomon (and his fellow Grand Masters) in the middle, and at the bottom
  - The Workmen on the Temple

Once these groups are all in place and functioning, it paints a picture of a universe in balance, spiritual utopia where everyone is working under direction and supervision to raise themselves and their inferiors to the next higher level. These layers of consciousness show us that in our unenlightened state, we are mere creatures living and dying on the factory floor. When we open our eyes however, we discover that we are higher up on this chain ... at least in this middle chamber - feared by the spirits and demons who will do our bidding when called upon.

We are Solomon

If I blew your mind with this - get the book. If you think this is BS, get the book. If you have any inkling of a question as to why we say "at Jerusalem" in the very first answer of our EA Proficiency, get the book. Bottom line is - get the book, as it may help answer some of your questions as you proceed through your Masonic journey.

This book by Brother Lon Milo Duquette is available on Amazon.

Scientia Est Potentia!

Burx Norrod /G\





# UPCOMING EVENTS

4/2 - WIDOW'S SONS MEETING

4/6 - PRACTICE FOR THE EA DEGREE

4/10 - PRACTICE FOR THE EA DEGREE

4/11 - EA DEGREE

4/27 - MSCLD FUNDRAISER DINNER

FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT THE GROUP IN CHARGE FOR THE EVENT OR REFER TO "YOUR WEEKLY MASONIC UPDATE" EMAILS.