

SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF & AM

APRIL

TRESTLEBOARD



**A:L:
6025**

2025 ELECTED LODGE OFFICERS

MASTER

BURX NORROD

CALL OR TEXT: (208) 571-9705
BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM

SENIOR WARDEN

JOHN KEEL

CALL OR TEXT: (505) 358-6224
K_JOHN87@YAHOO.COM

JUNIOR WARDEN

BILL WHELCHER

CALL OR TEXT: (505) 980-5545

SECRETARY

EUGENE MORSE, PM

CALL OR TEXT: (505) 527-7998

TREASURER

TIM DONOVAN, RWB

TIM@TAXHELPRR.COM



SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76

**1420 BARBARA LOOP SE
RIO RANCHO, NM 87124**

**MEETS ON THE 2ND & 4TH
MONDAY OF EACH MONTH
LODGE OPENS AT 7:00 PM
FESTIVEBOARD AT 6:00PM
(\$10 CASH OR \$11 CARD)**

**VISITORS: TO RSVP EMAIL
BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM**

PRESENTATIONS IN APRIL!!



**JPL Presenting: Approaching the Middle Chamber
The Seven Liberal Arts & Sciences and the Western Esoteric Tradition**

Sandoval Lodge No. 76

April 14 @ 7:00pm

Festiveboard @ 6:00pm

Open to Fellowcrafts and Master Masons only

To RSVP - email BurxNorrod@gmail.com

THEN ON APRIL 28TH - BRO. WALEED PRESENTS!



*Freemasonry In The Middle East &
A Family Legacy
By Brother Waleed Ashoo*



**PRESENTATION BY BRO. WALEED WILL BE PRECEDED
BY AN IRAQI CUISINE**

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FROM THE EAST

AS WE FIND OURSELVES ALREADY A QUARTER OF THE WAY THROUGH THE YEAR, I WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO EXTEND MY HEARTFELT THANKS TO EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR UNWAVERING DEDICATION AND EFFORTS IN HELPING OUR LODGE RUN SMOOTHLY AND EFFICIENTLY.

IN JUST THESE PAST FEW MONTHS, WE'VE HELD SIX STATED COMMUNICATIONS AND SEVERAL SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS, EACH ONE BUILDING UPON OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO LIGHT AND THE CRAFT.

I'M ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN ENSURING THAT MASONIC EDUCATION AND RITUAL WORK HAVE REMAINED CENTRAL PILLARS OF OUR GATHERINGS. BY ALLOWING COMMITTEES TO HANDLE BUSINESS OUTSIDE OF THE STATED COMMUNICATIONS, AND BY CONSISTENTLY HOLDING MONTHLY ZOOM OFFICER MEETINGS, WE'VE

STAYED FOCUSED ON WHAT TRULY UNITES US—BECOMING BETTER MEN AND MASONS.

THIS YEAR, WE'VE BEEN FORTUNATE TO HOST SEVERAL EXCEPTIONAL MASONIC SCHOLARS, AND THAT MOMENTUM CONTINUES. THIS MONTH, WE WELCOME WORSHIPFUL BROTHER JAIME PAUL LAMB, FOLLOWED BY A PRESENTATION FROM OUR VERY OWN BROTHER WALEED, OUR LODGE TYLER. IT BRINGS ME GREAT JOY TO SEE OUR MEMBERS STEPPING FORWARD WITH EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS. BROTHER LOGAN JEFFERS, OUR CHAPLAIN, SET A GREAT EXAMPLE WITH HIS TALK ON THE HISTORY OF THE LODGE CHAPLAIN, REMINDING US ALL THAT THE BEST WAY TO LEARN IS OFTEN TO TEACH.

IF ANY BROTHER WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A PRESENTATION—WHETHER IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM FROM AFAR—PLEASE LET ME KNOW YOUR TOPIC AND THE MONTH YOU'D LIKE TO PRESENT. I TRULY LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING YOUR INSIGHTS AND PERSPECTIVES.

THAT SAID, THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH TIME IN THE DAY TO FOCUS ON THE CRAFT, AND EACH MASTER NATURALLY EMPHASIZES CERTAIN AREAS DURING THEIR YEAR IN THE EAST. MY FOCUS HAS BEEN ON MASONIC EDUCATION AND RITUAL WORK. IF ANY BROTHER HAS OTHER INTERESTS OR PASSIONS THEY'D LIKE TO SEE THE LODGE INVOLVED IN, I WHOLEHEARTEDLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO JOIN A COMMITTEE ALREADY WORKING ON THAT INITIATIVE. AND IF SUCH A COMMITTEE DOESN'T YET EXIST—LET ME KNOW, AND WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO SUPPORT YOU IN GETTING IT STARTED.

WHILE I'M DEEPLY COMMITTED TO OUR LODGE, I ALSO CARRY THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF MY VOCATION AS A MORTGAGE BROKER AND AM INVOLVED IN OTHER ACTIVITIES BEYOND FREEMASONRY. FOR THAT REASON, I CAN ONLY TAKE ON SO MUCH PERSONALLY. BUT I REMAIN FULLY SUPPORTIVE OF ANY WORTHY MASONIC IDEAL THAT INSPIRES A BROTHER TO STEP FORWARD AND BRING SOMETHING NEW TO LIFE WITHIN OUR LODGE.

**LET US CONTINUE TO LABOR TOGETHER IN HARMONY, WITH PURPOSE AND PASSION, AS WE WORK TO
BUILD THE INNER TEMPLE /G**

***SINCERELY & FRATEERNALLY,*
W:.M:. BURX NORROD**

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FROM THE SOUTH,

BRETHREN IT IS A PLEASURE SERVING THE LODGE AND SITTING IN THE SOUTH. I AM SETTLING INTO MY NEW POSITION AND LOOK FORWARD TO CONFERRING MY FIRST EA DEGREE SOON.

IN ADDITION TO SERVING MEALS AT OUR REGULAR STATED MEETINGS, I WOULD LIKE TO HOST A SEAFOOD BOIL AND POSSIBLY OTHER BENEFIT DINNERS THAT THE FUNDS COULD GO TOWARDS LANDSCAPING OUR FRONT AREA AND BUILDING A COURTYARD WALL FOR PRIVACY. I WOULD PROPOSE TAKING OUT THE GRAVEL THAT IS CURRENTLY THERE AND INSTALLING CONCRETE OR PAVERS. THIS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COURTYARD WALL WOULD MAKE A NICE PRIVATE

PLACE TO SIT IN THE SUMMER EVENINGS AND ENJOY FELLOWSHIP AFTER LODGE. THIS IS SOMETHING I PLAN TO BRING UP IN THE LODGE FOR DISCUSSION.

I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE RW BROTHER LARRY MIKKELSEN ON HIS NEW POSITION OF DDGM OF DISTRICT #4. BROTHER SW JOHN KEEL AND I HAD THE DISTINCT PLEASURE OF TRAVELING WITH HIM ON HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO TEMPLE 6. IT WAS GREAT TO VISIT TEMPLE 6 AGAIN. THEY SERVED A GREAT MEAL PRIOR TO THE MEETING, AND WE ENJOYED TIME IN THEIR LOUNGE AND SITTING ON THE PATIO AFTERWARDS.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MY TWO STEWARDS, BROTHER KIRK AND BROTHER BENJAMIN, FOR THEIR GREAT WORK AT OUR STATED MEETINGS MAKING SURE ALL THE BROTHERS ARE FED AND CLEANING UP AFTERWARDS. THEY MAKE MY JOB AS JW EASY, AND I APPRECIATE THEM VERY MUCH.

**BILL WHELCHER
JUNIOR WARDEN**

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CONGRATULATIONS BROTHER KENNETH ON BEING PASSED TO THE DEGREE OF FELLOWCRAFT AND THOSE WHO CAME OUT TO MAKE IT HAPPEN AT THE SPECIAL COMMUNICATION HELD ON MARCH 31ST!

THIS IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN YOUR MASONIC JOURNEY IS A TESTAMENT TO THE DEDICATION, INTEGRITY, AND UPRIGHT CHARACTER YOU HAVE CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATED. YOUR PAST BEHAVIOR AND REGULAR DEPARTMENT HAVE TRULY MERITED THE HONOR WHICH HAS NOW BEEN CONFERRED UPON YOU.

AS YOU CONTINUE TO ADVANCE IN LIGHT AND UNDERSTANDING, MAY THE LESSONS OF THE FELLOWCRAFT DEGREE INSPIRE DEEPER REFLECTION, GREATER PERSONAL GROWTH, AND AN EVEN STRONGER BOND WITH YOUR BROTHERS.

WELL DONE, BROTHER FREEMAN – AND ONWARD IN STRENGTH, BEAUTY, AND WISDOM.



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CONGRATULATIONS TO BRO. KIRK BENSON!

SANDOVAL MASONIC LODGE PROUDLY CONGRATULATES BROTHER KIRK BENSON ON COMPLETING THE MASTER CRAFTSMAN COURSE ON THE SYMBOLIC LODGE—A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT IN MASONIC EDUCATION!

THIS COURSE, OFFERED BY THE SCOTTISH RITE, EXPLORES THE HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, AND EVOLVING SYMBOLISM OF BLUE LODGE MASONRY, HELPING PARTICIPANTS GAIN A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CRAFT'S FOUNDATION AND THE MEANINGS BEHIND ITS RITUALS AND TEACHINGS.

TO HONOR THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT, BRO. BENSON WAS PRESENTED WITH A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION AND THE DISTINGUISHED MASTER CRAFTSMAN PIN, FEATURING THE SYMBOL OF THE REBIS, REPRESENTING THE UNION OF OPPOSITES AND THE HARMONY SOUGHT BY EVERY MASON.

WE COMMEND BROTHER BENSON'S COMMITMENT TO FURTHERING HIS MASONIC KNOWLEDGE AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE IN THE PURSUIT OF LIGHT.

WELL DONE, BROTHER!



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MARCH FILLED WITH LIGHT: PRESENTATIONS FROM MWB ROBERT G. DAVIS AND BRO. LOGAN JEFFERS

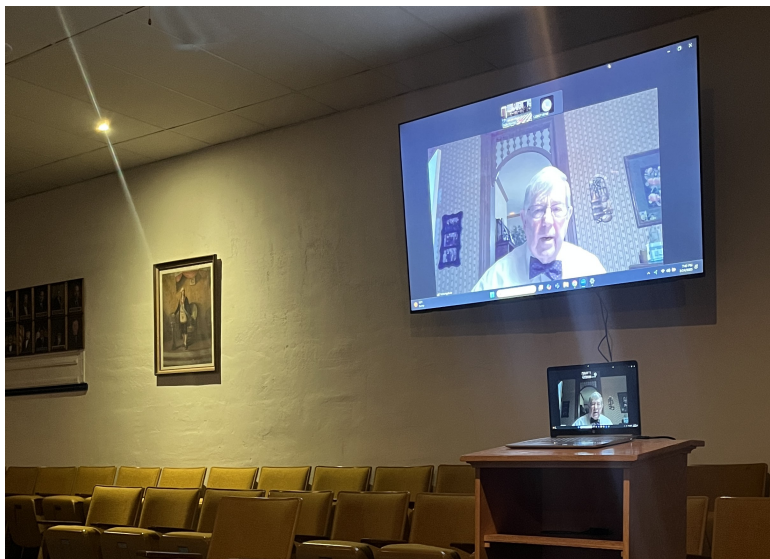
MARCH PROVED TO BE A TRULY ENLIGHTENING MONTH FOR OUR LODGE, AS BOTH OF OUR STATED COMMUNICATIONS WERE GRACED WITH THOUGHT-PROVOKING AND EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS THAT LEFT BRETHREN INSPIRED AND DEEPLY ENGAGED.

THE MONTH WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY A FANTASTIC ZOOM PRESENTATION BY MOST WORSHIPFUL BROTHER ROBERT G. DAVIS, RENOWNED MASONIC AUTHOR AND SCHOLAR. HIS TALK FOCUSED ON THE HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF MASONIC RITUAL, DRAWING FROM THE RESEARCH IN HIS WELL-KNOWN BOOK, *THE MASON'S WORDS*. MWB DAVIS MASTERFULLY CONNECTED THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RITUAL WITH THE PHILOSOPHICAL DEPTH BEHIND ITS STRUCTURE, SYMBOLISM, AND SIGNIFICANCE. HIS INSIGHTS SPARKED MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION AND REMINDED US OF THE RICHNESS AND DEPTH OF OUR TRADITION.

ADDING TO THE LIGHT, BROTHER LOGAN JEFFERS, OUR LODGE CHAPLAIN, DELIVERED A WONDERFUL PRESENTATION ON THE HISTORY AND ROLE OF THE LODGE CHAPLAIN. BRO. JEFFERS EXPLORED HOW THIS ROLE HAS EVOLVED OVER TIME, ITS IMPORTANCE IN BOTH SPIRITUAL AND FRATERNAL CONTEXTS, AND THE WAY IT ENHANCES THE MASONIC EXPERIENCE. HIS THOUGHTFUL REFLECTIONS BROUGHT NEW APPRECIATION TO A ROLE SOMETIMES OVERLOOKED, YET CENTRAL TO THE LODGE'S SPIRITUAL TONE AND WELL-BEING.

WITH THESE TWO POWERFUL PRESENTATIONS, BOTH OF OUR MARCH STATED COMMUNICATIONS WERE TRULY FILLED WITH LIGHT. IT'S A JOY TO SEE BRETHREN SEEKING, SHARING, AND SPREADING KNOWLEDGE—AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THIS TRADITION OF MASONIC EDUCATION IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

MWB ROBERT G. DAVIS ON LEFT,
BRO. LOGAN JEFFERS ON RIGHT



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JOE ROGAN: KIDS WISH NETWORK RAISED \$127 MILLION... ONLY 2.5% WENT TO KIDS

"Kids Wish Network.

Look at this.

They raised 127 million.

They paid the solicitors 109 million, and they spent percentage on direct cash aid to the actual kids as 2.5%. 2.5%.

Look at the Cancer Fund of America. Less than 1% went to the actual thing."

DID YOU KNOW?

QUITE A FEW CHARITIES HAVE RECENTLY SHOWN THAT LESS THAN 3% OF FUNDING ACTUALLY GOES TO THE CAUSE ITSELF.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE TO AN ORGANIZATION WHERE 100% OF YOUR CONTRIBUTION GOES DIRECTLY TO THE RECIPIENTS OF CHARITY—AN INITIATIVE BORN OUT OF SANDOVAL MASONIC LODGE TO SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES—

VISIT:

WWW.MSCLD.ORG

EVERY DOLLAR TRULY MAKES A DIFFERENCE.



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WIDOWS SONS 'SONS OF LIGHT' UPDATE

BY BROTHER STUART MILES

WINTER WEATHER RARELY COOPERATES WITH MOTORCYCLE RIDING EFFORTS AND ESPECIALLY MARCH WINDS SANDBLASTING EVERYTHING DOESN'T HELP. MOST OF THE WIDOWS SONS ACTIVITY HAS BEEN MONTHLY MEETINGS

ALSO THE OCCASIONAL RIDING BY BROTHERS HERE AND THERE TO KEEP ACTIVE. LIKE PRES HEY FE AND VP KIDD TAKING A QUICK RIDE TO JEMEZ. I SASQUATCH HELPED SPREAD THE LIGHT BY ATTENDING A CMA MEETING AND RIDE TO SANTA FE.

AND WE HAD OUR QUARTERLY MEETING WHERE WE ALSO PATCHED IN THREE NEW MEMBERS.

THEN WE HAD ANOTHER RIDE WITH ANOTHER MC TO SPREAD THE LIGHT

SUMMER RIDING WEATHER IS HERE AND MORE ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT IF YOU HAVE A MOTORCYCLE OF 500CC OR GREATER YOU ARE WELCOME TO RIDE ALONG WITH US!

"SONS OF LIGHT" CHAPTER IS BASED OUT OF RIO RANCHO, NM. DEDICATED TO CHARITY AND AIMS TO IDENTIFY AND SUPPORT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY NEEDS.

"SONS OF LIGHT" CHAPTER ALSO SUPPORTS MASONIC WIDOWS AND ORPHANS, AND PROMOTES FELLOWSHIP IN THE MOTORCYCLE WORLD.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL STUARTMILES8@GMAIL.COM



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THE WIDOWS SONS 'SONS OF LIGHT' IN ACTION!



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MORE FROM THE WIDOWS SONS 'SONS OF LIGHT' CHAPTER!



RIFLE RAFFLE



Up for raffle is an Aero Precision M4E1 5.56x45mm rifle. This is an excellent rifle for the seasoned professional, the enthusiast looking to add to their collection, or the beginner looking for a solid rifle to learn on. This rifle is chambered for 5.56x45mm or .223 rounds and comes with two 30-round magazines. It is optics ready and comes with Magpul Gen 3 Backup sights as well. The forend furniture is MLoc compatible and ready for accessories.

This raffle benefits Sandoval Masonic Lodge who's charitable events directly support children's education and families in Rio Rancho and throughout Sandoval County.

Only 400 tickets are available and the drawing will be held on May 30th 2025. The winner will be contacted and arrangements will be made with the winner to transfer the rifle. The winning ticket number will be formally announced not later than June 2, 2025.

To purchase tickets, use the QR Code below. A confirmation email will be sent to you within 24 hours confirming your ticket.

NOTE: All federal and state laws apply and the winner must be legally able to receive the rifle for them to receive it. If the winner is ineligible, a new ticket will be drawn.



High Tea Fundraiser

Proceeds will be donated to

100 Club of NM

This honorable organization assists families
of NM Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters who lose their lives in the line of duty.

Hosted by : Turquoise Chapter #71 OES

Sunday, June 29th at 2pm

*Temple Lodge #6
3801 Osuna RD NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109*

Tickets \$40 each or \$280 for Table of 8

Tickets are available for pre-sale only to ensure a quality of experience for all guests

Please purchase your tickets by June 15th

To make your reservation, please contact Michelle Morrison at 505.239.6827

To purchase tickets with a credit or debit card contact Trish Templeton at 505.400.4977

**Please Note there will be a 4% service charge to pay by card*

To pay by check mail your check to :

Turquoise Chapter #71

1380 Rio Rancho Blvd. #187, Rio Rancho, NM 87124

2025 CHARITY BACKYARD BBQ COMPETITION

SAN JUAN MASONIC LODGE #25 1020 NE AZTEC BLVD, AZTEC, NM 87410

MAY 18TH

**\$25 ENTRY FEE FOR
COMPETITORS (PER TEAM)**

**Cooks meeting at 6am.
Competition begins at 11am.**



CATEGORIES

RIBS

BONE-IN

CHICKEN THIGHS

BEANS

PEOPLES CHOICE

KIDS Q (13YRS

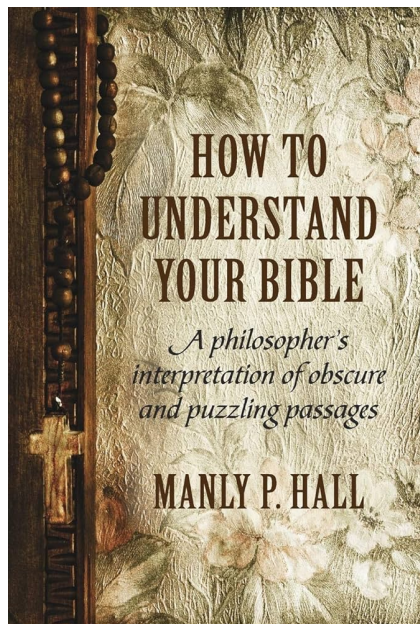
OLD AND

YOUNGER)

**FOR MORE INFO CONTACT JOSE BY EMAIL,
AT SANJUANLODGE25@GMAIL.COM OR
IN PERSON AT WHISKEY AND LACE
BARBER SHOP IN AZTEC. FULL RULES AND
ITINERARY CAN BE FOUND ON SAN JUAN
LODGE #25'S FACEBOOK PAGE.**

HOSTED BY SAN JUAN LODGE #25





***BOOK REVIEW: HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE
BY MANLY P. HALL***

BY BURX NORROD

"IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH."
— GENESIS 1:1

FOR FREEMASONS, THE BIBLE HOLDS A UNIQUE AND SACRED PLACE, NOT JUST AS A RELIGIOUS TEXT, BUT AS ONE OF THE THREE GREAT LIGHTS OF FREEMASONRY. ALONG WITH THE SQUARE AND THE COMPASSES, THE BIBLE ILLUMINATES THE PATH TO MORAL AND SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT. AS SUCH, UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE—ITS MESSAGES, ALLEGORIES, AND DEEPER MEANINGS—IS CENTRAL TO A MASON'S JOURNEY. MANLY P. HALL'S *HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE* PROVIDES AN INTELLECTUAL AND METAPHYSICAL GUIDE FOR THOSE SEEKING TO UNLOCK THE BIBLE'S PROFOUND WISDOM, OFFERING READERS A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THIS SACRED BOOK THAT IS SO INTEGRAL TO THE MASONIC EXPERIENCE.

OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK

IN *HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE*, HALL PROVIDES A HOLISTIC EXPLORATION OF THE BIBLE THAT MOVES BEYOND ITS LITERAL INTERPRETATIONS. HE PRESENTS THE BIBLE AS A TEXT WITH MULTIPLE LAYERS OF MEANING—HISTORICAL, ALLEGORICAL, AND SPIRITUAL—THAT CAN GUIDE THE INDIVIDUAL ON THEIR JOURNEY TO SELF-DISCOVERY AND ENLIGHTENMENT. HALL'S APPROACH RESONATES PARTICULARLY WITH MASONS, FOR WHOM THE BIBLE IS NOT JUST A MORAL GUIDE BUT A SPIRITUAL BEACON OF LIGHT. BY DELVING INTO ITS ESOTERIC TEACHINGS AND HIDDEN WISDOM, HALL SHOWS HOW THE BIBLE CAN BE UNDERSTOOD AS A KEY TO PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION AND UNDERSTANDING THE DIVINE.

THE BIBLE AS ONE OF THE THREE GREAT LIGHTS

FREEMASONRY TEACHES THAT THE BIBLE IS ONE OF THE THREE GREAT LIGHTS IN THE LODGE, THE OTHERS BEING THE SQUARE AND THE COMPASSES. THIS DESIGNATION UNDERSCORES THE BIBLE'S CENTRAL ROLE IN THE MORAL AND SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE OF A MASON. THE THREE GREAT LIGHTS SYMBOLIZE THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES BY WHICH MASONS ARE EXPECTED TO LIVE: TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND VIRTUE. THE BIBLE, IN PARTICULAR, SERVES AS THE SPIRITUAL COMPASS THAT DIRECTS THE MASON TOWARD THESE IDEALS, PROVIDING THE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH PERSONAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT TAKES PLACE.

HALL'S TREATMENT OF THE BIBLE EMPHASIZES ITS MULTIFACETED NATURE, WHICH IS ESPECIALLY RELEVANT FOR FREEMASONS WHO CONSIDER THE BIBLE AS A SOURCE OF BOTH PRACTICAL WISDOM AND SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT. AS HALL ILLUSTRATES, THE BIBLE'S MANY LAYERS OF MEANING GO FAR BEYOND SIMPLE HISTORY OR RELIGIOUS DOGMA, OFFERING UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLES THAT TRANSCEND TIME AND PLACE. THIS ALIGNS PERFECTLY WITH THE MASONIC JOURNEY, WHERE EACH STEP TAKEN IS GUIDED BY THE LIGHT OF WISDOM EMANATING FROM THE BIBLE.

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UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE IN A WORLD OF MANY VERSIONS

ONE OF THE BOOK'S KEY INSIGHTS IS THE IDEA THAT THE BIBLE IS MORE THAN JUST ONE VERSION OF A TEXT. TODAY, THERE ARE OVER 3,000 VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE IN EXISTENCE, WHICH CAN MAKE UNDERSTANDING THE ORIGINAL TEACHINGS A CHALLENGING TASK. HALL ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THESE MANY VERSIONS REFLECT DIFFERENT THEOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL, AND CULTURAL CONTEXTS, AND HE ENCOURAGES READERS TO APPROACH THE BIBLE WITH AN OPEN MIND, RECOGNIZING THE VARIETY OF INTERPRETATIONS AND TRANSLATIONS AVAILABLE.

FREEMASONS UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING ACCESS TO THE BIBLE IN A VERSION THAT RESONATES WITH THEIR PERSONAL BELIEFS AND UNDERSTANDING. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT WHEN CONSIDERING THE BIBLE'S ROLE IN THE LODGE. MOST LODGES USE THE PROTESTANT KING JAMES VERSION OF THE BIBLE, WHICH CONSISTS OF 66 BOOKS. THIS VERSION IS USED AS THE STANDARD IN MANY MASONIC CEREMONIES AND IS TYPICALLY PLACED ON THE ALTAR DURING LODGE MEETINGS.

HOWEVER, FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC MASONS, THIS POSES A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE. THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BIBLE INCLUDES 73 BOOKS, WITH ADDITIONAL TEXTS THAT ARE NOT PRESENT IN THE PROTESTANT VERSION. FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC MASONS, IT MIGHT SEEM APPROPRIATE TO CONSIDER REPLACING THE PROTESTANT KING JAMES BIBLE ON THE ALTAR WITH A VERSION THEY HOLD SACRED, SUCH AS THE NEW AMERICAN BIBLE, REVISED EDITION, WHICH CONTAINS THE FULL 73 BOOKS. THIS WOULD ENSURE THAT THE BIBLE BEING USED IN THE LODGE ALIGNS WITH THEIR RELIGIOUS TRADITION AND INCORPORATES THE FULL SCOPE OF TEXTS THEY BELIEVE TO BE DIVINELY INSPIRED.

THE BIBLE AS AN ALLEGORICAL AND SPIRITUAL GUIDE

HALL'S EXAMINATION OF THE BIBLE ALSO INVITES READERS TO EXPLORE ITS ALLEGORICAL AND SPIRITUAL DIMENSIONS. HE ARGUES THAT THE BIBLE IS NOT JUST A HISTORICAL ACCOUNT BUT A SPIRITUAL GUIDEBOOK THAT REVEALS PROFOUND TRUTHS ABOUT THE HUMAN CONDITION AND THE NATURE OF GOD. HALL EMPHASIZES THAT MANY OF THE BIBLE'S STORIES—SUCH AS THOSE FOUND IN GENESIS—ARE SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATIONS OF DEEPER, METAPHYSICAL CONCEPTS. THE CREATION STORY, FOR INSTANCE, IS NOT ONLY ABOUT THE PHYSICAL ORIGINS OF THE WORLD BUT ALSO ABOUT THE SPIRITUAL EVOLUTION OF THE SOUL.

THIS ALLEGORICAL APPROACH ALIGNS WITH THE MASONIC TRADITION, WHICH FREQUENTLY EMPLOYS SYMBOLIC INTERPRETATION TO UNCOVER DEEPER TRUTHS. JUST AS THE SQUARE AND THE COMPASSES ARE SYMBOLS WITH MULTIPLE LAYERS OF MEANING, SO TOO IS THE BIBLE A TEXT THAT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD BEYOND ITS SURFACE LEVEL.

THE ESOTERIC TEACHINGS AND THEIR ROLE IN HUMAN EVOLUTION

HALL ALSO DELVES INTO THE ESOTERIC TEACHINGS OF THE BIBLE, WHICH ARE OFTEN HIDDEN BENEATH THE LITERAL NARRATIVE. HE DRAWS CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE BIBLE AND OTHER MYSTICAL TRADITIONS, SUCH AS GNOSTICISM AND KABBALAH, SUGGESTING THAT THESE TRADITIONS SHARE COMMON WISDOM THAT CAN BE FOUND THROUGHOUT VARIOUS SACRED TEXTS. FOR FREEMASONS, WHO ARE OFTEN DRAWN TO THE STUDY OF ANCIENT WISDOM, HALL'S ANALYSIS OFFERS A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THE BIBLE CONNECTS WITH OTHER SPIRITUAL TRADITIONS, FURTHER ENRICHING THE MASONIC EXPERIENCE.

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FURTHERMORE, HALL SPEAKS OF THE BIBLE AS A TOOL FOR HUMAN EVOLUTION. JUST AS FREEMASONRY ENCOURAGES MEMBERS TO PROGRESS THROUGH DIFFERENT STAGES OF SELF-AWARENESS AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, THE BIBLE SERVES AS A BLUEPRINT FOR THAT VERY EVOLUTION—GUIDING THE INDIVIDUAL FROM IGNORANCE TO ENLIGHTENMENT, FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT.

HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE BY MANLY P. HALL IS A THOUGHT-PROVOKING AND INSIGHTFUL WORK THAT OFFERS FREEMASONS A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE BIBLE'S SIGNIFICANCE IN BOTH A SPIRITUAL AND MASONIC CONTEXT. HALL'S APPROACH RESONATES WITH MASONS BECAUSE IT ACKNOWLEDGES THE BIBLE'S CENTRAL ROLE AS ONE OF THE THREE GREAT LIGHTS, WHILE ALSO ENCOURAGING A BROADER, MORE SYMBOLIC INTERPRETATION OF THE TEXT. WHETHER EXPLORING THE BIBLE'S ALLEGORICAL TEACHINGS, ITS ESOTERIC WISDOM, OR ITS ROLE IN HUMAN SPIRITUAL EVOLUTION, HALL PROVIDES VALUABLE INSIGHTS THAT WILL HELP MASONS UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE AS A KEY TO MORAL, INTELLECTUAL, AND SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT.

FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC MASONS, IN PARTICULAR, HALL'S DISCUSSION ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON THE BIBLE THEY HOLD SACRED. REPLACING THE PROTESTANT KING JAMES BIBLE WITH A CATHOLIC VERSION, SUCH AS THE NEW AMERICAN BIBLE, REVISED EDITION, MIGHT BE A FITTING CHOICE TO ENSURE THAT THE TEXT USED IN THE LODGE ALIGNS WITH THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

ULTIMATELY, HALL'S WORK SERVES AS A REMINDER THAT THE BIBLE IS NOT ONLY A FOUNDATIONAL TEXT FOR FREEMASONS BUT ALSO A TIMELESS GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING THE DIVINE MYSTERIES AND LIVING A LIFE OF VIRTUE AND ENLIGHTENMENT /G\



"MAN'S PURPOSE IS A JOURNEY, NOT A
DESTINATION. HIS ENLIGHTENMENT IS
ACHIEVED THROUGH COUNTLESS EXPERIENCES,
NOT A SUDDEN BURST OF KNOWLEDGE."
- MANLY P HALL

MANLY P. HALL WAS A 20TH-CENTURY CANADIAN-BORN AUTHOR, LECTURER, FREEMASON, AND MYSTIC BEST KNOWN FOR HIS INFLUENTIAL WORK THE SECRET TEACHINGS OF ALL AGES, WHICH EXPLORED ESOTERIC PHILOSOPHY, COMPARATIVE RELIGION, AND ANCIENT SYMBOLISM.

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HEAVEN AND EARTH: THE MASONIC SQUARE AND COMPASSES IN LIGHT OF GENESIS 1:1

"IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH."
— GENESIS 1:1

BY BURX NORROD

AT THE VERY HEART OF MASONIC SYMBOLISM LIES ONE OF THE MOST RECOGNIZABLE EMBLEMS IN THE WORLD: THE SQUARE AND COMPASSES. TO THE UNINITIATED, THESE ARE MERE TOOLS OF THE BUILDER'S CRAFT. BUT TO THE FREEMASON, THEY REPRESENT PROFOUND SPIRITUAL TRUTHS—TRUTHS THAT ECHO THE VERY FIRST WORDS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES. GENESIS 1:1 TELLS US PLAINLY AND POWERFULLY: GOD IS THE CREATOR OF BOTH REALMS—THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH. LIKEWISE, THE SQUARE AND COMPASSES CAN BE UNDERSTOOD AS SYMBOLIC REFLECTIONS OF THESE TWO DIVINE DOMAINS.

THE SQUARE: THE REALM OF EARTH

THE SQUARE, WITH ITS RIGID RIGHT ANGLE, REPRESENTS EARTHLY ORDER, MORALITY, AND JUSTICE. IT TEACHES THE MASON TO "SQUARE HIS ACTIONS," TO LIVE UPRIGHTLY IN HIS DEALINGS WITH HIS FELLOW MAN. THE SQUARE IS THE INSTRUMENT OF THE STONEMASON, USED TO ENSURE THAT FOUNDATIONS ARE TRUE, LEVEL, AND JUST—A TOOL GROUNDED IN THE MATERIAL WORLD.

IN THIS WAY, THE SQUARE REPRESENTS EARTH: THE PLANE OF PHYSICAL REALITY, OF LABOR AND DUTY, OF COMMUNITY AND CONSTRUCTION. IT SPEAKS TO OUR OBLIGATION TO LIVE RIGHTLY WITHIN THE NATURAL ORDER, TO BUILD WISELY AND ETHICALLY UPON THE FIRM FOUNDATIONS GOD HAS GIVEN US. THE SQUARE REMINDS US THAT WHILE WE MAY DWELL IN A WORLD OF IMPERFECTION, WE ARE TO STRIVE FOR VIRTUE AND HARMONY IN ALL WE DO.

THE COMPASSES: THE REALM OF HEAVEN

IN CONTRAST, THE COMPASSES STRETCH OUTWARD IN ARCS, MARKING BOUNDARIES AND DRAWING CIRCLES. IN THE ANCIENT WORLD, THE CIRCLE WAS THE PERFECT FORM, WITHOUT BEGINNING OR END—A SYMBOL OF THE DIVINE, ETERNAL, AND INFINITE. THE COMPASSES THUS REPRESENT THE HEAVENS, THE SPIRITUAL REALM, THE UNSEEN ORDER THAT GOVERNS THE COSMOS.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF & AM

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MASONS ARE TAUGHT TO USE THE COMPASSES TO "CIRCUMSCRIBE OUR DESIRES," REMINDING US TO KEEP OUR PASSIONS AND ACTIONS WITHIN BOUNDS. BUT MORE THAN THAT, THE COMPASSES CALL US TO REACH UPWARD—TO SEEK THE DIVINE WILL, TO CONTEMPLATE THE CELESTIAL, AND TO ALIGN OUR LIVES NOT ONLY WITH EARTHLY JUSTICE BUT WITH SPIRITUAL WISDOM.

IN HARMONY: HEAVEN AND EARTH UNITED

THE SQUARE AND COMPASSES ARE OFTEN INTERLACED OR JOINED, ONE ABOVE THE OTHER. THIS UNION BEAUTIFULLY MIRRORS THE STRUCTURE OF GENESIS 1:1—"GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH." IT SUGGESTS THAT BOTH REALMS—SPIRITUAL AND MATERIAL—ARE ESSENTIAL, COMPLEMENTARY, AND DIVINELY ORDAINED.

FREEMASONRY TEACHES THAT A LIFE WELL-LIVED MUST BE BALANCED BETWEEN THESE TWO REALITIES. THE SQUARE KEEPS OUR FEET FIRMLY PLANTED ON SOLID GROUND, REMINDING US OF OUR DUTIES TO SOCIETY, FAMILY, AND OURSELVES. THE COMPASSES LIFT OUR EYES TO THE HEAVENS, CALLING US TO HIGHER TRUTHS, ETERNAL PRINCIPLES, AND THE GREAT ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE. JUST AS GENESIS BEGINS WITH THE UNITY OF THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH, THE MASON IS REMINDED THROUGH HIS WORKING TOOLS TO BRING TOGETHER THE SPIRITUAL AND THE PHYSICAL, THE IDEAL AND THE ACTUAL, THE DIVINE AND THE HUMAN. TO BE A MASON, THEN, IS TO LIVE AT THAT INTERSECTION—TO BUILD ON EARTH ACCORDING TO A HEAVENLY DESIGN.

THE SYMBOLISM OF THE SQUARE AND COMPASSES IS NOT ARBITRARY—IT IS COSMIC. AND ITS DEEPEST RESONANCE CAN BE HEARD IN THE VERY FIRST LINE OF SCRIPTURE. IN THE BEGINNING, GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH. IN OUR BEGINNINGS, AS MASONS AND AS MEN, WE ARE CALLED TO HONOR THAT SAME DUALITY: TO SQUARE OUR ACTIONS ON EARTH AND TO COMPASS OUR DESIRES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HEAVENS. IN DOING SO, WE REFLECT THE DIVINE IMAGE IN WHICH WE WERE MADE AND FULFILL THE SACRED DUTY OF BUILDING NOT ONLY TEMPLES OF STONE, BUT TEMPLES OF CHARACTER AND LIGHT /G

FREEMASONRY HAS BEEN DEFINED AS BEING A "PECULIAR SYSTEM OF MORALS, VEILED IN ALLEGORY AND ILLUSTRATED BY SYMBOLS."

UNCOVERING THESE ALLEGORIES IS THE GREAT AIM WE HAVE IN VIEW THROUGH BETTER UNDERSTANDING OUR RITUAL WORK.

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TWO BROTHERS RAISED AT CHAPMAN LODGE No. 2 – A DAY TO REMEMBER!

BY BURX NORROD

ON APRIL 5TH, THE HISTORIC WALLS OF CHAPMAN LODGE No. 2 IN LAS VEGAS, NM, ECHOED WITH THE SOLEMN AND INSPIRING WORDS OF THE MASTER MASON DEGREE, AS BROTHER ADRIAN GUTIERREZ AND BROTHER DAVID MUNIZ WERE RAISED TO THE SUBLIME DEGREE OF MASTER MASON.

THE DAY WAS MADE TRULY MEMORABLE BY AN OUTSTANDING TURNOUT OF BRETHREN FROM ACROSS THE JURISDICTION. FELLOWSHIP WAS IN FULL FORCE, BEGINNING WITH A DELICIOUS PANCAKE BREAKFAST THAT SET THE TONE FOR WHAT WOULD BE A REMARKABLE DAY OF MASONRY.

ADDING TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OCCASION, WE WERE DEEPLY HONORED BY THE PRESENCE OF MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER ROBIN JUSTICE, WHO MADE THE JOURNEY TO WITNESS AND SUPPORT THE RAISING. HIS PRESENCE WAS A POWERFUL REMINDER OF THE UNWAVERING DEDICATION OF OUR GRAND LODGE LEADERSHIP TO THE CRAFT AND ITS MEMBERS AT ALL LEVELS.

THE ICING ON THE CAKE CAME IN THE FORM OF A WONDERFUL AND INFORMATIVE TOUR OF CHAPMAN LODGE'S HISTORIC BUILDING, GRACIOUSLY LED BY RIGHT WORSHIPFUL BROTHER GLEN MAESTAS. FOR MANY OF THE VISITING BRETHREN, IT WAS THEIR FIRST TIME EXPERIENCING THE RICH HERITAGE AND CHARM OF ONE OF THE OLDEST LODGES IN OUR STATE.

EVENTS LIKE THESE REMIND US OF THE BEAUTY OF TRAVELING MASONRY—THE CONNECTIONS MADE, THE LIGHT SHARED, AND THE SUPPORT SHOWN ACROSS LODGE LINES. WE HIGHLY ENCOURAGE ALL BRETHREN TO TRAVEL WHENEVER TIME AVAILS. THE EXPERIENCES AND FRIENDSHIPS BUILT ARE TRULY PRICELESS.



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**TOP: WM BURX & BRO. PAUL FLORES
GETTING A TOUR OF THE LODGE FROM
RW GLEN MAESTAS.**

**RIGHT: WM BURX PLAYING THE
STEINWAY PIANO FROM THE LATE
1800'S WITH HISTORICAL TRACING
BOARDS IN THE FOREGROUND!**

**BOTTOM: THE BEAUTIFUL LODGE ROOM
OF CHAPMAN LODGE No. 2**



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SANDOVAL LODGE HONORED AT GRAND LODGE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

AT THE 148TH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW MEXICO HELD IN HOBBS, SANDOVAL MASONIC LODGE WAS PROUD TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN BOTH RITUAL AND LODGE OPERATIONS.

WE WERE AWARDED THE RON BRINKMAN AWARD RIBBON FOR RITUAL WORK, A TESTAMENT TO THE DEDICATION AND PRECISION OF OUR DEGREE TEAMS IN PRESERVING AND PERFORMING OUR SACRED RITES WITH CARE AND EXCELLENCE.

IN ADDITION, SANDOVAL LODGE RECEIVED THE RAY CARPENTER AWARD RIBBON FOR LODGE EXCELLENCE, RECOGNIZING OUR EFFORTS IN LEADERSHIP, ADMINISTRATION, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT THROUGHOUT THE PAST YEAR.

THESE HONORS REFLECT THE HARD WORK AND UNITY OF OUR BRETHREN, AND WE THANK EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO HELP US EARN THESE DISTINCTIONS. LET US CONTINUE TO BUILD ON THIS MOMENTUM AS WE STRIVE TO BE EVEN BETTER IN THE YEAR AHEAD!

WELL DONE, BRETHREN!



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SHARE YOUR LIGHT!

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A MASONIC EDUCATION PRESENTATION YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE LODGE THIS YEAR? OR IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'D LOVE TO SEE FEATURED IN NEXT MONTH'S TRESTLEBOARD?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! WHETHER IT'S A TOPIC YOU'VE BEEN STUDYING, A QUESTION YOU'D LIKE EXPLORED, OR A CREATIVE PIECE TO CONTRIBUTE, YOUR INPUT HELPS KEEP OUR LODGE ENGAGED, INFORMED, AND INSPIRED.

**REACH OUT TO TRESTLEBOARD EDITOR BURX NORROD AT BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM WITH YOUR SUGGESTIONS OR CONTENT IDEAS. LET'S KEEP THE LIGHT SHINING STRONG
—TOGETHER!**

