

SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF&AM

TRESTLEBOARD



JULY

A.L.

6024

2024 LODGE OFFICERS

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

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Happy 4th of July!



SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76
MEETS IN REGULAR
COMMUNICATION ON THE 2ND &
4TH MONDAYS OF THE MONTH

FESTIVEBOARD AT 6:00PM
LODGE OPENS AT 7:00PM

VISITORS: TO RSVP, EMAIL
BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YOUNGEST ENTERED APPRENTICE, BRO. LOGAN JEFFERS, ON TAKING HIS FIRST STEPS IN THE CRAFT! BROTHER JOHN KEEL CONFERRED FOR THE FIRST TIME, MAKING ALL OF OUR LODGE PRACTICES WORTHWHILE.

WB BERT DALTON, GRAND MUSICIAN, GRACED OUR LODGE WITH HIS PRESENCE, AND MADE IT COME ALIVE WITH THE 7TH LIBERAL ART OF MUSIC!

WE WISH BROTHER LOGAN ALL THE BEST ON HIS MASONIC JOURNEY PAYING HIS WAY WITH LIGHT, LIFE, LOVE, AND LIBERTY /G\



WB BERT DALTON
Grand Musician

AND
PROFESSIONAL JAZZ
PIANIST!

WWW.BERTDALTON.COM

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TRESTLEBOARD



FROM THE EAST

“NOTHING BUT HARMONY, HONESTY, INDUSTRY, AND FRUGALITY ARE NECESSARY TO MAKE US A GREAT AND HAPPY PEOPLE.”- BRO. GEORGE WASHINGTON

GREETINGS BRETHREN,

AT A RECENT COMMUNITY EVENT I WAS ASKED TO WRITE AND READ A BRIEF SUMMARY OF WHAT I THOUGHT FREEMASONRY CONTRIBUTED AND OFFERED TO SOCIETY. THIS IS WHAT I WROTE AND SPOKE ABOUT.

I AM WRITING THIS TO SHARE MY OPINION AND APPRECIATION FOR THE INSTITUTION OF FREEMASONRY. FREEMASONRY, WITH ITS RICH HISTORY AND ENDURING PRINCIPLES, HAS PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN SHAPING SOCIETY FOR CENTURIES.

FIRST I ACKNOWLEDGE THE VALUES THAT FREEMASONRY UPHOLDS. IT IS A SOCIETY BUILT ON THE FOUNDATIONS OF BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF, AND TRUTH. THESE

PRINCIPLES GUIDE FREEMASONS IN THEIR PURSUIT OF PERSONAL GROWTH AND THE BETTERMENT OF THEIR COMMUNITIES. THROUGH THEIR COMMITMENT TO THESE VALUES, FREEMASONS HAVE CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATED THEIR DEDICATION TO THE WELFARE OF OTHERS.

ONE OF THE MOST ADMIRABLE ASPECTS OF FREEMASONRY IS ITS EMPHASIS ON CHARITY AND PHILANTHROPY. FREEMASONS ARE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO GIVING BACK TO SOCIETY. WHETHER IT BE THROUGH SUPPORTING EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES, PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE LESS FORTUNATE, OR CONTRIBUTING TO MEDICAL RESEARCH, FREEMASONS HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS INDIVIDUALS. THEIR SELFLESS ACTS OF KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY SERVE AS AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL.

FREEMASONRY ALSO FOSTERS A STRONG SENSE OF FELLOWSHIP AND CAMARADERIE AMONG ITS MEMBERS. THE BONDS FORMED WITHIN MASONIC LODGES TRANSCEND SOCIAL, CULTURAL, RACIAL, AND RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES. FREEMASONS COME TOGETHER AS EQUALS, UNITED BY THEIR SHARED VALUES AND A COMMON PURPOSE. THIS SENSE OF UNITY CREATES A SUPPORTIVE NETWORK FOR INDIVIDUALS AND ENCOURAGES PERSONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

MOREOVER, FREEMASONRY PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE ON THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND ENLIGHTENMENT. IT ENCOURAGES ITS MEMBERS TO SEEK TRUTH AND UNDERSTANDING THROUGH INTELLECTUAL DISCOURSE AND PHILOSOPHICAL EXPLORATION. BY ENGAGING IN MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS AND PROMOTING INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY, FREEMASONS CONTRIBUTE TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND THE BETTERMENT OF SOCIETY AS A WHOLE.

FREEMASONRY HAS SERVED AS A BEACON OF LIGHT, INSPIRING INDIVIDUALS TO STRIVE FOR PERSONAL GROWTH AND TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE WORLD AROUND THEM. THANK YOU.

AS I PUT THESE WORDS TOGETHER, I REALLY FELT THE TRUTH IN THEM, BUT ALSO FELT THAT I HAD STARTED TO STRAY AWAY FROM SOME OF THESE VALUES THAT FREEMASONRY HOLDS SO DEAR. WITH INDEPENDENCE DAY SOON COMING I THOUGHT WHAT BETTER A TIME TO REDEDICATE MYSELF TO THIS INSTITUTION THAT MANY OF OUR FOREFATHERS HELD SO DEAR WHEN LAYING THE GROUNDWORK OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL, AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

WM DAVIN B. TEAGUE
MASTER OF SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76

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TRESTLEBOARD



FROM THE WEST

UNVEILING THE MYSTERIES OF MASONIC "WAGES"*

EVER WONDERED WHAT SETS US FREEMASONS APART FROM THOSE OTHER DO-GOOD FRATERNITIES? WELL, BESIDES OUR MYSTERIOUS RITUALS THAT EVEN THE CAT CAN'T TALK ABOUT, THERE'S THE SENIOR WARDEN. HE'S NOT JUST THERE TO

HELP THE MASTER OPEN AND CLOSE THE LODGE—OH NO, HE'S ALSO THE GUY MAKING SURE EVERYONE GETS PAID. YES, YOU HEARD THAT RIGHT. FREEMASONS GET WAGES. BUT HOLD YOUR HORSES, BEFORE YOU GO IMAGINING STACKS OF CASH RAINING DOWN IN LODGE, LET'S BREAK IT DOWN.

ACCORDING TO A QUICK GOOGLE SEARCH (BECAUSE WHO NEEDS SECRETS IN THE AGE OF THE INTERNET?), THE AVERAGE PAY FOR A MASTER MASON IN THE U.S. HITS A TIDY \$85,668 PER YEAR. SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF APRONS, RIGHT? WELL, HERE'S THE KICKER: THAT'S FOR THOSE OPERATIVE MASTER MASONS. US? WE'RE THE SPECULATIVE MASONS. WE SPECULATE A LOT ABOUT THOSE WAGES.

BACK IN THE DAY, OPERATIVE MASONS WERE PAID IN WINE, CORN, AND OIL. SOUNDS LIKE THE INGREDIENTS FOR A WEIRD SALAD DRESSING, BUT HEY, DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS. THE MASTER MASON GOT THE BEST DEAL, SOMETIMES EVEN GETTING REAL MONEY ON TOP OF THE WINE AND CORN. MEANWHILE, THE NEWBIES—ENTERED APPRENTICES AND FELLOWCRAFTS—THEY GOT MEAT AND DRINK. KIND OF LIKE A FRAT PARTY WITHOUT THE LOUD MUSIC.

BUT HOLD ON, MODERN MASONS AREN'T IN IT FOR THE WINE AND CORN (OR THE CASH, SADLY). OUR "WAGES" ARE MORE ABOUT WHAT YOU GET OUT OF BEING PART OF THE CRAFT. IT'S LIKE THAT WARM FUZZY FEELING YOU GET WHEN YOU HELP A BROTHER OUT OR FINALLY DECIPHER THE MEANING BEHIND THE SECRET HANDSHAKES.

BEFORE YOU JOINED, YOU PROBABLY HAD BIG EXPECTATIONS. MAYBE YOU THOUGHT THERE'D BE SECRET MEETINGS WITH GEORGE CLOONEY OR A SECRET STASH OF GOLD. IF REALITY HASN'T QUITE MATCHED UP, DON'T FRET. JUST HIT ME UP, AND WE'LL MAKE SURE YOUR MASONIC EXPERIENCE GOES FROM "MEH" TO "MYSTICAL."

OH, AND DID I MENTION OUR LODGE HAS MORE COMMITTEES THAN A CONGRESSIONAL HEARING? TEN OF 'EM, TO BE EXACT. WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR GOAT—ER, BOAT—WE'VE GOT A COMMITTEE FOR IT. WANT TO DEBATE THE MERITS OF DIFFERENT LODGE CARPET DESIGNS? THERE'S A COMMITTEE FOR THAT. INTERESTED IN THE ANCIENT ART OF PANCAKE FLIPPING AT A CHARITY BREAKFASTS? YOU GUESSED IT, COMMITTEE.

SO, NEXT TIME YOU'RE WONDERING ABOUT MASONIC WAGES, REMEMBER: IT'S NOT ABOUT THE MONEY, IT'S ABOUT THE JOURNEY. AND IF THAT JOURNEY INVOLVES WINE, CORN, AND OIL, WELL, ALL THE BETTER /G\

SINCERELY & FRATERNALLY,

BURX NORROD, SENIOR WARDEN

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FROM THE SOUTH

BRETHREN,

I HOPE EVERYONE HAD A HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY AND WERE ABLE TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH THE FAMILY. WE'VE HAD A LOT OF FUN TIMES RECENTLY WITH THE FOOD PANTRY SERVICE DAY AND THE CORRALES INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE. EVEN THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER JOINED US FOR THE PARADE!

I'VE VERY MUCH ENJOYED SPENDING TIME WITH ALL OF YOU DURING OUR AFTER MEETING FESTIVITIES AND LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING FELLOWSHIP THROUGH THE REST OF THE YEAR WITH ALL OF YOU.

COME ON OUT TO THE LODGE AND HAVE FUN WITH US!

**BRO. JOHN KEEL
SENIOR WARDEN**



B

SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF&AM

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**JULY
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SANDOVAL LODGE AT THE 4TH OF JULY PARADE

THANKS TO ALL THE BRETHREN WHO WERE ABLE TO GET OUT AND REPRESENT SANDOVAL LODGE AND FREEMASONRY IN GENERAL!



FREEMASONS MARCHING IN PARADES ISN'T JUST ABOUT APPEARANCES—IT'S ABOUT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. PARADES OFFER US A CHANCE TO SHOWCASE OUR VALUES, EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT FREEMASONRY, AND FOSTER UNITY AMONG OUR MEMBERS.

BY PARTICIPATING, WE CELEBRATE TRADITION, DISPEL MYTHS, AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE FESTIVE SPIRIT OF OUR TOWNS. IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROUDLY REPRESENT WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE STAND FOR WHILE ENJOYING THE CAMARADERIE OF MARCHING TOGETHER /G

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"WB BOB FINCH'S FIREWORKS FIESTA: A BLAST OF ENCHANTMENT!"

BY BRO. BURX NORROD

EVERY YEAR, WB BOB FINCH OPENS HIS DOORS AND TREATS A LUCKY FEW (ACTUALLY, ANYONE!) TO FRONT-ROW SEATS FOR THE MOST EPIC FIREWORKS SHOW IN THE LAND OF ENCHANTMENT. BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE—THIS ISN'T JUST ANY OLD BACKYARD BASH. PICTURE THIS: SIZZLING HOTDOGS AND GOURMET BURGERS SIZZLING ON THE GRILL, ACCOMPANIED BY DRINKS THAT WOULD MAKE A MIXOLOGIST BLUSH (THANKS TO THE BEVERAGES PROVIDED BY BRO. DANIEL).

AS THE SUN SET, SO DID OUR INHIBITIONS, REPLACED BY LIVELY BANTER AND STORIES THAT COULD RIVAL NETFLIX SERIES. AND THEN, LIKE MAGIC (OR THE SKILL OF A SEASONED PYROTECHNICIAN), THE NIGHT SKY LIT UP WITH EXPLOSIONS OF COLOR AND LIGHT THAT WOULD MAKE FOURTH OF JULY JEALOUS.

SO, NEXT TIME YOU GET THE INVITE TO WB BOB'S FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA, DON'T HESITATE. IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE SHOW—IT'S ABOUT THE SIZZLING SNACKS, THE FLOWING DRINKS, AND THE UNFORGETTABLE CAMARADERIE THAT MAKES EVERY YEAR A BLAST IN ITS OWN RIGHT. THANKS WB BOB!!



PICTURED, LEFT TO RIGHT: BRO. DANIEL CHICO, BRO. BURX, BRO. ROGER McDONALD, WB BOB FINCH (MISSING WB ERIC MOSES, WHO TOOK OFF BEFORE PICTURE WAS TAKEN)

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BROTHER GEORGE CARVER, MASTER MASON, HAS LAID DOWN HIS WORKING TOOLS AND HAS PASSED ON TO THE CELESTIAL LODGE ABOVE. HE ATTAINED THE SUBLIME DEGREE OF MASTER MASON AT SANDOVAL LODGE ON JUNE 27, 2022. MAY HE REST IN PEACE.

HIS OBITUARY:

GEORGE LEE CARVER II, AGE 79, BELOVED FATHER, LOVING GRANDFATHER, GREAT FRIEND TO MANY PASSED AWAY PEACEFULLY IN HIS HOME ON JUNE 29, 2024. GEORGE WAS PRECEDED BY HIS WIFE OF 55 YEARS, LANA SUE (JOHNSON), HIS PARENTS FLIGHT OFFICER GEORGE L. CARVER OF YUKON, WEST VIRGINIA AND MARTHA E. (SANDOVAL) PHILLIPS OF TAOS, NEW MEXICO.

HE IS SURVIVED BY HIS DAUGHTERS MELISSA BIANCO, HUSBAND DAVID, KRISTA SAKATA, HUSBAND ROSS, LEA LINDSTROM, HUSBAND ERIC AND SON GEORGE CARVER III. GRANDCHILDREN EMILY, TRISTAN AND BRENDAN FAVOUR; MIA AND LILY SAKATA; OWEN AND GAVIN

LINDSTROM. SISTER LEDA MORELAND, HUSBAND LARRY AND NIECES MALINA, REBECCA, TERI AND SHERI.

GEORGE WAS BORN IN ALBUQUERQUE AND RAISED BY HIS GRANDPARENTS, REVEREND ABEL AND LAURA SANDOVAL IN CHACON, NEW MEXICO. HE GRADUATED FROM MENAUL SCHOOL AND ATTENDED HASTINGS COLLEGE, NEBRASKA AND UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO. HE RETIRED FROM HERMAN MILLER INC. AS SENIOR REGIONAL MANAGER FOR LATIN AMERICA AND STEELCASE INC. AS A WORKPLACE CONSULTANT. GEORGE PROUDLY SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AND WAS A VIETNAM VETERAN.

HIS HOBBIES AND INTERESTS INCLUDED GOLF, TRAVEL, PAINTING, READING, WATCHING NFL GAMES (BRONCOS AND CHIEFS FAVORITES,) RESTORING GOLF CARTS, CREATING PHOTO BOOKS FOR HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS, CREATING BACKYARD OASIS FOR HIS CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN AND SPENDING TIME WITH THOSE HE LOVED.

GEORGE WAS INFLUENCED BY A GREAT MANY NUMBER OF PEOPLE FROM ALL ASPECTS OF HIS DIVERSE LIFE, HE HAD MEMBERSHIPS IN A MULTITUDE OF CLUBS, COUNCILS, BOARDS AND CHAPTERS, ALL OF WHICH MADE HIM THE EXTRAORDINARY MAN HE WAS.

SERVICES WILL BE HELD AT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 215 LOCUST ST. NE, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102 ON THURSDAY, JULY 11 TH AT 10AM. ANY DONATIONS COULD BE DIRECTED TO THE GENERAL FUND FOR MENAUL SCHOOL, 301 MENAUL BLVD. NE, ALBUQUERQUE, NM OR GENERAL FUND FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ADDRESS ABOVE.

FOLLOWING THE SERVICE THERE WILL BE A CELEBRATION OF LIFE OPEN HOUSE FROM 1-4PM AT GEORGE'S HOME HOSTED BY HIS CHILDREN, 3252 RENAISSANCE DR. SE RIO RANCHO, NM 87124.

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CHARITY OUTREACH AT ST. FELIX PANTRY!

THANKS TO OUTREACH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WB RICHARD CULLEN, SEVERAL BRETHREN OF SANDOVAL LODGE WAS ABLE TO HELP, AIDE, AND ASSIST THE ST. FELIX PANTRY WITH THEIR DUTIES OF THE DAY IN SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY, HELPING SANDOVAL LODGE LIVE UP TO THE MASONIC IDEALS AND TENANT OF RELIEF, OR CHARITY, WHICH, NEXT TO A BELIEF IN GOD, LIES AT THE FOUNDATION OF FREEMASONRY.



PICTURED: WM DAVIN TEAGUE, WB RICHARD CULLEN, BRO. ROBERT COWDER, BRO. JOHN KEEL

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK BRETHERN!



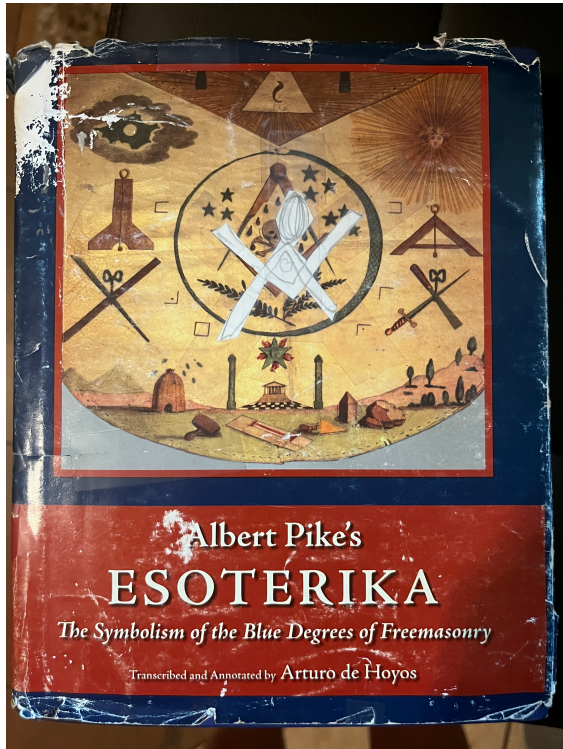
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TRESTLEBOARD



FREEMASONRY AND FINE SPIRITS: A BOOK CLUB UNVEILED!

PICTURE THIS: AFTER A FEW ROUNDS OF JW BRO. JOHN KEEL'S FINEST SPIRITS AT OUR STATED COMMUNICATIONS, BRO. CESARIO ALVILLAR DROPS THE BOMBHELL. "HEY, IF WE'RE ALL SO INTO FREEMASONRY, WHY NOT START A BOOK CLUB?"

NOW, BEFORE YOU THINK IT'S ALL FEZZES AND SECRET HANDSHAKES, LET ME BREAK IT DOWN. SEE, WE TAKE OUR RITUAL WORK SERIOUSLY—1ST MONDAYS FOR PRACTICE, SUNDAYS BEFORE DEGREES FOR FINAL TWEAKS, AND 2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS FOR OUR FORMAL CHATS. THAT LEAVES THE 3RD MONDAY WIDE OPEN FOR BRAINY STUFF.

OUR FIRST PICK? A DEEP DIVE INTO "ESOTERIKA"

BY BROTHER ALBERT PIKE, ANNOTATED BY WB ARTURO DE HOYOS, THE GRAND ARCHIVIST (FANCY TITLE, RIGHT?) AT THE HOUSE OF THE TEMPLE. THIS BOOK ISN'T JUST ANY OL' READ—IT'S LIKE THE ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA OF MASONIC SYMBOLISM, THE KIND OF TOME THAT MAKES INDIANA JONES JEALOUS.

NOW, HERE'S THE KICKER: THIS AIN'T YOUR GRANDMA'S BOOK CLUB. NOPE, THIS STUDY SESSION IS STRICTLY FOR MASTER MASONS. WHY? BECAUSE \$55 GETS YOU THE BOOK, BUT THE CONTENT? THAT'S FOR THE RAISED EYES ONLY.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS, FOLKS. JULY 15TH, FROM 6PM - 7:30PMISH TO WHENEVER WE RUN OUT OF SPIRITS—OR INSIGHTS. AND GET THIS, WE MIGHT EVEN HAVE A SURPRISE ZOOM CAMEO. WHO SAYS FREEMASONRY CAN'T BE A LITTLE TECH-SAVVY?

SO, DUST OFF YOUR APRONS AND PREPARE YOUR MINDS. IT'S TIME TO CRACK OPEN "ESOTERIKA" AND UNRAVEL THE MYSTERIES. SEE YOU AT THE LODGE—BRING YOUR BOOK IF YOU HAVE IT, OR JOIN US ANYWAY.

**FOR INFO ON HOW TO GET THE BOOK OR OTHERWISE, EMAIL
BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM**

SCIENTIA EST POTENTIA!

TRESTLEBOARD



"WHY MASONIC RITUAL WORK IS MEMORIZED: TRADITION, UNITY, AND PERSONAL GROWTH"

BY BRO. BURX NORROD

MASONIC RITUAL WORK PERFORMED FROM MEMORY HOLDS SIGNIFICANT IMPORTANCE WITHIN FREEMASONRY FOR SEVERAL REASONS:

1. ****PRESERVATION OF TRADITION AND AUTHENTICITY****: FREEMASONRY PLACES A HIGH VALUE ON PRESERVING ITS RITUALS IN THEIR ORIGINAL FORM. MEMORIZING THE RITUALS ENSURES THAT THEY ARE PASSED DOWN ACCURATELY FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION, MAINTAINING THE AUTHENTICITY AND INTEGRITY OF THE MASONIC TEACHINGS.
2. ****COMMITMENT TO LEARNING AND MASTERY****: MEMORIZING THE RITUALS DEMONSTRATES A MASON'S COMMITMENT TO LEARNING AND MASTERING THE PRINCIPLES, SYMBOLS, AND CEREMONIES OF FREEMASONRY. IT REQUIRES DEDICATION, DISCIPLINE, AND A DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF THE MEANINGS BEHIND THE RITUALS.
3. ****FOSTERING UNITY AND FRATERNITY****: BY MEMORIZING THE RITUALS, FREEMASONS DEVELOP A SHARED BOND AND UNDERSTANDING WITH THEIR FELLOW BROTHERS. THIS SHARED EXPERIENCE HELPS TO FOSTER UNITY, CAMARADERIE, AND A SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG MEMBERS, REGARDLESS OF GEOGRAPHICAL OR CULTURAL DIFFERENCES.
4. ****ENHANCING THE RITUAL EXPERIENCE****: PERFORMING RITUALS FROM MEMORY ENHANCES THE CEREMONIAL EXPERIENCE FOR BOTH THE PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS. IT ALLOWS FOR A MORE FLUID AND NATURAL PRESENTATION, WHICH CAN DEEPEN THE IMPACT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RITUALS ON THE INITIATES AND THOSE ATTENDING.
5. ****SYMBOLIC AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT****: MEMORIZING MASONIC RITUALS INVOLVES UNDERSTANDING THE SYMBOLIC MEANINGS EMBEDDED WITHIN THEM. THIS PROCESS CONTRIBUTES TO A MASON'S MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT BY ENCOURAGING CONTEMPLATION AND INTROSPECTION ON THE DEEPER TRUTHS AND VALUES CONVEYED THROUGH THE RITUALS.
6. ****PERSONAL GROWTH AND SELF-DISCIPLINE****: LEARNING AND RECITING RITUALS FROM MEMORY IS A CHALLENGING TASK THAT PROMOTES PERSONAL GROWTH, SELF-DISCIPLINE, AND MENTAL AGILITY. IT REQUIRES CONCENTRATION, ATTENTION TO DETAIL, AND CONTINUAL PRACTICE TO MAINTAIN PROFICIENCY.

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7. ****RESPECT FOR SECRECY AND CONFIDENTIALITY****: MEMORIZING THE RITUALS REINFORCES THE MASONIC COMMITMENT TO SECRECY AND CONFIDENTIALITY REGARDING THE CONTENT AND CEREMONIES OF FREEMASONRY. IT ENSURES THAT THE TEACHINGS AND SYMBOLS ARE ONLY SHARED WITH THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN THE SOLEMN OBLIGATION OF A MASON.

IN SUMMARY, MEMORIZING MASONIC RITUALS IS NOT MERELY A PRACTICAL SKILL BUT A FUNDAMENTAL ASPECT OF MASONIC EDUCATION AND TRADITION. IT EMBODIES THE COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING AND PASSING DOWN THE TIMELESS PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF FREEMASONRY, WHILE FOSTERING UNITY, PERSONAL GROWTH, AND A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF ITS TEACHINGS AMONG MEMBERS.



TRACING BOARDS FOR ALL 3 DEGREES ... USED TO PROVIDE A MEMORY TEMPLATE FOR THE DEGREE LECTURER. MODERN TIMES, ALTHOUGH THESE CAN STILL BE USED, MORE OFTEN SLIDES ARE USED FROM PROJECTORS OR LAPTOPS.

VERY IMPORTANT TOOLS OF THE CRAFT AS THESE LECTURES CAN LAST UPWARDS OF 30 - 45 MINUTES, ALL FROM MEMORY, SO THESE PAINTINGS PROVIDE AN AID FOR THE LECTURER, AND A FANTASTIC VISUAL FOR THE CANDIDATE WHO'S PAYING ATTENTION TO THE LECTURE.

PAINTED BY LADY FRIEDA HARRIS IN C. 1938

TRESTLEBOARD



**YEAH.. IF YOU COULD
ALL LEARN YOUR RITUAL..**



THAT'D BE GREAT.

SOUNDING OFF ON MASONIC MUSINGS: WHEN TRADITION MEETS TECHNOLOGY

BY BRO. BURX NORROD

ONCE UPON A TIME, IN THE ILLUSTRIOUS WORLD OF FREEMASONRY, I HAD THE DISTINCT HONOR OF BEING A MEMBER OF THE GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA AND LATER THE GRAND LODGE OF IDAHO. THIS ALLOWED ME TO PEEK BEHIND THE CURTAIN OF DIFFERENT MASONIC JURISDICTIONS, A PRIVILEGE AKIN TO HAVING BACKSTAGE PASSES TO THE SECRET CONCERT OF LIFE.

NOW, PICTURE THIS: I RECENTLY RECEIVED A NOTIFICATION FROM THE GRAND LODGE OF IDAHO. NO, IT WASN'T AN INVITE TO A SECRET BARBECUE OR A CRYPTIC TREASURE MAP. IT WAS A PROPOSAL SUGGESTING A NEW FORMAT FOR

DELIVERING MASONIC LECTURES. BRACE YOURSELVES, BRETHREN—THIS GROUNDBREAKING PROPOSAL INCLUDES THE RADICAL IDEA OF HAVING LECTURES READ ALOUD OR, GASP, SHOWN VIA SOME VIDEO ONLINE OR ZOOM! WHY, YOU ASK? BECAUSE APPARENTLY, NOT ENOUGH BRETHREN KNOW THE RITUAL WORK.

THE THING WITH "OPTIONS" IS THAT THEY OFTEN BECOME THE "PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE," MUCH LIKE OPTING FOR PIZZA DELIVERY INSTEAD OF COOKING A GOURMET MEAL. MANY GRAND LODGE JURISDICTIONS HAVE ALREADY EMBRACED THIS SLIPPERY SLOPE BY NOT EVEN REQUIRING MASTER MASON PROFICIENCY. NEXT THING YOU KNOW, WE'LL HAVE VIRTUAL MASONS IN VR HEADSETS!

IN THE PREVIOUS EPISODE OF THIS MASONIC SAGA (I.E., MY LAST ARTICLE), I STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF MASONIC RITUAL WORK. THE LECTURES OF THE DEGREES ARE CRUCIAL FOR COMPLETING A DEGREE. SURE, THEY'RE LENGTHY AND TOUGH, BUT THEY'RE ALSO THE CORNERSTONE OF MASONIC EDUCATION. HOW CAN ONE GRASP THE ESSENCE OF A DEGREE BY MERELY LISTENING TO A LECTURE? THAT'S LIKE TRYING TO UNDERSTAND SHAKESPEARE BY WATCHING A PUPPET SHOW.

TO TRULY EXPERIENCE THE DEGREES, I'LL EMPLOY MY POWERS OF PERSUASION (OR MAYBE JUST SOME FREE DONUTS) TO CONVINCE YOU TO LEARN THE LECTURES OF THE DEGREES. IT'S NOT MORE DIFFICULT THAN LEARNING YOUR PROFICIENCY; IT'S JUST LONGER, REQUIRING A BIT MORE SACRIFICE. THINK OF IT AS GIVING UP NETFLIX FOR A NIGHT TO READ A CLASSIC NOVEL.

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LET ME TAKE YOU ON A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE. I LEARNED THE DEGREE LECTURES AS A MASON IN VIRGINIA, ONLY TO MOVE TO IDAHO AND HAVE TO RELEARN THEM BECAUSE THE WORDS WERE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT. THEN, IN A PLOT TWIST WORTHY OF A SITCOM, I MOVED TO NEW MEXICO AND HAD TO START FROM SCRATCH AGAIN. EACH STATE HAD ITS OWN UNIQUE LEXICON, MAKING IT FEEL LIKE LEARNING THREE DIFFERENT LANGUAGES THAT ALL SAID THE SAME THING. IT WAS LIKE TRANSLATING SHAKESPEARE INTO KLINGON AND THEN BACK INTO ENGLISH.

FOR THOSE BRAVE ENOUGH TO TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE OF LEARNING THE DEGREE LECTURE, I OFFER MY GUIDANCE. I'LL HELP YOU NAVIGATE THE MEMORY WORK AND LINK PASSAGES TOGETHER, SHARING MY TRIED-AND-TRUE METHODS (WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT INCLUDE MNEMONIC DEVICES INVOLVING FARM ANIMALS). I GUARANTEE THAT MEMORIZING THE LECTURES WILL PROVIDE DEEPER INSIGHTS INTO THE CRAFT AND ITS TEACHINGS. PLUS, IT'LL GIVE YOU GREAT MATERIAL FOR MASONIC COCKTAIL PARTIES.

AND NOW, WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, HERE'S THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION AND RATIONALIZATION FOR THIS NEW FORMAT, TO BE PRESENTED AT THE GRAND LODGE OF IDAHO'S NEXT COMMUNICATION IN SEPTEMBER. I SUSPECT OTHER GRAND LODGE JURISDICTIONS MIGHT ALREADY BE DOING THIS DUE TO A SHORTAGE OF RITUALISTS OR BECAUSE SOMEONE THOUGHT IT WAS A BRILLIANT IDEA. STAY TUNED FOR THE NEXT EPISODE OF "AS THE MASONIC WORLD TURNS," WHERE WE'LL SEE IF TRADITION HOLDS FIRM OR IF WE'LL ALL BE LEARNING FROM YOUTUBE TUTORIALS! /G\

Section 804. Streaming Lectures. The 1st, Middle Chamber and 3rd degree lectures in streaming video format, shall be presented to candidates only when a proficient lecturer is not available. These lectures shall be streamed from a private and secure source only to the Lodge Secretary, accessed through a link in our membership software. (Added Section Sept 2024)

Rational:

a. **Proficient Lecturers:** Many Lodges in the State require assistance from other lodges, only some have proficient lecturers for a degree. With new production techniques. streaming lectures could provide quality lectures to our candidates when needed.

b. **It must be secure:** With this new means of delivery, individual Masons will not have access, to protect security. Only the Lodge secretary will have access to these private and secure lectures, within their lodge, through Grandview. If your Lodge does not have the internet, today's smart phones can provide it in your Lodge by using your phone as a "hot spot" to stream a lecture from the Grand Lodge and putting it on a large screen.

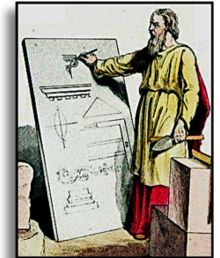
c. **Not to be used:** Only to be used if no proficient lecturer is available to travel to the Lodge.

SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF&AM

TRESTLEBOARD



**JULY
A.L.
6024**



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

HOLD ONTO YOUR HATS, FOLKS, BECAUSE THE LODGE IS BUZZING WITH MORE EVENTS THAN A BEEHIVE ON DOUBLE ESPRESSO! AND IT'S NOT JUST OUR BLUE LODGE HAVING ALL THE FUN – WE'VE GOT JOBS DAUGHTERS, DEMOLAY, ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR, AND WIDOWS SONS ROCKING THE HOUSE TOO.

I GET IT, SOMETIMES IT FEELS LIKE THE POSTS IN THIS TRESTLEBOARD ARE AS INVISIBLE AS MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS BY FEBRUARY. BUT MARK MY WORDS, THE DAY I GET TAYLOR SWIFT OR EMINEM TO JOIN, THESE POSTS WILL BE THE HOTTEST THING SINCE SLICED BREAD! (HEY, A PERSON CAN DREAM, RIGHT?)

AS YOUR EVER-ENTHUSIASTIC TRESTLEBOARD EDITOR, I'M ITCHING TO SHINE A SPOTLIGHT ON ALL THE COOL STUFF HAPPENING AT THE LODGE OR ANYTHING SANDOVAL LODGE-RELATED. ALL I NEED IS A PICTURE AND A BRIEF ARTICLE. THINK ABOUT IT – IF A DEMOLAY OR JOBS DAUGHTER SHARES HOW THE ORGANIZATION HAS CHANGED THEIR LIFE, WE'VE GOT A FUTURE BESTSELLING AUTHOR ON OUR HANDS AND MAYBE A SPIKE IN MEMBERSHIP TOO.

THESE GEMS WILL ALSO MAKE THEIR WAY ONTO OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AT [FACEBOOK.COM/SANDOVALLODGE76](https://www.facebook.com/SandovalLodge76), WHICH, BY THE WAY, I ALSO RUN. IF YOU HAVEN'T CHECKED IT OUT YET, YOU'RE MISSING OUT – NO FACEBOOK ACCOUNT NEEDED!

SO, HERE'S THE DEAL: I KNOW THERE'S A WHIRLWIND OF ACTIVITY THAT'S FLYING UNDER THE RADAR. IF YOU'VE GOT A STORY, A THOUGHT, OR A LIFE LESSON FROM YOUR MASONIC JOURNEY, SEND IT MY WAY. TOSS IN A PICTURE OR TWO, AND IT WILL GRACE THE PAGES OF NEXT MONTH'S TRESTLEBOARD.

THANKS FOR STICKING AROUND TILL THE END OF THIS PAGE. TOGETHER, WE'LL MAKE THESE EDITIONS A BLAST TO READ! EMAIL YOUR ARTICLE SUBMISSION(S) TO BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM

SINCERELY & FRATERNALLY,

**BURX NORROD
TRESTLEBOARD EDITOR**

SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF&AM

JULY

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