



# TRESTLEBOARD

## VIEW FROM THE EAST

By Michael Kofta, Worshipful Master

Greetings from the East,

Brothers and Sisters, greetings. May the Great Architect Of The Universe continue to bestow his many blessings upon you.

Most of our visiting Brothers from the North have made their pilgrimages back home already due to the pandemic. I hope your travels were safe and that you are able to stay healthy.

What a crazy time we have had recently! Many of our seasonal happenings here in Yuma have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Cancellations of the Yuma County Fair, to the Grand Lodge of Arizona's Lodge Leadership Conference, to shutdowns of the Tucson Scottish Rite, York Rite, and Shrine Temple in Phoenix

Although the Grand Master gave a dispensation to the Lodges in Arizona to be able to conduct teleconference or video conferenced meetings, we were unable to find either a secure way to hold a meeting or sufficient number of officers to open the Lodge, so our stated meeting had to be cancelled. The cancellation of our stated meeting will mean that we will be working in the Lodge over the summer instead of being dark to make-up for missed meetings and degrees. We still have a requirement in our constitution to hold 10 meetings annually.

I have passed on a lot of our email communications from Grand Lodge on to the line officers. You can call or communicate with either me or them if you have any questions on the upcoming resolutions for Grand Lodge.

Brothers and Sisters, your health and well-being remain of the utmost priority. If there is anything either myself or the Lodge can do for you please do not hesitate to ask.

Brothers and Sisters, please reach out to our other members who you have not been able to sit with in Lodge, Temple, or Chapter to ensure that they are still doing well and are not in need of anything.

Until we meet again, please stay safe, stay healthy, and stay connected to one another.

Fraternally,  
Michael A. Kofta  
Worshipful Master



### STATED MEETINGS

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](mailto:www.yumalodge17@gmail.com)  
for schedule.

### OFFICE HOURS

Call (928) 503-4356 for an  
appointment.

### TRESTLEBOARD

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even-numbered month.**

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## 2020 OFFICERS

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bordercop377@hotmail.com

### Junior Steward



## VIEW FROM THE WEST

By Sean Godfrey

### Back to the Drawing Board

In these current and uncertain times with limited access to resources available to us, one thing is for certain: we must become resourceful in our approach to handling the many things we do and how we do them each day. Now, that doesn't mean to go out and cut down a tree to harvest the toilet tissue from it and somehow find a way to turn it into hand sanitizer (you could!), but yet a new approach of doing the many things we once viewed as "essential" living, such as your weekly trip to the barber or a night out with the family at your favorite local eatery.

During the last Federal Government shutdown, a good friend of mine was left sitting at home, temporarily out of work with nothing to do other than to patiently wait for Uncle Sam to turn the lights back on. Rather than sit at home in the dark all day not knowing if or when, he took that forced isolation (a *Chamber of Reflection*) to see the light in which he and others had once worked, and was able to view unobscured the many tattered processes he and his company dealt with each day. Today, through his hard work and determination of "taking the blinders off", he is now the number 2 employee of that company and founded his own company along the way, which is profitable today, much before the lights ever came back on.

We must never succumb to the complacency of mind in regards to our Faith, Family, or Career(s). It is often said you must first see the dark before you can see the light.

All Master Craftsmen are constantly looking for new and improved ways in which they can draw designs upon the trestleboard, so that they may greatly impact the world and those around them in which we live. As many of the great adepts say, "*the universe is always talking to us, you just need to quiet, and listen to it.*" Universal consciousness is a theory that exists only to those who know it; it is that level of reasoning and *force* behind the "how and why" two inventors from opposite sides of the globe who have never met and yet don't know of each other's existence can simultaneously be working on the same patent at the same time.

As the great Albert Einstein said, "*you cannot solve a problem with the same level of consciousness it was created on.*" During this time of quarantine and social isolation, it is important not to become complacent in our many doings and to use this time wisely to self-reflect and focus on the three most important processes of our own lives: our Faith, our family, and career(s), to see the light in which we have been created and to discover how to positively move forward in them, not only for your own self, but more importantly for those around you.

God bless you all, stay safe, stay connected, and may each one of you be guided by the light in which emanates from the center of all well governed lodges.

Fraternally yours,  
Sean R. Godfrey  
Senior Warden

# GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH

By Benjamin Hinderer

Greetings from the SOUTH,

Hello all you cool cats and kittens out there.

Hope everyone is staying inside and away from others. Now is not the time to be social. Keep your family close and everyone else at least 6 feet away. This Coronavirus is a serious threat to the world. Now is the time more than ever for the Masonic Lodges of the world to shine. We always talk about brotherly love, relief, and truth. The world needs these three concepts more than possibly ever before.

These are uncertain times that we live in. Who knows where the world will go from here or how it will be when this is over. Will it be the same world we used to live in or will it be changed forever? I think it will be the latter of the two options.

It is now up to us to figure out where the Lodge will go from here. Will we be the same Lodge or will we have to change with the new times also?

Benjamin Hinderer  
Junior Warden



## 2020 OFFICERS (CONTINUED)

### Marshall

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bradwyo@gmail.com

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### Tyler

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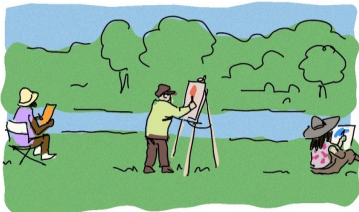
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Douglas W. Arps Jr. "DJ", 2019  
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HANDS  
OFTEN**



**Change of  
Address**

**Secretary:**  
**yumalodge17@gmail.com**

**Trestleboard:**  
**ncbudgirl88@gmail.com**

**Yuma Lodge No. 17**

Stated Meetings: Second Thursday at 7:30pm, preceded by dinner at 6:30pm.

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

Trustees' Meetings: Second Monday at 6:00pm. Lodge members welcome.

**York Rite Bodies**

Stated Meetings: First Monday at 7:30pm.

Practice: Third Monday at 7:30pm.

**Order of the Eastern Star**

Meetings: Second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00pm, preceded by dinner at 6:00pm.

**Yuma Shrine Club**

Meetings: Second Monday at 7:00pm.







**Yuma Shrine Ladies Lunch**

12 Noon, Second Monday of each month  
September through April  
Call Betsy Ramirez at (928) 210-8740 for location.



[facebook.com/YumaMasons](https://facebook.com/YumaMasons)






# May 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 	12 	13	14 	15	16
17	18 	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day (HOLIDAY)	26 	27	28	29	30
31						

***UPCOMING EVENTS:***

***Grand Communications – CANCELLED (due to COVID-19 pandemic)***

# June 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 	9 	10	11 	12	13
14	15 	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				





## FROM THE DESK OF THE JUNIOR GRAND DEACON

By Michael Dale

Xenophobia is “fear and hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything that is strange or foreign,” according to the Merriam-Webster’s Medical Dictionary, © 2002 Merriam-Webster, Inc.

An officer in my lodge was careful about his ritual, and he read and re-read the book so that he was very familiar with it. He got so solid at it that he could answer questions after only a few years that men who were looking to get their 50-year jewels didn’t know and it influenced his work.

One day at a practice, he did what was literally demanded in the ritual and didn’t stand up when he rapped to open the lodge (he was a warden). At the opening, the Master raps once, followed by the Senior Warden and then the Junior Warden. The book says nothing about standing up until the next line, when everyone except the Master is to stand. So, he did not stand when he rapped, although he’d seen it done that way in our lodge for as long as he could remember.

An older PM was waving him up after he rapped, but he didn’t think that it was right to do something not in the ritual, so he continued to sit.

“You have to stand up when you rap,” said the PM, in a kindly voice.

“I looked in the ritual and you’re not supposed to stand up until the Master raps up the whole of the lodge,” he replied.

“Let me see,” said the old PM rather frostily, before rifling through the pages of his ritual. “Well,” he said, “I’m sure that it’s in here somewhere.”

The younger Mason was just as sure that it was not in there and said so in a polite way. He said that he didn’t think that it was the right way to do it, as it was not specified.

The older PM then stood up and thundered, “You’re going to do it that way in this lodge. We’ve always done it that way.”

Now I know the old PM was taught that it was the way that it had to be done, when he went through the chairs. And he’s taught many others to do the same, so in a way suggesting to him that the younger man would know more about the ritual will be not a comment but a snub in his eyes.

Furthermore, there is nothing wrong in standing up when you rap to open lodge. As I said, the ritual is silent on the subject. One might have made headway with saying “It’s a tradition of the lodge, even though it’s not in the ritual.” But that’s not the way it went down.

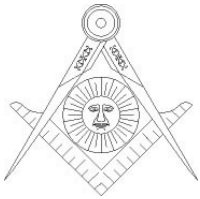
The old PM had thought that he was following the ritual and when he found out that he was not, instead of saying so, he barked an order that it would be so. Because “we’ve always done it that way.”

Well, that’s a heck of a good reason. One wonders how we ever managed to get electric lights in the lodge rooms.

But this is xenophobia in action, according to our definition above. The idea of not standing up which gave the old PM offense is an example of something that “is strange or foreign.” His reaction would indicate that he has a pretty solid “fear and hatred of it.”

My comment on this is that xenophobia is everywhere, and is not always something as significant as racism. But hatred and fear are hatred and fear, and as Masons we are enjoined to be thoughtful and open-minded, seeking to understand and seeking to build rather than tear down. If we are unaware of the xenophobia that we can fall prey to, we will find it hard to overcome it and actually live according to the tenets enjoined upon us.





## The Forget-Me-Not

Masonry has long used symbols to teach its valuable and important lessons. Every Mason is familiar with their usage. One of the most recent symbols that are associated with Masonry is the blue Forget-Me-Not flower. During the early 1930s, this delicate, little, five-petaled flower, which is similar to the common violet, became a symbol of Freemasonry in Nazi Germany and exemplified the spirit, dedication, and courage of men who literally held to their Masonic principles and beliefs in the face of gravest danger.

Shortly after Adolph Hitler came to power in 1933, he issued two decrees. One provided for Nazi control over the educational process. The second made membership in a Masonic Fraternity a crime. Hitler viewed Freemasonry as part of “the Jewish conspiracy” and wanted it eradicated. At that time there were 85,000 Masons in good standing in Germany. Adolf Eichman, who would later play an important role in Hitler’s “final solution,” raided the Grand Lodge of Germany and confiscated all of their records, including the names and addresses of 80,000 German Masons. Lodge property was confiscated and Eichman secretly issued orders that Masons should be put to death. His orders were followed.

The remaining 5,000 German Masons, whose records were not found, immediately went underground hiding their records, lodge paraphernalia, and identifying jewelry. Active Freemasonry in Germany ceased to exist.

In 1934, members of the German Grand Lodge of the Sun (one of Germany’s pre-war Grand Lodges) began wearing the blue Forget-Me-Not instead of the traditional square and compass on their lapels as a mark of identity for Masons. This was a Masonic secret that was never broken. Throughout the whole era of Nazi domination, little blue Forget-Me-Nots appeared on lapels in cities and even in concentration camps, worn by Brothers whose love of freedom, learning, and Freemasonry remained strong even under repressive Nazi rule.



In 1947, when the Grand Lodge of the Sun was reopened in Bayreuth by Past Grand Master Beyer, a pin in the shape of a Forget-Me-Not was adopted as an emblem of that first annual convention by those who had survived the bitter darkness of the Nazi era and were now able to openly rekindle the light of Freemasonry.

In 1948, the first Convent of the United Grand Lodges of Germany also adopted the pin as an official Masonic emblem honoring those brothers who had been forced to shelter the light of Freemasonry within but dared to wear the little flower openly. The tradition of using the blue Forget-Me-Not as a tribute to those whose fidelity to the Fraternity sets them apart was also used by the Masonic Brotherhood of the blue Forget-Me-Not that recognizes the contributions of Masonic educators.

Although Adolph Hitler was able to destroy the outward vestiges of Freemasonry by desecrating temples and imprisoning or murdering Masons, he was never able to completely eradicate Freemasonry in Germany. He was never able to understand that respect for individual rights and the love of liberty and learning will continue to burn in the hearts of some men, and that is the place where Masonry can endure even under the most repressive environment. Like the phoenix, Masonry rose out of the ashes of Nazi Germany (as it is also doing in several former communist block countries) as a tribute to the courage of man and the durability of those values and lessons that Masonry holds dear.

Brotherly Love,  
Douglas W. Arps, Jr. (DJ)  
Senior Deacon

### Reference:

Callaway, Walter M., “Forget-Me-Not, A Masonic Symbol in Germany.” *California Freemason*. Pages 168–69.

“Das Vergissmeinnicht, The Forget-Me-Not” *Square & Compass*. Pages 19-20.

Roberts, Allen. *Explanation of the Masonic Brotherhood of the Blue Forget-Me-Not*.

**Grand Lodge of Iowa, A.F. & A.M. Printing August 2002**

# STAR IN THE EAST

Submitted by B.J. Dale, Conductress  
(Carolyn Simson, Worthy Matron)



Greetings Sisters and Brothers,



This past month has been interesting to say the least. We do hope that everyone is staying safe and practicing social distancing. As you may be aware, all gatherings have either been cancelled or postponed, but regardless of that, many of us have continued to keep in touch with each other and are doing well checks either by phone, text messages, emails, and snail mail. It is important that we stay in contact and also reach out to each other. If you or anyone you know is in need of groceries, help getting groceries, medication, or even a ride to a doctor's appointment or ANYTHING, please don't hesitate to call someone. Another way we are trying to keep in touch is through the computer on ZOOM calls. It's a video/conference service that many people can come on and chat. Some Chapters are getting together on ZOOM, just to visit with their own chapter members or have invited other Eastern Star members to join their virtual "Social Gatherings". I have also seen Chapters play bingo together on ZOOM. All-in-all, it's just nice to see those friendly faces we haven't been able to see in awhile.

Our Chapter hasn't stopped helping out in the community. Our Worthy Matron, Carolyn Simson, was busy in March gathering food and monetary donations for our local Food Bank. Our Worthy Matron reported that we were able to donate 87 loaves of bread and a \$25 gift card to the Food Bank. It felt good to the heart that we were able to help 87 families. Other members in our Chapter have been donating and contributing by making masks for our First Responders, hospital workers, family, and friends. A few members have adopted a Senior from our local high schools and brightened their days by sending love gifts because they will not be able to have a traditional prom or graduation. Some members have donated meals to people that aren't leaving their homes and to medical personnel.

On April 25th, our chapter was planning on participating in our local Relay For Life. Yuma prides itself on hosting the largest Relay For Life event every year. Due to our present circumstances, this year's event was cancelled. The city decided to host a "virtual" Relay for Life on Facebook. Our Worthy Matron continued to represent our Chapter by setting out luminaries in her driveway and sitting during the night to celebrate the people who's names were on the luminary bags and those who have survived cancer.

Until next time, please keep all of our ailing members in your thoughts and prayers. If you know someone that isn't feeling well, would appreciate a phone call or card, or may need assistance getting to appointments or to the store, please call Carolyn Simson (Worthy Matron) 928 247-5962 (or any Chapter member) to let her know. We miss seeing all of you and we hope to see everyone's smiling faces when we are able to start up with our meetings again. Take care and be safe!

Here is a personal message from our Worthy Matron, Carolyn Simson:

To all our friends and family that have been helping someone with cancer, with all the love from their heart, it makes it easier. I enjoy walking for the cause because the money we get will help find the cure for cancer. Thanks to all who have given. May God bless you all. I hope to see you next year for the walk. Our team is called Moon and Stars.

Carolyn Simson, Worthy Matron  
Michael Dale, Worthy Patron



## **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 6pm, followed by a meeting at 7pm. Refreshments are served after the meeting. Hope to see you there. If you have questions please call the lodge at (928) 783-7993.





# Masonic Anniversaries

*When you became a Master Mason*



## MAY

John Adams  
 William Coddington  
 James Cooley  
 Dennis Dalton  
 Martin Freeman  
 Michael Hawes  
 David Hofferbert  
 Karl Koenig  
 Michael Kofta

David Lara  
 James Malone  
 D. Page Misenhimer  
 Don Plank  
 Jose Ramirez  
 Robert Sant  
 Steven Shippee  
 William Wiseman

## JUNE

Michiel Beckett  
 Gene Bowden  
 Miguel Castellanos  
 Clair Clark  
 Ralph Cline  
 Darin Davenport  
 Frank Donald  
 Jack Frost  
 Roberto Garcia  
 James Heard

Wade Holland  
 Michael Lee  
 Frederick Little  
 David McHone  
 Russell Pool  
 Duane Russell  
 Matthew Stang  
 David Wayman  
 Lawrence Williams

## PUBLISHER'S CORNER



Well...2020 has certainly taken a sharp turn to left field! Who would have thought we would be here, with words like “self-quarantine”, “Coronavirus”, and “social distancing” being part of normal life. The scariest part is not knowing if or when this will subside and we can go back to our “regular” life. As long as we continue to practice social distancing and self-quarantine, we can beat this! Even though we should refrain from being with one another, that doesn’t mean we can’t talk to one another. Reach out to your Brothers and Sisters, check in on them, make sure they are okay or see if they need anything. We can still be together...apart. ☺

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 attend an event, don’t forget to take pictures and submit them, either to me or on Facebook. Let’s show off Yuma Lodge #17!

Sincerely,  
 Sabrina Arps

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# Committees

## MASTER'S PROGRAMS

### Audit

TBD

### Budget

Worshipful Master

### By-Laws

Quaid E. Smith, PM, KYGCH

Hector Aponte

### Cemetery Clean-up

Roy Wright, Chairman

### Facilities Maintenance

Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

Timothy Williams, PM

### Funeral

Mikel K. White, PM

### Grievance

Michael A. Dale, PM

### Library/Archives

Mikel K. White, PM

### Masonic Education & Ritual

Mikel K. White, PM, DDGM

Timothy Williams, PM

Michael A. Dale, PM

### Masonic Relief

Worshipful Master

### Master's Advisory

Michael A. Dale, PM

Mikel K. White, PM, DDGM

Timothy W. Williams, PM

### Wives, Widows, and Orphans

Quaid E. Smith, PM, KYGCH

Brad Hamner

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

### Candidate Instruction

Quaid Smith, PM, KYGCH

Antero Trujillo

### Officer Instruction

Mikel K. White, PM, DDGM

## FUNDRAISING

### Chairman – Dale Kreger, PM

Co-Chairmen – Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

Brad Hamner

### Barbeque

Chairman – Mikel K. White, PM, DDGM

Trustees

### Balloon Glow

Dale Kreger, PM

### Raffle & Other Venues

Stewards

## PUBLIC SCHOOL/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

### Bikes for Books

Brad Hamner

### Roadside Clean-up

Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

### Law Enforcement Memorial

Hector Aponte

### Scholarship/Classroom Grants

Chairman – Sean R. Godfrey

## MEMBERSHIP RELATIONS/FRATERNAL SUPPORT

### Birthday Cards

Benjamin T. Hinderer

### Facebook

Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

### Mason of the Year

SW & JW

### Membership Participation/Retention

Worshipful Master

### Sickness and Distress

Antero Trujillo

### Trestleboard

Sabrina Arps, Publisher

Timothy Williams, PM, Printing

Jerry Leckrone, PM, Distribution

### Website

Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"



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