

Yuma Lodge
No. 17, F&AM



Special Edition
Volume 20, Issue 07

TRESTLEBOARD

ONE FINAL VIEW FROM THE EAST

By Michael Kofta, Worshipful Master

Greetings from the East,

Brothers and Sisters, Season's Greetings.

What a year we have had! To the Brothers in the line for 2021, congratulations on your elections and appointments. Congratulations also go out to WB Michael Dale on his appointment as the Senior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Arizona.

It was great sadness that we lost four of our Brothers, a long time visiting Brother, and a Sister this last year. Due to COVID restrictions we have only been able to drape the Altar for the Brothers of the Lodge. They will continue to live on in our hearts and minds and they shall be free from their labors in this life and now reside in the Celestial Lodge above.

Traveling Brothers

A few of the Brothers from Yuma Lodge have jumped in vehicles and journeyed across the state of Arizona for visits during the past year. Most of the visits were in conjunction with WB Michael Dale's visits as the Junior and Senior Grand Deacon for the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Arizona: Camp Stone Lodge #77 in Sierra Vista, Sunrise Lodge #88 in Phoenix, and Pinal Lodge #30 in Casa Grande. The visit to Sunrise Lodge turned out to be very interesting in that the WM WB Rolle III is the son of one of our Past Masters from 1945, James Rolle Jr., whom one of Yuma's elementary schools is named after. Wow!

Other visits were done during Outdoor Degrees put on by various lodges. A Third Degree in Prescott put on by Azatlan Lodge #2 for the "Bill Fain Memorial Degree", followed by a Third Degree in St. David for the San Pedro Lodge, which was also a joint event near "Beautiful Downtown Benson" in September, and a Third Degree called the "Degree in Desert" put on by King Solomon #5 and Prometheus Lodge #87 in Tombstone in November. Another interesting backdrop for a degree, for it was in the theater of Sheffelin Hall. Almost all of our events were captured and placed on Facebook. If you have any additional photos, please send them in.

Worshipful Brothers and Brothers, thank you for your support during 2020 and the opportunity and companionship to conduct the visits that we conducted this last year and I look forward to 2021!

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
for schedule.

OFFICE HOURS

Call (928) 503-4356 for an
appointment.

TRESTLEBOARD

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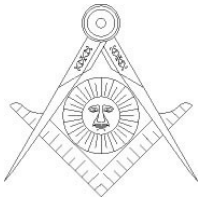


ONE LAST GREETING FROM THE SOUTH

By Benjamin Hinderer

This year has been a roller coaster of a year to say the least. It was good to find a way to continue our meetings and brotherhood. Not that our brotherhood ever stopped being a part of us but rather that we were not supposed to be meeting in person. It has been great seeing all of our brothers that have been able to come back down from up north. It does seem like we are missing quite a few of our normal brothers from up north. I have a feeling that COVID-19 has played a big role in them not being able to travel down south for the winter. Let's end this year off on a good note of friendship and brotherly love. If there is someone you have not seen or heard from in a while maybe reach out to them even if it is just to say hello.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Hinderer



Hey brothers,

So we made it through another year. We were able to do a few things the beginning of the year before this COVID-19 hit us. We were shut down for awhile but we eventually got back open and got some new Brothers in.

I found out early December that Brother Joe Strahm passed away. That kind of sucked; he gave me my first Masonic ring which he told me had been passed down from Mason to Mason. I want to say he said it was at least 80 years old. That is something I'll never forget and maybe someday I can pass it on to a young Mason. Rest in peace Brother Joe.

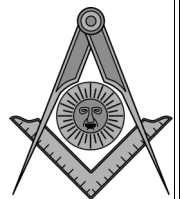
Now we are getting ready to move into the new year and hopefully we can do some things that we weren't able to do this year, like Leadership Conference. To any Brother who has not been able to attend before, you should try to attend. It is a really good chance to meet Brothers outside of Yuma. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

As I look back on this past year, I look back with awe and amazement. Our lodge has a number of good men in it and I am proud to know them. We have stuck it out through thick and thin. When have come to the brink and looked past to see a brighter future for ourselves and others.

Are you aware of the sacrifices that go on in the Lodge? The only – only – sacrifices are time and money. You are expected (not forced but expected) to attend Lodge one or two evenings a month and to pay Lodge dues. Those dues are set by the Lodge budget. They pay for rent, utilities, amortization of lodge furniture, etc. There are functions that the Lodge participates in for the betterment of the Lodge and its members. Your only "skin in the game" for these functions is your time. We are all taught how to divide our time. Is your time so precious that you cannot afford to give a little to your brothers? There is talk from time to time about goats and sheep in the Lodge, however there is no sacrifice of any living thing period.

We all serve a master that is the Great Architect of the Universe and no other. We feel that a man's beliefs are entirely between the man and the deity. It is not our place to get between them or to direct how they should relate to one another (as if we ever could...). Masonry encourages members to attend the church of



their choice. Freemasonry does not teach theology, does not promise salvation, and has no Masonic deity. Our meetings include prayers, but these are ecumenical, much like those said at the opening of a town council meeting.

There are some words which sometimes confuse people. These words come from the language of when Freemasonry started. The head of the Lodge is called the "Worshipful Master", but it is archaic language from centuries ago. "Worshipful" has nothing to do with religion. In context, it means "honorable"; some places still address mayors as "Your Worship". Similarly, "master" just means the boss, what most clubs would call the president. Think "scoutmaster" or "bandmaster".

The benefits of joining Freemasonry are sometimes hard to answer, because each man gets different things from it. Masonry is above all a system or philosophy of morality, using a great deal of symbolism and allegory. For instance, the square used by the old stone masons reminds you to treat everybody "squarely" or fairly (think "square deal"). A man wanting to be a better member of society may find it easier when surrounded by other men with the same wishes. There is a social aspect, of course. There is the chance to help others. Some would say it helps build the individual to become a better man.

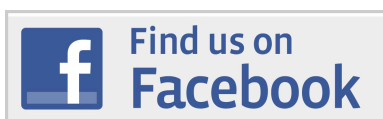
The benefits that Freemasonry gets from the individual vary greatly. Each individual brings their own uniqueness to Masonry. They have brought friendship, support, laughter, common sense, wisdom. They all help to give the other members a better understanding of the world around us.

We all take the same obligations. These obligations certainly descended from the medieval British stone-working masons, although its precise history is lost in time. In those rude times, punishments were harsh and bloody. Today, the worst the Masons can do to a member who has misbehaved is to expel him from the Craft, but the old obligations (explicitly referred to as symbolic) are retained as traditional and especially to remind the new Mason about how he should feel if he were ever tempted to break his word.

You can quit being a Mason at any time by simply writing a note saying so. It is expected that if you owe the Lodge dues, that he as a man of honor will pay those, but there is no mechanism to either force him to or to stay against his will.

Thank you to all the brothers who have traveled with me in my journey this year. If you really want to travel, come along sometime. You will meet some of the greatest people this world has ever known and who knows, you may even learn a thing or two. I will continue to travel as long as I can. I love you all!!

Michael Dale
Senior Grand Deacon



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DEGREE WORK



October 1st – Brother Chris Perez (center) was passed to the Second Degree
(Photo provided by Brother DJ Arps)



October 22nd – Brothers Luis Arroyo and Steve Bradbury received their First Degree



December 12th – Brother Lauro Gonzalez received his Third Degree

Congratulations
Brothers

MASONIC BBQ



Our Brothers warming up the delicious, authentic tortillas



Time to get our grub on!

How do you spell delicious?

M-A-S-O-N-I-C
B-B-Q!!!



Keeping things clean for the next round of meat!



The sisters and brothers from Eastern Star rocked it again with their desserts tables. They also sold homemade wreaths to raise money for their various charities.



We even had face painting for the kiddos!



A huge THANK YOU to Emily White for getting all the salsa donated for the AMAZING salsa bar!

MEMBERSHIP PINS



WM Mike Kofta and WB Mike Dale presenting Brother Royal K. Thomson with his 50-year membership pin

(Brothers DJ Arps and Roy Wright were also in attendance)

(Photos by Brother DJ Arps [not pictured])



Brother Joe Strahm receiving his 60-year membership pin from WM Mike Kofta



L-R: WB Michael Dale, Brother Joe Strahm, WM Mike Kofta, WB Mikel White

Brother Joe sadly passed away shortly after receiving his 60-year pin. Rest in peace, Brother.

Photos provided by Brother DJ Arps



GRAND COMMUNICATIONS

Congratulations to our new Grand Master, Most Worshipful Boyd Robertson



Congratulations also to our Yuma Brothers Michael Dale, PM (left), who was appointed Senior Grand Deacon, and Mikel White, PM (right), who was appointed District Deputy Grand Master

TRAVELING



Brother Douglas “DJ” Arps travelled with WB Michael Dale, Junior Grand Deacon, to Pioneer Lodge #82 in Peoria for his Official Visit on January 20th.



WB Michael Kofta, WB Mikel White, and Brother Brad Hamner travelled to Prometheus Lodge #87 in Gilbert on February 5th for the Official Visit of WB Michael Dale, Junior Grand Deacon

BROTHERS



WB Michael Kofta traveled to Sunrise Lodge #88 in Phoenix on November 21st for the Official Visit of WB Michael Dale, Senior Grand Deacon



WB Michael Dale, Senior Grand Deacon traveled to Pinal Lodge #30 in Casa Grande on December 3rd for their Official Visit

TRAVELING BROTHERS



Brothers Douglas “DJ” Arps and Brad Hamner, along with WB Mikel White and WB Mike Kofta, traveled with WB Michael Dale, Senior Grand Deacon, to Downtown Lodge #86 in Tucson for his Official Visit on December 28th.



Downtown Lodge #86 did a great job and a fun time was had by all!



STAR IN THE EAST

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



Greetings everyone! As always, we hope everyone is doing well and staying safe as we wrap up this very crazy, unconscionable year. I have to admit that I struggled writing this article, because there are no words to describe how this year has turned out. We have all tried to stay positive as we've had to adjust our lives from visiting in Chapter, meeting a friend for lunch, or gathering for special occasions with family and friends. Seeing each other through our computers and by phone became our normal, but we persevered and did our jobs well.

Our Chapters were given an option to go back to meeting in person back in October or waiting until after the first of the year. Our Chapter has met for our two meetings in October and one in November. Everyone that gathered was happy to see each other and conduct business. We hope to continue to be able to meet in person starting back up in January, but we have to see how this pandemic pans out. Most of our members have tried to do as many check-ins as possible to make sure our senior members are doing ok as well as everyone else. If you have not heard from anyone, please reach out to say a friendly hello.

We are still planning on doing a few fundraisers. The Masonic BBQ is going to be a little different this year. We are not sure what our role will be in helping out with serving or how our pie and dessert sales will go, so be on the lookout for more information to come as it becomes available.

I wish there was more exciting news and details to report, but that about wraps this up. Unfortunately, we have lost some very dear friends in our Star circle, both members and friends around the state. Please keep everyone in your prayers in hopes that we can make 2021 better. We hope everyone had a blessed holiday season. We wish everyone a bright and hopeful New Year! God Bless.

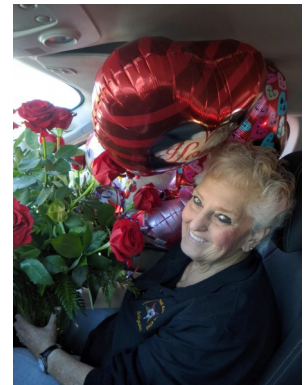
Carolyn Simson, Worthy Matron
Michael Dale, Worthy Patron



Our Chapter officers before our Official Visit with the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron on January 18th.



The ladies from our Chapter getting ready for the "Pink Lodge" on February 13th. Baby Preston was there to lend an adorable hand!



WM Carolyn Simson helping to deliver a HUGE bouquet of flowers on February 14th.



A few members helping out at our Round Table Pizza Takeover on February 19th!



The sisters and brothers from rocked it again with their desserts tables at the Masonic BBQ on February 9th. We also sold homemade wreaths to raise money for their various charities.



2021 OFFICERS



Congratulations to the new 2021 officers! Thank you to the Installing Officers and everyone who was able to attend.

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