



TRESTLEBOARD

VIEW FROM THE EAST

By Douglas Arps, Jr., Worshipful Master

Greetings from the East,

We haven't been able to put out Trestleboards regularly, but we will work harder to get them out regularly again, just like we used to. So here we go!

I would like to start off with a recap of the Arizona Grand Lodge Annual Communication. At the beginning of June, a few of us made the trip up like we do every year, and I'll tell you what Brothers—it is always a blast. The fellowship that goes on is awesome. We had the chance to hang out with the Grand Master from Mexico City, and if you didn't know his title beforehand, you would have never guessed it; he is truly a down-to-earth Brother. I really hope next year we can get more Yuma Brothers up there to experience it because you would absolutely love it. I would also like to extend a huge congratulations to Arizona's newest Most Worshipful Grand Master, Roger Biede III, and the rest of the Grand Line. We hope you all have a wonderful year and look forward to attending Grand Lodge events in the future.

On a personal note, most of you know my youngest daughter is in Rainbow now. She just attended her first Grand Assembly and absolutely loved it! She has grown so much in that organization in her short year as a Rainbow Girl. Now, my oldest and her friend will be initiated at Supreme Assembly in a few weeks, which is the international side of Rainbow. Rainbow is looking forward to starting an assembly back up in Yuma and we are slowly building that. If you know anyone who has girls aged 10–20 years old, please have them reach out to myself or my wife Sabrina. The assembly in Casa Grande is eager to help us build and grow in Yuma as well!

The next major event I hope a bunch of the guys can attend is Sister Ruth's installation in August for Arizona Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star. She is going to be the next Worthy Grand Matron of Arizona! If you need details or want to attend, please contact myself or any of our Star ladies.

Since it is summertime, our Lodge is technically dark for the season, but the work of Masonry never stops. We might have a degree or two popping up, and we are also going to hold some practices to work on proficiency. If any Brothers want to work on their parts to move up to the next seat, please let us know so we can help you get there. Finally, as you travel for vacations with your families this summer, please be safe and cherish those moments. In the blink of an eye, those little kiddos won't be little anymore—trust me, my two aren't so little anymore!



STATED MEETING

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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numbered month.**

Sabrina Arps, publisher
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ncbudgirl88@gmail.com



2025 OFFICERS

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Senior Warden

Brad E. Hamner
(928) 919-6866

Junior Warden

Hector Aponte (Johannes)
(928) 257-9992

Secretary

Michael A. Kofta, PM, DDGL (Ruby)
(928) 580-5965

Treasurer

Tim Williams, PM (Pat)
(928) 581-3985

Senior Deacon

Sam Azar (Nada)
(928) 920-5560

Junior Deacon

Ben Vik (Michelle)
(760) 562-6589

Senior Steward

Roy Wright (Rebecca)
(760) 927-6563

Junior Steward

Marshal



VIEW FROM THE EAST (continued)

By Douglas Arps, Jr., Worshipful Master

I hope everyone has a fantastic summer. I can't wait to see you all soon. Our next Stated Meeting will be in September, and as things pop up throughout the summer, we will keep you informed.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Douglas W. Arps, Jr. "DJ", WM

VIEW FROM THE WEST

Submitted by Brad Hamner

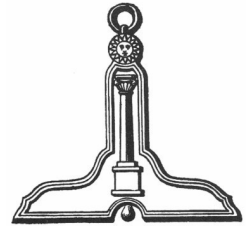
Fraternal Greetings from the West

Wow this year is flying by! The first half of the year has been pretty good, we initiated a couple Brothers, gained a few prospects, gave away some bikes for the Bikes for Books Program, awarded a couple deserving scholarships, had a great time at the 144th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Arizona while conducting all the business, and now going "dark" for the summer.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer break, vacation plans, enjoys our 250th Independence Day, and enjoys time with family, friends and Brothers! Don't forget to keep studying as this break will blow past and before you know it, we will be at the end of the year and electing new line officers for the Lodge. Let's all be ready, proficient in our work, and finish the year off strong.

Don't forget, just because it's HOT and we are "dark", we can still all get together for fellowship, degree work, or anything else a Brother may need, don't be afraid to reach out! For educational purposes I recommend researching The Middle Chamber, and why Fellow Crafts are paid there. See you all soon.

Brad Hamner
Senior Warden



GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH

Submitted by Benjamin T. Hinderer, PM

Hello,

Summer is upon us and as the temperature rises, don't let your interest or your passions betray you and lead you from the light. Keep a diligent focus on your mind and body. Just because we are dark (or grey as my wife says), don't forget to study your ritual. I would like to see some proficiency work completed over the summer. I know our new EAs are diligently working on their proficiency and I would like to see everyone sitting in a chair be just as diligent in their proficiency work. If you need help don't hesitate to call. Let's also get back to traveling and show the state how Yuma can roll out.

Benjamin Hinderer, PM
Junior Warden

FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

Submitted by WB Michael Kofta, PM



Brothers and Sisters,

Most of the business surrounding our Grand Communication is done and our Stated Meetings are done until September. Our labors, however, need to continue over the summer. We have a few very eager new Masons that are looking to advance so we may be having degrees over the summer. Also, our officer line needs to show the necessary proficiency for them to be eligible for elections in the fall.

There are events coming up over the summer for the Order of the Eastern Star as well as the York Rite. Make sure you have all of your reservations made in a timely manner.

We have revamped or rather updated our Prospect Management program. It seems to be working out extremely well. There has been a lot of involvement from our new prospects. Make sure that you greet these new gentlemen when you see them around the Lodge. It would be nice to include them in some of our events over the summer as well. Let us also make sure that we are doing our part in guarding our west gate by really getting to know them.

Looking forward to continued visits to other Lodges and visiting Brethren from other Lodges to our own. There are Outdoor Degrees coming up in the fall. You will need to get signed up and registered and let others know that you are going so that we can carpool.

It is imperative that you keep your information in Grandview updated so that our Lodge member information is accurate and up-to-date. If you have any information that needs to be updated in our Lodge database or in Grandview and do not know how, please contact me so that I can update it. If you make any changes in Grandview, **please let me know**.

There are still a few Brothers that need to pay their dues for 2026. Their names were read at our June meeting, and they will be suspended in September if their dues are not taken care of. Please reach out to make sure everyone is doing alright.

Please stay on top of your ritual and proficiency work so that we can continue our initiating, passing, and raising new Brothers.

If you need any assistance in general, or with practicing or on proficiency, feel free to contact me.

Fraternally,
Michael A. Kofta, PM
Secretary



2025 OFFICERS (CONTINUED)

Chaplain

Antero A. Trujillo "Doc" (Norma)
(928) 581-6286

Tyler

Ira M. Hearen, Jr. (Elizabeth)
(479) 430-8544

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHAIRMAN

Douglas Arps, Jr., WM
(928) 503-9802

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(928) 581-6286

Ben Vik, 2027
(760) 562-6589

Hector Aponte, 2026
(928) 257-9992

Benjamin T. Hinderer, PM, 2026
(928) 581-8508

Brad E. Hamner, 2025
(928) 919-6866

Ira M. Hearen, Jr., 2025
(479) 430-8544

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Change of
Address

Secretary:
yumalodge17@gmail.com
Trestleboard:
ncbudgirl88@gmail.com

Yuma Territorial Lodge 17

Stated Meetings: Second Thursday at **7:30pm**
(Dinner preceding the meeting at **6:30pm**)

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

Trustees' Meetings: Some Mondays prior to Stated Meeting at **6:30pm** (check with WM).
Lodge members welcome.

York Rite Bodies

Stated Meetings: First Monday at **7:30pm**.

Practice: Third Monday at **7:00pm**.

Order of the Eastern Star

Meetings: Second and fourth Tuesdays at **7:00pm**.
(Dinner preceding meetings at **6:00pm**.)

July 2026						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
						INDEPENDENCE DAY
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
				Arizona Supreme Assembly (Tucson)		
26	27	28	29	30	31	

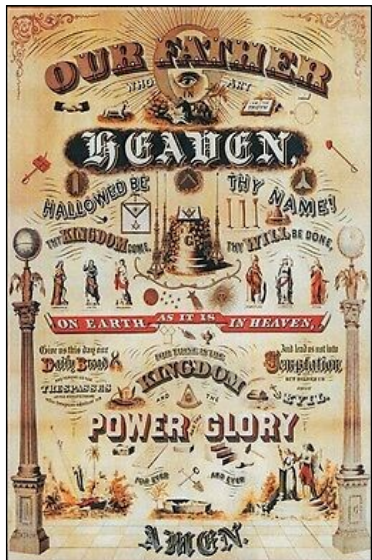
Yuma Shrine Club

Meetings: Contact Michael Kofta for meeting day/time

UPCOMING EVENTS:
Degree Work/Practices – Check with Line Officers



facebook.com/YumaMasons



August 2026						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Arizona Grand Chapter (Glendale) (Installation for Ruth Wilmot Saturday Night)		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

STATED MEETING



May Stated Meeting – getting ready for Grand Communication!

June Stated Meeting – we're dark till September but does not mean that we can't work on our ritual and proficiency. Safe travels Brothers



DEGREE WORK



Congratulations to Brother Keegan Obney on becoming our newest E.A. on May 28th. A huge thanks to the Brothers from Pinal Lodge #30 in Casa Grande for coming down.

GRAND COMMUNICATIONS

Congratulations to our new Grand Master, Most Worshipful Robert Biede III



Congratulations to all newly elected and appointed Grand Officers for 2026–2027

Photos provided by Allen Nichols Photography and Brother Douglas Arps, Jr.

GRAND COMMUNICATIONS



Congratulations to WB Mikel White, who was appointed as DDGM for District 6

Congratulations to WB Michael Kofta, who was appointed as DDGL for District 6



It was another amazing weekend of fellowship and brotherhood. Grand Communication is always a highlight of the year and this year was no exception. Brother DJ even made his room another "hospitality room" for all Brothers. Congratulations again to all the Brothers – here's to another great year!

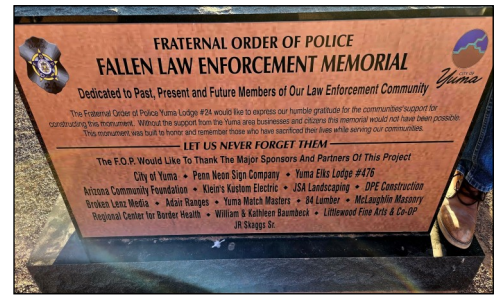
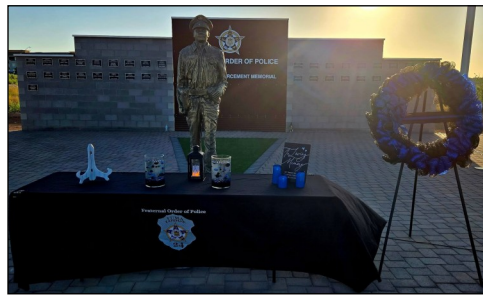
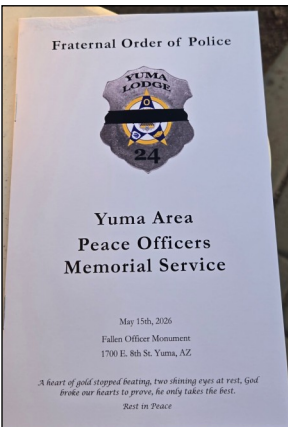


Bikes for Books



Another Bikes for Books campaign is in the books! Working in conjunction with Dateland Elementary School, our program encourages children to get out and read! Those who participated were eligible for a chance to win a brand new bike and helmet. Our Brothers love putting smiles on kids' faces and the kids love a chance to win!

Law Enforcement Memorial



The Yuma Police Department hosted the annual Peace Officers Memorial Service to honor the dedicated men and women who served in law enforcement and made the ultimate sacrifice. Our Lodge has attended for many years passing out waters to everyone. It is an honor to be a part of this event in any way we can.

Veterans and First Responders Breakfast



It was a pretty eventful day on May 23rd, from starting the morning with our annual Veterans and First Responders breakfast to presenting a check to a young lady to help with her Cinderella pageant travels, then wrapping up the day with some more Bikes for Books winners!



RECOGNITION BEGINS HERE

WHO WILL REPRESENT YOUR LODGE IN 2027?

 MASTER BUILDER AWARD	 TRESTLEBOARD AWARD
 MASTER ARCHITECT AWARD	 WEBSITE AWARD
 MASON OF THE YEAR AWARD	 MASTER RITUALIST
 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD	 MASTER LECTURER
 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD	

GRAND LODGE OF ARIZONA AWARDS PROGRAM

★ APPLICATIONS & NOMINATIONS DUE APRIL 15, 2027 ★

TICKETS ARE LIVE!

THIRD DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION

YOU ARE INVITED

AUGUST 29TH



JOIN US FOR A 3RD DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION
BY THE
OKLAHOMA MASONIC INDIAN DEGREE TEAM

ALHAMBRA MASONIC CENTER

9 WEST WOODWARD AVENUE • ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802

OPEN AT 4:00 PM • DINNER AT 5:00 PM

DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION AT 6:00 PM

\$30 PER PERSON • INCLUDES DINNER

TICKET PURCHASE DEADLINE JULY 25th OR UNTIL SOLD OUT

NO TICKET PURCHASE AT THE DOOR



SCAN TO PURCHASE
TICKETS & RSVP

MASTER MASONS ONLY

DUES CARD WILL BE CHECKED UPON ENTRY

Masonic Anniversaries

When you became a Master Mason

JULY

William Adams
William Creech
Phillip Davis

AUGUST

Keith Parsels

YOUR LICENSE PLATE CAN DO MORE THAN JUST DRIVE. ARIZONA FREEMASONS

SUPPORT THE CRAFT. SHARE THE WORD.

\$17 FROM EVERY SPECIALTY PLATE GOES DIRECTLY TO SUPPORT MASONIC CAUSES IN ARIZONA!

STANDARD PLATES: NO ADDITIONAL COST.	SPECIALTY PLATES: ADD \$25.00 INITIAL AND ANNUAL FEE	PERSONALIZED PLATES: ADD \$25.00 ANNUALLY FOR CUSTOM LETTERS AND NUMBERS.
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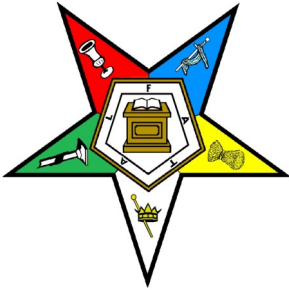
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President
CA License OA 93189

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(928) 344-3500 FAX: (928) 344-3507 (800) 281-0010

***** ATTENTION *****

Deadline for the September/October 2026 Trestleboard is

AUGUST 20TH, 2026



STAR IN THE EAST

By Sabrina Arps, PM

Greetings Everyone,

As the saying goes, with every ending there is a new beginning. We want to give a huge THANK YOU to Sister Linda Neal and Brother Michael Kofta on a wonderful year! We have grown and prospered under your leadership and we hope to continue that into the future. Congratulations to Sister Annette Casey and Brother DJ Arps on being installed as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron for the 2026–2027

year! We look forward to all the fun, exciting events you have planned for the year. We are especially excited for Sister Ruth Wilmot, who will be installed as Worthy Grand Matron for Arizona Eastern Star in August! We are so proud of you and will do all we can to support you in your Grand year!

Sister Sabrina Arps had the opportunity to attend North Carolina Grand Chapter as the Grand Representative of North Carolina in Arizona. It was a bit of a homecoming for her, as she was born and raised in North Carolina. There were some familiar faces from Arizona there and she also got to meet some members of the North Carolina Chapter that Sister Linda and Brother David Gillis are members of! Since this was the Official Visit of Most Worthy Grand Matron Billie Bradfield, she was in attendance, as well as Sister Tori Loll, Worthy Grand Martha. Sister Sabrina had a great time meeting Sisters and Brothers from across the country and learning about North Carolina Eastern Star!

We are dark for July and August, but we will be making preparations for Arizona Grand Chapter on August 5th–8th at the Renaissance Hotel and Conference Center in Glendale. We want to congratulate Sister Donna Dicola, Worthy Grand Matron, and Brother Gil Marriot, Worthy Grand Patron on a phenomenal year! We loved learning about “cowboy stuff” from Brother Gil and learned how to lead with love and kindness from Sister Donna. We know Grand Chapter will be filled with fun times and we will make lots of new memories! We will also continue getting together outside of the business of Eastern Star to build on our friendships and fellowships among our members. We may all be different, but it’s our love of Star that keeps us coming back and keeps us strong as a group.



Upcoming Birthdays:

- JULY – BJ Dale, PM (9th); Carolyn Simson, PM (12th); Johnnie Bowden, PGM (17th); Lou Strahm (31st)
- AUGUST – David Gillis, PGP (3rd); Margie Schaefer (4th); JC Reece (21st); Marlene Evans (30th)

Until next time, if you know someone who isn’t feeling well, would appreciate a phone call or card, or may need assistance running errands, please call Worthy Matron Annette Casey at (928) 581–0279 (or any Chapter member) to let her know. We hope to see everyone’s smiling faces at our meetings. Eastern Star members are welcome to visit our meetings, so if you know of some visiting, please invite them! Take care and be safe!



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 6:00pm, followed by our meeting promptly at 7:00pm. Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please call the Lodge at (928) 783–7993.

**Grand Chapter of Arizona
Invites you to the
126th Installation of Grand Officers
Saturday, August 8, 2026
4:30pm**

*Renaissance Glendale
9495 Entertainment Boulevard
Glendale, Arizona*



**Ruth Wilmot
Associate Grand Matron**

**Ed Gordon
Associate Grand Patron**

Reception Following

YOUTH CORNER



Congratulations to the newly selected 2026–2027 Grand Officers for Arizona Grand Assembly, IORG! Under the leadership of Grand Worthy Advisor Serena, this year looks like it will be amazing! Congratulations also goes to Brooke Arps, daughter of WB DJ Arps, who was named Grand Fidelity!



MASONIC YOUTH MUSIC BLOCK PARTY



GAMES

EL ZARIBAH SHRINE

Lip Sync

REGISTER TODAY

FREE!

FREE!



September 19, 2026

DANCING

KARAOKE

EL ZARIBAH SHRINE
552 N 40TH STREET
PHOENIX, AZ 85008

SNACKS, DRINKS
& MUSIC

1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM



<https://el-zaribah.org/masonic-youth/>

COMMITTEES

MASTER'S PROGRAMS

Audit

Worshipful Master

Budget

Worshipful Master

By-Laws

Mike Kofta, PM, DDGL

Benjamin Hinderer, PM

Cemetery Clean-up

Trustees

Facilities Maintenance

Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

Timothy Williams, PM, DDGM

Funeral

Worshipful Master

Grievance

Michael A. Dale, PM

Library/Archives

Benjamin Vik

Masonic Education & Ritual

Mike Kofta, PM, DDGL

Timothy Williams, PM, DDGM

Michael A. Dale, PM, MWGM

Masonic Relief

Worshipful Master

Master's Advisory

Michael A. Dale, PM, MWGM

Timothy W. Williams, PM, DDGM

Wives, Widows, and Orphans

Michael Kofta, PM

Brad Hamner

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Candidate Instruction

Michael Kofta, PM, DDGL

Officer Instruction

Michael Kofta, PM, DDGL

FUNDRAISING

Chairman – Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

Brad Hamner

Barbeque

Brad Hamner

Trustees

Midnight at the Oasis

Worshipful Master

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Bikes for Books

Brad Hamner

Public Schools

Brad Hamner

Michael Kofta, PM

Roadside Clean-up

Ira Hearen, Jr.

MEMBERSHIP RELATIONS/FRATERNAL SUPPORT

Birthday Cards

Benjamin Hinderer

Facebook

Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

Mason of the Year

SW & JW

Membership Participation/Retention

Worshipful Master

Sickness and Distress

Antero Trujillo

Telephone Calling

Michael Kofta, PM

Trestleboard

Sabrina Arps, Publisher

Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

Website

Douglas Wayne Arps, Jr. "DJ"

Wills and Bequests

TBD

