



TUCSON LODGE #4 F. & A. M.



MOE MOMAYEZ
Senior Warden
520-275-2071
Moe.momayez@gmail.com

TREVOR TANZILLO
Worshipful Master
520-869-0538
trevortanzillo@gmail.com

LOGAN GAITHER
Junior Warden
520-904-0783
Logangaither@gmail.com



PAUL SIMPSON, PM Secretary 520-245-5738 psimpson130@gmail.com
CATHERYN & PAUL SIMPSON Editors - 520-245-5628 csimpson130@comcast.net

TucsonLodge4.org • 520-323-2821

VOLUME 145

February 2026

NUMBER 2

FROM THE EAST

"The beginning is the most important part of the work"

~ Plato

Hello from the East,

It is often said that the journey to Freemasonry begins long before a man ever enters a lodge room or puts on an apron. In my experience, that is true. For many men, it starts as a quiet discomfort. A sense that something is missing, or that there is more expected of us than what we are currently giving. Not a dramatic moment, just a realization that staying the same is no longer enough.

The lodge does not create that feeling. It gives it direction. Long before a petition is signed, a man begins asking himself difficult questions about who he is, how he carries himself, and what kind of mark he is leaving behind. Freemasonry provides a place where those questions are taken seriously and where the work of self improvement is not just encouraged, but expected.

The degrees are important milestones, but they are not the starting line. They are reminders. They point us back to the internal work that first brought us through our lodge doors. Masonry only works if that work continues outside the lodge room, when no one is watching and no titles matter. I've said before that the hardest work we do is the work no one applauds, and I believe that more every year.

This month we have several Third Degrees coming up, and these nights matter. They matter for the candidates, and they matter for us. If you are able to take a part, please reach out to the Senior Warden or myself. If you cannot, your presence on the sidelines still carries weight. Showing up is part of the work.

We also continue to host a discussion group for men interested in becoming Freemasons that meets every other Thursday. Reach out to Sam or myself to find out when the group meets next. If you know someone who is asking questions or quietly searching, this is often where the journey truly begins.

May this month again be a time of fellowship and shared growth. May we attend our gatherings with open hearts, ready to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood. Let our lodge be a testament to the transformative power of Masonry, where harmony prevails, and the light of wisdom shines bright.

Time is fleeting, and each of us is only given so much. It's not too late to do the things today you said you'd do yesterday or tell those you love how much you care.

Your brother,

Trevor Tanzillo

FROM THE WEST

Brethren,

I've spent enough time in the Lodge to realize that I don't yet fully understand the tools and symbols I see and touch in our meetings. Lately, I have also been asking myself when the last time was that I took a real moment for introspection and to ponder the kind of structure I hoped to build in the following months and years. In order to really make ourselves better men, we must not merely measure our outward actions. We must also investigate the inner architecture where our actions are planned. This is where I believe the symbolism of the letter G can shine a light.

In his book "The Symbolism of Freemasonry," Brother Albert Mackey discusses the "Generative Principle," that vital, creative force through which our thoughts take form.

The letter G is at the center of our lodge. Its presence draws our eye to the same place whenever we come together. Our ritual tells us that it stands for Geometry and the Great Architect. This is true, but the deeper and generative meaning of the symbol is worth exploring further.

Brother Mackey states that the "Generative Principle" was the most important symbol of the ancient mysteries, and that to the ancients, it signified the act of physical generation and fertility, but to speculative Masons, it might symbolize the act of mental and spiritual creation. The principle is the same, and only its application differs. In either case, something is being generated, a child, an idea, etc. For us, it is a symbol of the creative act of thought and our desire to improve ourselves.

Mastering the result starts with mastering the thought. That makes intention our most important tool. The generative principle operates most effectively when we do our work with a sense of care. Then our work is no longer a chore; it becomes something that is truly important to us.

The G is positioned in the center of the Square and Compasses. This is the equilibrium that I believe every Mason should strive for within himself. The Square has long been considered a representation of the terrestrial and temporal, while the Compasses is considered a representation of the celestial and eternal. This means to me that the Square represents the physical world in which our deeds take place, and the Compasses represent the metaphysical world in which our ideas are born. We need both. Without the Compasses to guide us, our actions are just aimless. But without the Square, our thoughts never actually become something real. The Letter G is the bridge between the two. It reminds us that reality happens through us, not to us.

I look forward to seeing you in good numbers at the next Stated Meeting and to our continued work together as we pursue the building of our inner temples.

Fraternally,

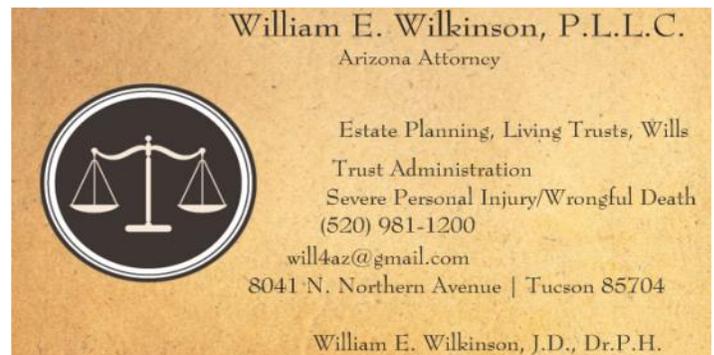
Moe Momayez - Senior Warden

Our Sick and Distressed Brothers

Brethren, please keep the following ailing brethren and family members in your prayers. If you would like to send a card, please contact the secretary for their address.

Jim Wadley, Ron Hill, Earl Starr, Earl Shambo, Salim Jabour, and Mary Yandell (Wes' wife)

If you know of any brothers or family members who are sick or in distress please let the Senior Warden or the Secretary know. If you would like to send a card, please contact the secretary for the appropriate address.



William E. Wilkinson, P.L.L.C.
Arizona Attorney

Estate Planning, Living Trusts, Wills
Trust Administration
Severe Personal Injury/Wrongful Death
(520) 981-1200
will4az@gmail.com
8041 N. Northern Avenue | Tucson 85704

William E. Wilkinson, J.D., Dr.P.H.



FROM THE SOUTH

Greetings, Brethren,

One of the traditional duties of the Junior Warden is to call the Craft from labor to refreshment, and then from refreshment back to labor. Refreshment is not meant to be the end of our work, but the pause that prepares us to return to it renewed.

In our Lodge, some of our most important labor takes place in our degree work. The degrees form the foundation of a man's Masonic experience, and for many candidates they will shape how they understand the Craft for the rest of their lives. Each generation receives the Lodge as an inheritance, and each generation bears responsibility for what it hands forward.

I would like to encourage every Brother, if possible, to make Wednesday night degree rehearsals a regular part of his Masonic calendar. Rehearsals are held every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., except the first Wednesday of the month, when we hold our stated meeting. These evenings are where we refine our ritual, mentor newer officers and brethren, and ensure that our candidates receive the best work we can offer.

This call is especially timely. We currently have seven Brethren who are Entered Apprentices or Fellow Crafts preparing to advance, along with more than a dozen men participating in our prospect discussion group. At the same time, our Secretary recently presented membership demographics showing that 56 percent of our members are age 70 or older, and 32 percent are over age 80. We are fortunate to have so much wisdom and experience among us—but those numbers also remind us that the future health of the Lodge depends on successfully bringing new men forward and preparing them to lead.

For many candidates and prospects, their first real exposure to Masonry will be our degrees. The quality of that experience—how prepared we are, how confidently the work is done, and how many engaged Brothers they see in the room—will influence whether they remain active and invested in the Lodge.

You do not need a speaking part to contribute. Extra Brothers at rehearsal strengthen the work, support the officers, and model commitment for the next generation. While not everyone can attend every week, I ask each of you to consider whether Wednesday evenings might fall within the length of your cable tow, particularly as we begin a new Masonic year.

By showing up to rehearse, we do more than practice ritual. We invest directly in the survivability, legacy, and future leadership of this Lodge.

Logan Gaither
Junior Warden



JIM STITH

SavOn
FLOWERS

520-903-2252
CELL 520-907-8103
FAX 520-903-2261

jim@savonflowers.com

P.O. BOX 42770
TUCSON, AZ 85733



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Mon Feb 2	Dinner Reservations Due	Noon
Wed Feb 4	Stated Meeting	7:00 pm
Wed Feb 11	MM Degree/Practice	7:00 pm
Wed Feb 18	MM Degree/Practice	7:00 pm
Wed Feb 25	MM Degree/Practice	7:00 pm
Fri Feb 27	Cigar Night (Anthony's)	7:00 pm
Wed Mar 4	Stated Meeting	7:00 pm

Please refer to the Worshipful Master's weekly email for the latest updates as the details of the events are not yet fully known when this edition is sent out.



MASONIC MUSINGS ON MORTALITY

Old Age IS Coming to You—Knights Templar

Throughout history, the shared influence of the Knights Templar and early Swiss confederates has left a subtle yet profound mark on the evolution of secret societies and civic traditions. Many scholars suggest that the migration of Templar ideals—rooted in chivalry, resilience, and mutual aid—helped shape the spirit of Swiss independence and democratic governance. This convergence of values laid the groundwork for the emergence of Freemasonry, blending the mystique of medieval brotherhoods with the practicalities of community-building and personal refinement.

The connections between Freemasonry, the Knights Templar, and Switzerland are not only historical but also deeply philosophical, influencing the values and practices of contemporary Masonic lodges. In 2026, these intertwined legacies act as guiding lights for communal action, personal growth, and the evolution of symbolism within the fraternity. The enduring mystery of the Knights Templar's fate after their suppression in 1314 has given rise to a fascinating intersection of history and legend, especially regarding their supposed influence on the formation of Switzerland.

Modern Freemasonry continues to draw upon the rich tapestry of Templar traditions and Swiss innovations, especially in a world where the search for meaning and community remains as urgent as ever. Rituals rooted in secrecy, coded language, and symbolic tools—once used for survival and spiritual pursuit—now serve as metaphors for resilience in a rapidly changing society. The square and compass, the cross, and the halberd represent precision, morality, and humility overcoming power, inspiring members to meet challenges with courage and integrity.

Annual commemorations of events such as the Battle of Morgarten (November 15, 1315), do more than honor the past; they serve as opportunities for reflection on the enduring values of unity and ingenuity, reminding participants of the power of collective action and the importance of defending justice in contemporary contexts. In 2026, these lessons resonate with global issues—advocacy for tolerance, defense of the oppressed, and the fostering of brotherhood across boundaries and backgrounds.

Masonic architecture and ceremony continue to honor the clandestine strategies of the medieval Orders, adapting ancient motifs into modern spaces as emblems of secrecy, solidarity, and aspiration. As Freemasonry evolves, new generations are inspired by the stories of Templar courage and Swiss invention, finding motivation to shape their own legacies through acts of service, compassion, and innovation.

Ultimately, the living tradition of Freemasonry in 2026, infused with the mythos of the Knights Templar and the Swiss confederates, encourages individuals to view their fleeting years on earth as an opportunity to build community, promote justice, and leave an enduring imprint through deeds of helpfulness and strength. The symbols and stories of the past inform not only ritual but daily life, reminding each Mason that the pursuit of wisdom and brotherhood continues, unwavering, into the future.

Parallels drawn by historians and authors are compelling, inviting us to look closely at Swiss traditions, symbols, and historical developments for echoes of a Templar legacy. These narratives do not merely shape perceptions of Swiss national identity—they have also profoundly influenced the development of modern Freemasonry, a tradition that in 2026 continues to draw inspiration from these medieval roots.

Freemasonry, as it exists today, is steeped in symbolism and ritual that many believe can be traced back to the Knights Templar and the early Swiss confederation. The Templar emphasis on secrecy, codes, and ritual became motifs adopted and expanded upon by Masonic lodges. The square shape of the Swiss flag, unique among nations, directly resonates with Freemasonry's defining use of squares and compasses—tools symbolizing morality, precision, and order. The Swiss flag's white cross on red, the geometric precision, and the "on the square" phrase all echo themes found throughout Masonic thought and ceremony.

The halberd, first deployed by Swiss villagers against Austrian knights, is another symbol whose form and function have been adopted into Masonic iconography. In Freemasonry, implements of labor and defense—be they axes, swords, or halberds—are used as metaphors for the ongoing struggle for enlightenment, the protection of moral values, and the importance of brotherhood. The story of ordinary Swiss farmers inventing a tool that could pierce the armor of the powerful is often referenced in Masonic teachings as a parable about innovation, unity, and the triumph of the humble over the unjust.

In terms of role and function, the narrative of the persecuted Templars finding sanctuary and reinventing themselves in Switzerland speaks to the Masonic ideal of transformation through adversity. Masonic lodges in 2026 continue to use rituals modeled after the ancient mysteries and the chivalric orders, including the Templars. Tolerance, secrecy, and resistance to tyranny that were hallmarks of both the Swiss and the Templars.

(cont page 5)

(From page 4)

This is evident in the structure of the York Rite and the Scottish Rite, which both feature orders named after the Knights Templar, and incorporate lessons of

The application of these traditions in 2026 is both ceremonial and practical. Many lodges hold annual commemorations of Templar events, including the Battle of Morgarten using them as opportunities for reflection on the values of courage, ingenuity, and fraternity. The form of Masonic regalia often references the cross, square, and sword—symbols that have graced Swiss cantonal flags, Templar tunics, and the tools of medieval artisans alike. The ethos of religious tolerance and the protection of oppressed peoples remain central to Masonic charitable efforts and diplomatic activities, echoing the Swiss and Templar legacy.

Finally, the Swiss and Templar stories continue to inspire Masonic architecture and ritual design. The use of secret chambers, coded emblems, and ritual processions mirrors the clandestine operations of the medieval Orders and the defensive strategies of early Swiss confederates. In 2026, Freemasonry remains a living tradition, drawing upon the mythic and historical confluence of the Knights Templar and Switzerland for its moral teachings, symbols, and sense of purpose.

For a young man hearing these stories, perhaps for the first time, the realization that life is fleeting—that he too will grow older and eventually pass away—can be both sobering and motivating. The courage shown by humble Swiss villagers who faced impossible odds, and the Templars who reinvented themselves in adversity, offers a powerful lesson: our span of years is limited, but our potential for impact is boundless. Rather than fearing the passage of time, these lessons encourage young people to live fully, to embrace each day as an opportunity for service, and to contribute to their communities in meaningful ways. By witnessing how ordinary individuals shaped the course of history—through innovation, unity, and resilience, a young person may be inspired to pursue a life of purpose, compassion, and helpfulness, making their own legacy one of service and strength for others.

Leopold lost 2,000 men, mostly knights, in this battle, the Swiss lost 12. The halberd continues to be part of the official uniform and weapon of the Swiss Guard who still watch over treasure in the Vatican’s secret vaults and the Pope day and night.

The Swiss villagers' victory over Austrian knights, using inventive halberds, highlights how unity and innovation can overcome powerful adversaries. The halberd became a symbol of Swiss independence and cleverness. Notably, these Swiss fighters were untrained farmers and villagers. This raises an important question: Who invented the halberd?

William Wilkinson, PM

Editors Note: The halberd’s unique design made it a formidable weapon on the battlefield. It consisted of a long shaft with an axe head, a spike, and a blade mounted on top. The shaft was usually made of wood and measured between six to seven feet in length. The head of the halberd varied in design and size, depending on its specific purpose in battle.

The blade of the halberd was the primary striking edge and measured between 12 to 18 inches in length. It was designed to be used for cutting and thrusting, making it effective against both armored and unarmored opponents. The spike, also known as the ‘pick,’ was mounted on the back of the blade and was used for thrusting at armored opponents or breaking through infantry formations. The axe head, mounted at the top of the shaft, was used for cleaving through armor or delivering powerful blows.

STATED MEETING DINNER

Dinner for the stated meeting will be meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and the required masonic green beans along with a garden salad and dessert. Price is \$15 and will be prepared by our sisters and brothers of Saguario Chapter #48 OES. If paying by check, please make them out to **Saguario #48 OES.**

As a reminder, *reservations are due by noon on Monday, February 2nd*, and can be made to the secretary. .

TUCSON LODGE MASONIC FAMILY SCHEDULES

Saguario Chapter #48 OES, Second & Fourth Mondays	7:00PM
Olana Temple #131, Daughters of the Nile, Third Monday	6:00PM
Oasis Court #75, Ladies Oriental Shrine, First Monday.....	6:00PM
Daughters of Scotia, Second Friday.....	7:00 PM
DeMolay—Arizona Chapter	For info Contact Arizona.Chair@AzDeMolay.org
Bethel #25, Job’s Daughters	For info Contact Michelle at bethel25azjdi@gmail.com
Assembly #2, Rainbow Girls	For info Contact Paul Simpson at psimpson130@gmail.com

For use of the Lodge Building contact the Lodge Secretary at tl4so@outlook.com



FROM THE SECRETARY



"To encourage literature and the arts is a duty which every good citizen owes to his country"
George Washington

Growing up as a young boy, I was an avid reader. I read just about everything I could get my hands on—fiction, non-fiction, history, biographies, I read it. In high school I worked in both the high school and city libraries. Being around books, I was in hog heaven. I would read a book just because the title looked interesting. I read all through college. I continued this through out my Air Force career, While flying AWACS and boring holes in the sky over Saudi Arabia I found I could read Michner in a flight, all while keeping eye on my navigation computers. (It was also a good way to stay awake on 16-20 hour flights). When I became a mason, I started reading more about the craft. I have what I consider a decent masonic library, but nothing like the one we have at the lodge. Today, most of my reading is done on my black and white Kindle reader. I have a lot of books that are on my list to read, but I have gotten there yet. The Japanese have a term for this, Tsundoku. It is for books you buy, but never read.

Reading is a way to keep the mind active—whether it is something of a technical or philosophical nature, or the latest pulp fiction. On my Kindle I do have a collection of all of Ian Fleming's original James Bond novels, as well as Churchill's History of the English Speaking People, and let's not forget the classic Morals and Dogma. Along with reading, I do a lot of crossword puzzles. On a Saudi trip when my wife sent me over a couple of Simon and Schuster crossword puzzle books, one of the guys on my crew took one look at it and asked "what did you do to get her mad at you?" For me it is a way of unwinding and keeping the mind active.

I closed out our annual report with Grand Lodge. I was pleasantly surprised at our final number. I was carrying a number a little higher than what it should have been (\$7835). In a nutshell, we will be sending a check to the Grand Lodge in the amount of \$7575 for our annual returns. The audit committee will be meeting to complete the audit of our books so we have them submitted by the end of February.

Putting on my building manager's hat, I want thank Brothers Mark Goldrich and Rick Chimblo. They have been doing a lot of work around the lodge from replacing light switches and plugs in the parking lot, replacing emergency lights, and other projects. They are working on replacing the decorative bollards in front of the lodge with real ones. That project should be complete by the end of February. We are also in the process of replacing some of our security cameras with new and improved ones. We had to replace the DVR for the system back in December

and went to a web based access. We are in the process of identify items that need repair and can use all the help we can get. If anyone has access to a lift or bucket truck, we really need to replace a couple of the parking lot lights.

We are dealing with an external water leak in the area of the back flow device by the dumpster enclosure. We were hoping it was part of the drip system and easily isolated, but as with anything dealing with plumbing, that wasn't the case. We are in the process of getting bids from several plumbers to make the repairs.

Now for my obligatory rant sounding like a broken record. (For our younger members who may not be familiar with records, this is a great chance to help an older brother go down memory lane.) As of today, we have 55 brothers who have yet to pay their 2026 dues. As you know, they were due and payable by December 31, 2025 (a month ago). In an effort to cut expenses, I sent dues notices out electronically through Grandview. I will be sending out paper notices just before the February stated meeting. We went with electronic notices as the cost of the traditional envelopes and mailers tripled since the last time we ordered them. So, if you haven't paid your dues, please do so. If you need help with your dues, please talk to the Master or Secretary as we have tools we can use. All requests will be kept in strictest confidence.

Speaking of payments, we take cash, check, PayPal, and now Zelle. Sorry, no Bitcoin. There is no extra charge for Zelle. We had good results with Zelle during our Winterhaven Parking fundraiser. If you have Zelle set up with your bank, all you need to do is go to your banking app, and enter in either the lodge phone number—**(520) 323-2821** or email—**tl4treas@outlook.com**. The amount will be \$129 via Zelle. We also have a QR code available in the office.

When I was working in tech support, the company I worked would ask the following icebreaker question "What is a fun fact about you that most people won't know?" One of mine is I learned how to drive a Zamboni when I was in college. They sent me a license and a model of one in our university colors. My other fun fact is I had an Oshkosh P-Series snow plow, with V-blade and double wings on my government drivers license. I got this when I was stationed in northern NY. To put this in perspective it was a big snow plow which could clear two lanes of a road at the same time. Not of much use here, but it was fun to keep it on my license. It would be interesting to hear a fun fact about each of our brothers.

See you in lodge.

Paul A. Simpson, PM, Secretary

6209

Jean-Claude Malterre, PMX

Do you remember what you did on January 21st, 2009? Chances are that you do not, after all, it was some 17 years ago. And it was just one day, like the ones before, although you might recall something that happened the day before: the United States had sworn-in Barack Obama as our new President. It was a Lodge night at Tucson Lodge #4, where the Arizona Military Degree Team was conferring a second degree on a former sergeant of the US Army. However, the 51 attendees may recall that the degree stopped short during the circumambulation: the acting Master died in the Master's chair from a cardiac arrest... I remember, it was 6,209 days ago and I was there. I was there and, was also the one who died.

That day had started like every day and for most of the world's population, it was just another day, including for the 51 attendees at Tucson #4. It was a normal day until it wasn't: that evening I was kind of given what today I see as a notice to me, that it was time for me to shift into a higher gear and, deal with the things that I had been tasked to accomplish and which weren't, despite all the proper tools I had been equipped with to do them... I understand today that I had lost sight of what I came there to do: if I had learned, subdued some of my passions, I was still there to improve myself in Masonry, work, aid and assist...

If I clearly perceive this today after 38 years in Masonry and although I had known it all along, for me, then, it was a loud and drastic reminder... For me?... the 51 attendees of the evening?... You, reading this?

GASLIGHT THEATRE

Secret Agent, Alex Starr, travels the globe fighting evil, meeting beautiful women, and singing songs. After infiltrating the gang of criminal mastermind, Victor Vector, and his sinister henchwoman, Venus, Starr must thwart their evil plans for world domination. Will this "Secret Agent Man" find Vector's underwater lair in time? Will he save the world from nefarious schemes? Will he still have time for a cocktail?! Make your reservations today to find out! Reservations can be made to the secretary.

As is tradition, not quite masonic tradition as it is based on fact, we will be making our semi-annual pilgrimage to the far east side of Tucson (Broadway and Kolb) to the Gaslight Theatre on **Friday, April 17th at 8:30 pm**. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for children over 12. We have 40 seats reserved in our "usual" area.

FEBRUARY MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

NAME	DAY	YEARS
JOHN PATRICK BOLDOC	5	
BENJAMIN PHILLIP THORP, Jr	5	29
RAYMOND AUSTIN PHILLIPS	7	58
GREGORY HAMMONDS	10	10
STEPHEN MATTHEW MURRILLO	11	17
MARK JOSEPH GILLILAND	13	13
ROBERT CHARLES CONRAD, PGM	15	48
RICHARD DWAYNE VAUGHN	15	12
CURTIS LEE WARREN	18	50
GEORGE CHARLES PARKER II	19	12
WILLIAM BENARD PREDGO	19	4
JOHN RUSSELL PROKOP	19	32
JERRY EDDVILLE WHITE	19	49
GUY ALBERT HUMMON II	20	70
WILLIAM ROBERT LOBB	23	15
KIRK KEVIN KLOSOWSKY	24	5
THOMAS JAY HAYNIE, Jr	26	12
KENT ALLEN VANDERKOLK	27	41
NICHOLAS ANTHONY ANDRESS	29	14

Mention it is your masonic birthday month and get a free meal at that month's stated meeting.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

NAME	DAY
JOAQUIN ACUNA MUNOZ	1
MICHAEL HUGH MATLOCK	3
MICHAEL PALMER JOHNSON	5
JOHN WILLIAM MYERS II	6
JONATHAN FREDERICK BRADFORD	8
TREVOR JAMES TANZILLO	8
JAMES ROBERT BELL	17
JEAN-CLAUDE MALTERRE	17
SEBASTIAN CONDOR BABON	23
WILLIAM JOSEPH BRAY III	25
ARIF EMRE ERKOCA	25
NICHOLAS JOHN POSUNIAK	25
DENIS GREENLAND	26
CHAD MICHAEL RICHEY	28

ADVERTISING IN TUCSON 4 NEWSLETTER

Would you like to get your business out to your Masonic Brothers? If so, consider taking out an ad in the Tucson Lodge 4 Newsletter. It is published monthly and gets sent out all over the State. You will also be helping your Lodge continue to provide its members and friends with current articles and information. A 1/8 page (business card) is only \$75.00, a 1/4 page ad is \$150.00, a 1/2 page ad is \$300.00 and a full page ad is \$600.00. If interested please contact the Lodge secretary and we will set you up. Thanks for your support.



A Trestle board Reflection at the Turning of the Year

Gratitude and Reflection

As this year draws to a close, I write from a place of gratitude and humility. Gratitude for the brothers who have accepted me, guided me, and walked beside me; and humility in recognizing that none of us arrive at this work fully formed. The turning of the year has given me moments of quiet reflection, not only on what I have done, but on who I am striving to become among you.

Masonry teaches us that it is the **internal qualifications of a man** that matter. That lesson has become central to my life. We live in a world that measures men by performance, titles, and appearances, yet within the lodge we are reminded that character, intention, and integrity carry greater weight. The labor we undertake here is inward, quiet, and often unseen, yet it is the work that truly shapes us.

My Path of Service

For those who may not know me personally, I wish to share part of my path, not for sympathy, but for understanding. In 2009, I lost my only and younger brother in a car accident. In the days that followed, I planned his funeral, took care of my mother, and then chose a path rooted in service. Having already spent ten years in the U.S. Army, I went overseas to Afghanistan working for the Department of Defense and the State Department on various contracts, spending four years there. It was a continuation of duty, driven by a need to serve something greater than myself. That service was meaningful, but it was also dangerous. During that time, I survived three roadside bomb attacks and two suicide vest attacks. I sustained severe traumatic brain injuries that continue to affect me today. My short-term memory was heavily impacted, and I live with PTSD and other wounds that are not always visible. These experiences shaped me deeply and continue to influence how I move through life and through Masonry.

A Different Masonic Walk

I share this because my walk in Freemasonry is different than some.

I reflect best through writing. I struggle with memorizing ritual and catechisms, not from a lack of effort or desire, but because short-term memory is something I now work against every day. Writing draws from long-term memory, something I have always been strong in, and it is where I find clarity and expression.

I am profoundly thankful for the patience and understanding shown by our Worshipful Master and by the brethren, who recognize that every man's journey unfolds in its own way. My steps may take longer, but they are sincere and deliberate.

A Path Long Before I Knocked

Long before I knocked on the door of the lodge, Masonry was quietly present in my life. As a candidate, I learned that my great-grandfather was a Mason, as were my uncles and one of my grandfathers. Throughout my military career, I was mentored by strong leaders, men of character and discipline, many of whom were also Masons. Later, while working for the Department of Defense, I again found myself surrounded by good men who shared this same Light.

Looking back, I now see that Masonry had been shaping my path long before I fully understood it.

After losing my brother and eventually stepping away from overseas service, I felt the absence of a brotherhood I once knew. In candidate meetings, I found something familiar again, purpose, belonging, and fellowship. I found a place where men support one another not out of obligation, but out of **Brotherly Love**.

Continuing the Work

Today, I continue my service with U.S. Customs and Border Protection. In my role, I remain deeply involved in veteran support and peer support, standing beside others who carry unseen burdens. Being surrounded by fellow employees, many of whom are also Masons, has continued to shape my path and reinforce the values we share inside the lodge.

Service, in all its forms, remains at the core of who I am.

Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth

The tenets of Freemasonry—**Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth**—are not abstract ideals to me. They are principles I strive to live by daily.

- **Brotherly Love** reminds me that we are bound together, regardless of our differences.
- **Relief** calls me to be present for those in need, to listen, to support, and to serve.
- **Truth** guides me to live honestly to labor with integrity, and to remain faithful to my obligations.

My oaths—to my country, to service in uniform, to my work overseas, and to my brothers—are not chapters that have closed. They are lifelong commitments. When I speak of a band of brothers, I speak from lived experience. I know the strength that comes from standing together.

(cont page 9)

(from page 8)

Looking Toward the Light

As we enter a new year, my thirst for knowledge in Masonry continues to grow. I want to learn more, listen more, and expand my understanding. I want to be present for my brothers in good times and in difficult ones. Know this: **you are all my brothers. Call on me, and I will always be there.**

To our Worshipful Master Trevor, and brother Logan 1.0 who has walked beside me as a mentor, and to all the brethren of this lodge, I offer my sincere gratitude. Your patience, understanding, and brotherly support have allowed me to walk my path in Masonry with dignity and purpose.

My path may be different. It may be longer. But my heart burns for this Craft and for the work it asks of us. Though my steps may be slower, my resolve is unwavering. I am honored beyond words to continue this labor alongside you, seeking the Light together.

Logan Lake (FC)

What is a Trestle Board?

tres-tle board \ n—

A braced frame serving as a support for a work surface.

We refer to our newsletter as a trestle board, but let us take a little time to look at the purpose behind this interesting custom. In finding the answers maybe we can find better uses for our publication and maybe a purpose for the craft in this endeavor.

But what is a Trestle Board?

At the beginning of this article is the Operative definition of this tool, but we make use of it for the more noble purpose of providing a framework of support on which the Worshipful Master can rely for the support of the work of the Lodge. Its components are made of the Officers of the Lodge making the surface and the rough hewn members of the Lodge its supports. Teaching us that without the firm support of the members of the Lodge the trestle board may collapse and the Master be unable to make his designs. And without a smoothly joined line of officers, the pits and mars of the surface may make for imperfect work by the craft.

To whom does this tool belong?

Masonic legend teaches us that it is the tool of the Master to lay out his work. Without it they cannot receive the necessary instructions for their labor.

Where is its place in the Lodge?

In truth, the place on which the Master lays out his work

is his trestle board. It may be a desk, a podium, or a lectern. Its shape does not matter, only the use he puts it to. It is where he traces the designs for the craft to work.

Then why is the newsletter called the trestle board?

Masonic legend teaches us that it is the tool of the Master to lay out his work. Without it they cannot receive the necessary instructions for their labor.

Where is its place in the Lodge?

In truth, the place on which the Master lays out his work is his trestle board. It may be a desk, a podium, or a lectern. Its shape does not matter, only the use he puts it to. It is where he traces the designs for the craft to work.

Then why is the newsletter called the trestle board?

At a construction site the foreman has a desk where all of the prints are laid out and in our legend the trestle-board was there for all to see, but where is this common place for the Master to show his designs? On a bulletin board? In the Lodge? With meetings only once a month and our membership spread over such a large area it would be impossible to get word to all members in a timely fashion. The Master could issue a summons, to which we would be obligated to appear, but for every item of information that would be impractical. The only answer lies in taking the trestle board to the craft and the most efficient way to do that is through this publication.

Now that you know what the trestleboard is, here is how you can help to make it stronger. If you find weak spots in it, let us know. The more support we have the stronger our we are as a Lodge. If you have something to say let the Master know, he may just include it in his designs. And never be afraid to deliver praise, for if we know what we are doing right, the less apt we are to do something wrong.

From the old Masonic Newsletter Editors Group

Call For Articles

Your editor team tries to present items about lodge activities, community events, when submitted, and other articles to provoke thought and discussion. We enjoy putting together each issue, however, at times we run out of material. If any brother is interested in submitting articles, poetry, or other items to be published, please submit them to us either by written or via e-mail. Articles must be of interest to our brethren and families and be publishable under the Arizona Masonic code (we will take care of that aspect). Again, if you are interested or want to see a short article about a Masonic subject, please let us know.

2026 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master.....Trevor Tanzillo (Isela)
 Senior WardenMoe Momayez (Caroline)
 Junior Warden.....Logan Gaither (Shelby)
 Treasurer.....Jon Schmidt, PM (Shari).
 Deputy Treasurer.....Ronald Hill, PM (Linda)
 SecretaryPaul Simpson, PM (Catheryn)
 Secretary EmeritusBob Conrad, PGM (Jackie)
 Senior DeaconSam Greer, PM (Paddy) , PM
 Junior DeaconAnthony Coviello-Blinn
 Senior StewardP Scott Ceravolo
 Junior Steward.....Rafael Leidy-Escabi
 MarshalJose Gonzalez
 Chaplain
 Tyler
 Trustee 2026Samuel Greer (Paddy)
 Trustee 2026Rafael Leidy-Escabi
 Trustee 2026.....Gabriel Class (Rosa)
 Trustee 2027.....William Wilkinson, PM (Laurie)
 Trustee 2027Hannes Meyer (Joyce)
 Website EditorJohn Prokop (Sharlot)
 Widow's AssistancePaul Simpson, PM (Catheryn)
 Newsletter EditorsCatheryn & Paul Simpson



CURRENT RESIDENT OR



TUCSON LODGE NO. 4, F. & A. M.
 3590 N COUNTRY CLUB ROAD
 TUCSON, ARIZONA 85716-1254
 Ph: 520-323-2821



SADDLE UP

SAGUARO CHAPTER #48

Invites You to Mosey on Down To Our

Rodeo Steak Dinner

Sunday, February 22, 2026

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Serving starts at 4pm

Tucson Lodge #4
3590 N. Country Club Rd
Tucson, AZ 85716

\$25 per Person or \$45.00 per Couple

STEAK, BAKED POTATO, GARDEN SALAD,
HOMEMADE BEANS, ROLL, DESSERT, COFFEE
& DRINKS. CHICKEN BREAST OPTION ALSO
AVAILABLE BY REQUEST.

Please RSVP by Tuesday, Feb 10, 2026
to Secretary Laurel Wadley via email
strawberrystar@sisna.com or via text
(520) 955-2590



50/50 RAFFLE FOLLOWING DINNER

PRESS RELEASE: Grand Lodge of Arizona Announces Statewide Masonic Lodge Open House Day on March 21, 2026

Phoenix, AZ – February 1, 2026 – The Grand Lodge of Arizona is excited to invite the public to a statewide Masonic Lodge Open House Day on Tuesday, March 21, 2026. This special event offers a unique opportunity for community members, history enthusiasts, and those curious about Freemasonry to step inside local lodges, engage with members, and discover the timeless principles and traditions of one of the world's oldest fraternal organizations.

During the Open House Day, Masonic lodges across Arizona will open their doors to visitors, providing guided tours, informative presentations, and interactive discussions. Attendees can explore the rich history of Freemasonry, which dates back centuries and emphasizes values such as brotherhood, integrity, charity, and personal growth. This event is designed to foster transparency and community connection, allowing guests to ask questions, view historical artifacts, and learn about the positive impact Freemasons have on local charities, education, and civic initiatives throughout the state.

Why attend? For members of the public or those intrigued by Freemasonry, this is an ideal chance to dispel common myths, gain firsthand insights into the organization's philanthropic efforts—such as supporting scholarships, hospitals, and disaster relief—and understand how Freemasonry promotes moral development and lifelong friendships in a supportive environment. Whether you're interested in the symbolic teachings, architectural heritage of lodge buildings, or simply exploring a piece of Arizona's cultural fabric, the open house provides a welcoming, no-obligation way to satisfy your curiosity and connect with like-minded individuals.

Times and specific activities will vary by location, so visitors are encouraged to check with their nearest local lodge for details. A list of participating lodges and contact information can be found on the Grand Lodge of Arizona website at www.azmasons.org.

The Grand Lodge of Arizona, established in 1882, oversees more than 50 Masonic lodges statewide and is dedicated to upholding the principles of Freemasonry while contributing to the betterment of society through education, charity, and community service.

For more information or media inquiries, please contact:

Roger Biede
Public Relations
Grand Lodge of Arizona
Email: r.biede@azmasons.org

What is a Lodge?

The Lodge is essentially the local chapter of the fraternity. When we talk about the "Lodge", we're referring to both the members of that chapter and the physical building where they gather. Each lodge operates independently and mirrors the character of its members and the community it serves. Some lodges focus on family gatherings, while others are more centered around the study of philosophy. Regardless of their size or age, all lodges share the same core Masonic traditions and rituals.

To get a better sense of a specific Lodge, the best approach is to get in touch and attend one of their events. Since each lodge has its own unique vibe, it's a good idea to check out more than one to see which one feels like the right fit for you.



What do Masons do?

One of the most frequently asked questions about Freemasonry is what really happens inside a lodge room. Officially, the focal point is the regular "stated meetings" where members vote on new additions and handle the day-to-day operations of the lodge, which operates as a nonprofit. Members also get ready for and conduct the ritual performances that guide new members through the various degrees of Masonry. However, there's another side to this answer. Like any group of friends, Masons do the things you'd expect: we grab a cup of coffee together, plan golf outings, enjoy barbecues, attend lectures, organize community events, mentor young individuals, volunteer for worthwhile causes, and provide support to each other in times of need. The majority of Masonic activities unfold outside the confines of the lodge hall.

Contact Us

www.azmasons.org



Building Bonds, Shaping Futures

A Simple Guide to Understanding—and Talking About—Arizona Freemasonry

Is Masonry a Religion? Certainly not. Our members encompass a diverse array of spiritual backgrounds. However, to fully engage with Freemasonry, a belief in a higher power is essential—it's a membership requirement. The interpretation of what that higher power signifies is entirely personal to each individual. One Mason might recognize their higher power as God or Allah, while another may not ascribe a specific name to it. It's worth noting that Freemasonry originated in Medieval England and Scotland, and as a result, some rituals incorporate symbols from Christianity. Nevertheless, it's crucial to understand that we embrace members of all spiritual faiths.

Masonry a Religion?

Why join a Masonic Lodge?

Why should you join a Masonic Lodge? A number of members believe that becoming part of a Masonic lodge ranks among the best decisions they've ever made. It's a chance to take a breather from the daily hustle and shift into a different mental space. Connecting with friends and making new ones is a big part of it—a refreshing change of pace. Naturally, the reasons for joining are personal and vary for each member. Here, we've gathered some of the commonly mentioned reasons men cite for joining. If any of these resonate with you, Freemasonry could hold a lot of appeal for you.

Helping others

- Forming lifelong friendships
- Engaging with the community
- Being part of a historic organization you can take pride in
- Focusing on personal development
- Learning time-tested leadership skills
- Meeting new men from different backgrounds who share your values
- Enjoying regular social activities
- Connecting with a global network

By the Numbers

58

The number of local lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Arizona

5,000

Members of the Grand Lodge of Arizona.

What is Freemasonry?

What is Freemasonry? Freemasonry, or just Masonry for short, is a global organization that's been around for 300 years. It originated from medieval tradesman's guilds, evolved into something more. It's not just a club; it's a framework for leading a meaningful life. Back in the day, ancient Freemasons were busy constructing castles and cathedrals. These days, our focus is on constructing character. We're all about strong values, continuous self-improvement, giving back to our communities, and supporting each other when times get tough. Our traditions involve conveying moral teachings through the symbolism and allegory of stonemasonry. It's a serious business, and we take it seriously, but we're not all solemn; we like to have a good time too. Many of us form lasting friendships through Freemasonry. It's a unique blend of depth and camaraderie that resonates with a lot of men.

Is Freemasonry a Secret Society?

Is Freemasonry a Secret Society?

Certainly, the answer is negative. It's a common misconception, though. In the 18th century, when Freemasonry took root in Europe, its ideals of tolerance and equality were considered quite radical and, at times, even illegal. As a result, Masonic lodges weren't exactly broadcasting their presence. (Interestingly, in the United States, Masonic lodges have typically been quite visible in their communities.) However, times have changed. Freemasonry thrives when we openly engage with the world. That's why our lodges maintain websites, social media profiles, and organize public events. We are always open to discuss Freemasonry and to respond to questions from those interested in learning about our Fraternity..

What happens outside of a Lodge?

What happens outside of a Lodge? While the formal proceedings take place within the Lodge, the connections that resonate the most with most Masons often occur beyond those four walls. For instance, we come together to:

SOCIALIZE. That includes everything from camping trips to black-tie dinners and interacting and bonding with men of all ages

HOST SPECIAL EVENTS. Many lodges recognize leaders in their communities like teachers, students, first responders & veterans.

LEARN. Masonic clubs and groups meet for lectures or to hold discussions about history, philosophy, or other topics.

GATHER. Masons love to form clubs about common interests.

GIVE BACK. Masons support their community and local causes, particularly around public education and childhood literacy.

MENTOR. Masons frequently work closely with students, including members of the Masonic youth orders.

While service is a significant aspect of our identity and mission, it's not the whole story. Freemasonry revolves around three core elements: personal development, genuine friendship, and community service.

Distinct from other volunteer organizations, we invest considerable effort in personal growth. This encompasses honing leadership skills and striving to improve as partners, parents, and friends.



Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of
Free and Accepted Masons of Arizona



The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F&A.M. of Arizona



James Xie
Junior Grand Warden
P.O. Box 2059
Gilbert, AZ 85299

Email – j.xie@azmasons.org

To: All members of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F&AM of Arizona
RE: Registration for MasoniCon 2026 is Now Open!

Dear Brethren,

It is with great excitement that I invite you to join us for **MasoniCon 2026**, held from **March 27th to March 29th** at the **Phoenix Hilton Hotel**. This isn't just another meeting—it is a weekend dedicated to the shared light, history, and fellowship that define our ancient Craft.

Shared Wisdom for Every Degree

This year, we are doing something different. Our presentations have been carefully curated to be **accessible and engaging for every Brother**, regardless of his current degree. We are bringing in renowned speakers from neighboring jurisdictions alongside our own local experts to impart deep Masonic knowledge in a way that resonates with everyone.

To our Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts: This is also your weekend. To encourage you to join us for your first major Masonic event, **we are offering all EA and FC tickets at 50% off the regular price**. This is an incredible opportunity to sit with your brethren and experience the wider world of Masonry early in your journey.

A Sneak Peek at Our Future

In a historic first, all attendees will participate in an exclusive **unveiling and live trial of our new electronic voting system**. This system will streamline our Grand Communications going forward, and we want *you* to be the first to test it in a live setting. Be a part of this milestone in our Grand Lodge's history!

Tradition and Toasts

The weekend wouldn't be complete without the warmth of the **Festive Board**. On Friday evening, March 27th, our Grand Lecturer, **Worshipful Brother David Fierro**, will host an evening of tradition, camaraderie, and a few surprises that you simply won't want to miss.

Act Fast: Early Bird Special

Brotherly love is priceless, but savings are always welcome! Register by **January 31st, 2026**, to take advantage of our **Early Bird Special**, which includes discounted individual tickets and our high-value bundle pricing. We are also featuring lodge purchased group tickets for amazing, discounted pricing as well!

How to Register:

- **Online:** www.tinyurl.com/masonicon2026 for registration and tickets, and www.tinyurl.com/masoniconhotel for hotel bookings
- **Flyer:** Scan the QR codes on the attached flyer for instant registration and hotel booking links.

Brethren, let's come together to make MasoniCon 2026 a landmark event for our jurisdiction. I look forward to seeing you in Phoenix!

Sincerely & Fraternaly,
James Xie, Junior Grand Warden

MASONICON

The Grand Lodge

Join us the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Arizona for MasonicCon 2026!

GUEST SPEAKERS

- WB David Fierro (GL of AZ) Grand Lecturer
- WB Randy Sanders (GL of Missouri)
- Br. Pat Shannahan (GL of AZ)
- WB Dago Rodriguez (GL of California)
- WB Adam Kendall (GL of California)

MEALS

- Festive Board - 3/27
- Meet the Speakers Luncheon - 3/28
- Masonicon Celebration wrap-up dinner - 3/29

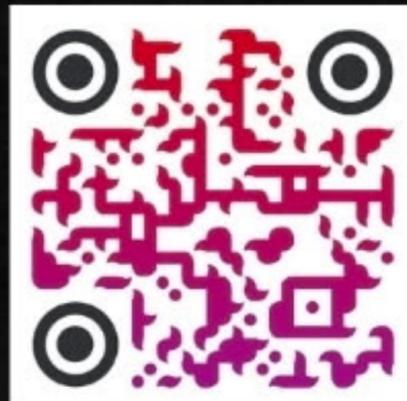
FIRST LOOK!

Get ready for an exclusive first look at our brand-new Electronic Voting App! We're revolutionizing the way we vote at this year's Annual Communication, fast, secure, and right at your fingertips.

REGISTRATION



HOTEL BOOKING



AZMASONS.ORG



MASONICON

The Grand Lodge

Join us the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of
Free and Accepted Masons of Arizona for
MasonicCon 2026!

MAR

27TH-29TH

LOCATION

**HILTON PHOENIX
2435 S. 47TH ST.
PHOENIX, AZ 85034**

EARLY BIRD

SPECIAL

Registration: \$49 before
January 31ST, 2026



Festive Board will be
hosted by WB David
Fierro, Grand Lecturer

AZMASONS.ORG