

THE TRESTLEBOARD

OCTOBER 2024



Before our Stated Meeting on September 12, 2024, our Worshipful Master Doug Peck presented a post-secondary education grant check to Ms. Katie Holm. Congratulations, Katie.



A publication of
SUN CITY LODGE # 72



"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can." -

THE TRESTLEBOARD

Arizona Masonic Charities presented a donation to Legal Services for Crime Victims in Arizona (LSCVA) on September 26 2024 at the agency's offices in the Arrowhead area of Glendale. In the photo of the presentation, are (from Left to Right): Doug Peck, Worshipful Master of Sun City Masonic Lodge No 72; Jamie Balsom, a Crime Victims' Rights Attorney and Executive Director of the agency; and, David P Miller, Arizona Masonic Charities Board President.

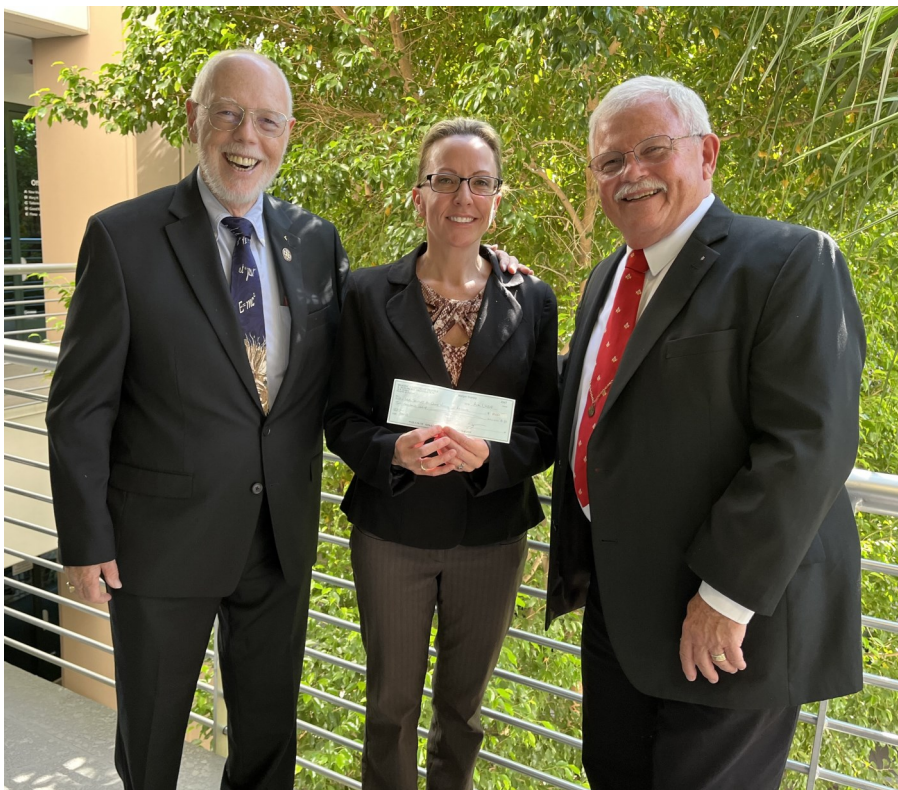
LSCVA is a locally based social services agency serving those in Arizona who have been a victim of Criminal activity. The agency is intended to represent the individual rights of the victim in any legal proceedings involving the victim of the criminal activity as often those rights may be overlooked by the prosecution and defense attorney teams in processing the criminal activity through the judicial system.

Arizona Masonic Charities has provided this agency with financial grant support for several years and is proud to be associated with the important work provided to the residents of Arizona.

Masonic Charities of Arizona is a non-profit organization whose objective is to channel contributions from Masons in Arizona to community social service agencies. To carry out this objective, Masonic Charities seeks grant applications from 501c3 charitable organization serving communities in Arizona. The Board seeks to coordinate donations with local Masonic Lodges and involve the local Masonic Lodge in the donation presentation.

The Board of Directors is appointed to serve a three-year term by the Grand Master of Masons of Arizona. Directors serve voluntarily and receive no compensation for their incurred expenses or services. Throughout its history, grants from Masonic Charities of Arizona have been provided to local organizations in various State of Arizona communities.

Additional information about Arizona Masonic Charities can be found at the website www.masoniccharitiesaz.com. Donations can be sent to Arizona Masonic Charities, 345 W Monroe, Phoenix AZ 85003.





Congratulations to Bro. Jesse Phillips, who was being Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on September 19, 2024. Many thanks to WB John Huth, who was acting Master for the night!



Congratulations to Bro. Devon Bradley, who was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on September 26, 2024. All of the Chairs for the conferral of the Degree were filled by Past Master-members of Sun City Lodge!! Great exemplification of the Ritual, Worshipful Brothers!



From the East



As I write this piece, I grow increasingly aware of how little time remains for me to advance the 2023/24 Agenda that I reviewed for you in this space last month. That said, I want to continue the commentary begun there and speak to what has transpired since my last article.

To begin, I am happy to report that the “Masters and Wardens Summit” that was held on Saturday, September 7 was a tremendous success. Nearly a hundred of us from across the jurisdiction, including Most Worshipful Brother Michael Dale, Grand Master of the Most Excellent Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Arizona and four of his predecessor Grand Masters. The presentations and discussions were well organized, informative and pregnant with opportunity for the open discussions in which nearly everyone participated to some extent. Of the many topics, one to which I can speak immediately here is that of Arizona Lodges’ need for a designated Prospects Manager to administer and supervise a program of ongoing engagement with the men who have ‘taken the first step’ of expressing interest in Freemasonry all the way through, at least potentially, their initiation as Entered Apprentices. At that time they will be transferred to whomever has been designated as their Mentors.

Brother Devon Bradley was initiated an Entered Apprentice on September 27 by a Slate of Officers populated entirely by members of our Lodge who are Past Masters either here or elsewhere. My predecessors in the Oriental Chair commended themselves very well and it is with tremendous appreciation that I thank them here for their willingness to ‘jump back into the fray’ on this special occasion. I truly believe that those of us in attendance witnessed the first of what will become a Legacy event for our Lodge over the coming years and I look forward to my being invited to serve someplace on the Slate for a “Past Masters” Entered Apprentice degree to be conferred in 2025.

Ceremonially speaking, we look forward to upcoming Third Degrees on October 3, 17, 24 and 31. The degree on October 17 will be a “courtesy” degree in which Pioneer Lodge will open under their Charter in our Lodge room and perform the conferral with assistance from some of us from Sun City Lodge #72. I encourage you to support Pioneer Lodge that evening and to enjoy a somewhat different ‘approach’ to the manner in which things proceed under their Charter. (HINT: Under their Charter, Pioneer Lodge Masons are required to dress in ‘cowboy’ or ‘Western’ clothing so we should honor their tradition by, as much as possible, attiring ourselves in the same manner as fully as we can.)

Finally, as the year begins to wrap up we look ahead to several remaining Special Events. The first will be our “Gimmick Rallye Revisited” on Saturday, October 5, a flyer for which may be found elsewhere in this issue. Second, our Awards Night is coming in November so stay tuned for further announcements concerning it. Third, our Installation of Officers for the ensuing year is scheduled for Saturday, November 16. Once again, keep your eyes peeled for further details.

In closing, I am once again pleased to note that our Lodge is healthy and we can look forward to a marvelous future. Much of my remaining work during October and November will be directed to setting into motion several yet outstanding initiatives intended to further strengthen our Lodge under the Agenda for 2023/24 that I summarized for you in this publication last month while at the same time assuring a smooth transition to the Agenda that our Presumptive Master for 2024/25 will be implementing at his will and pleasure. Meanwhile, please be sure to take note of Lodge communications announcing upcoming Stated Meetings, degrees and the Special Events such as those that I mentioned above. Until next time, I remain ...

Fraternally and With Best Wishes for Your Health and Happiness,

Douglas C. Peck

Worshipful Master

Sun City Lodge #72

From the West



Greetings from the West

As usual we hit the ground running after being dark for the summer. There is no sign of slowing down. We have several degrees planned for the following month. Including a courtesy degree for Pioneer #86. We will be hosting them and will fill the empty stations and places. This will again show how amazing our Lodge is.

At the time of this writing, we have just completed the Past Master's First Degree. I unfortunately was unable to attend due to a work call out and a personal matter. However, I was told it was very well received. I am hopeful that we can convince our Past Master's to do this each year.

We are getting ready to begin our elections for next year. Our November Stated Meeting, November 14th, will be the election date. Please mark your calendars to attend. The installation of officers is scheduled for Saturday November 16th.

Having said the above, I'd like to take this time to thank Worshipful Doug Peck for his leadership this year. He came into the Chair with several new ideas. Some of which I really enjoyed. The Gimmick Rallye being one of these. I thought it was awesome. With Ryan Clark and family's help, we earned a large amount for our youth grants. Without Doug at the helm, encouraging us to be better men, our year would not have been as successful. And without the hard work of all of you, we could never succeed. There are many more examples, but I can't list them all.

Our building committee once again took care of all the fires that crept up on us. We now have a new roof that should last for a long time. They are working on Wi-Fi controllers for the heating and air. That should save money in the first year. We have new paint outside that made us look great for our cornerstone placement. Just another great group of Masons doing what they do best.

I will leave you with this; cherish each moment as we never know when that last moment will visit us. Cherish each other for the same reason. You are all my brothers and I cherish that each day. Be good to one another and live the obligations we took as best you can.

Fraternally,

Bryan Young

Senior Warden

Sun City Lodge #72

From the South



Greetings from the South,

I can't believe summer is over and so is this Masonic year! It has been a lot of fun sitting in the South and I am looking forward to moving to the West really soon. It has been an honor and a privilege to do so. I would like to share this little article I found.

Masonic tradition emphasizes integrity, making it a cornerstone for any leader. In Freemasonry, the square teaches us to square our actions with morality and virtue. Leadership in business should be approached with the same dedication to personal growth as in Masonic teachings. Masonic lodges thrive on brotherhood, a lesson in fostering unity and cooperation in community leadership.

The level in Masonic symbolism reminds leaders to treat all with equality and fairness. Masonic leadership involves guiding through example, much like leading a team or organization. The compasses in Masonry suggest drawing boundaries for ethical behavior in leadership roles. Freemasonry's focus on relief and charity can inspire corporate social responsibility in business. Masonic rituals teach the importance of discipline and consistency, valuable traits for business leaders.

Learning to listen, as practiced in lodge meetings, enhances leadership by valuing team input.

Masonic teachings on truth encourage transparency in leadership, building trust within communities and companies. The trowel symbolizes spreading the cement of brotherly love, akin to uniting diverse groups under common goals in leadership. Each Masonic degree imparts lessons on progression, reminding leaders that learning is never complete. In Masonry, the gavel represents the power to shape and refine, a metaphor for leadership's role in developing others.

Masonic tradition teaches time management through its structured meetings, a skill vital for effective leadership. The principle of 'due form' in Freemasonry teaches leaders the importance of process and protocol in business operations. By embracing these Masonic principles, leaders can cultivate a well-rounded, ethical, and effective leadership style.

Also please continue to RSVP for all the dinners so we can make sure we have plenty of food for everyone. You can RSVP by text or phone call at 623-340-5794 or emailing suncity72rsvp@gmail.com. Also please let me know if there are any food allergies and I will do my best to let the groups know who prepare our delicious meals so they can make accommodations if possible.

If there are any Brothers who would like to prepare a meal or have any suggestions please let me know so we can use that fantastic kitchen we have.

Brethren, remember wives and girlfriends are always welcome for dinner, just don't bring them both at the same time.

Fraternally,

Bro. Shane Larson

Junior Warden

Sun City Lodge No. 72

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION

Secretary's Report as of October 1, 2024:

Sun City Lodge has 189 members.

Presently the Lodge has four Fellowcrafts and two Entered Apprentices.

That totals 6 new members in the "works"! This equals a potential membership of 195. Additionally, we have a bunch of prospective members interested in joining our Lodge, either by petition or affiliation!

The average age of our membership is 67.81 years old. The Fellowcrafts average 53.60 years old, and the Entered Apprentices average 42.81 years old.

The upcoming meetings are:

- Thursday, September 26, 2024 – First Degree put on by the Past Masters at 7:00 p.m. (Dinner at 6:00 p.m.)
 - Thursday, October 3, 2024 – Third Degree at 6:00 p.m. (Dinner at 5:00 p.m.)
 - Thursday, October 10, 2024 – Stated Meeting at 7:00 p.m. (Dinner at 6:00 p.m.)
 - Thursday, October 17, 2024 – Pioneer Lodge #82 has Third Degree in our Lodge Room, with our support, at 6:00 p.m. (Dinner at 5:00 p.m.)
 - Thursday, October 24, 2024 – Third Degree at 6:00 p.m. (Dinner at 5:00 p.m.)
 - Thursday, October 31, 2024 – Third Degree at 6:00 p.m. (Dinner at 5:00 p.m.)



Stay healthy, Brethren!

Fraternally in Peace and Harmony,

Gary A. Loeb, PM

SunCity72Sec@gmail.com

MASONIC ANNIVERSARIES

| Brother | Date | Years of Membership |
|---------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| Robert J. Kinch | 10/16/1968 | 56 |
| Raymond A. Wiedmeyer | 10/9/1975 | 49 |
| John S. McIntosh | 10/22/1975 | 49 |
| Gerard T. Lyle Jr | 10/31/1986 | 38 |
| Donn M. Wise | 10/22/1991 | 33 |
| Trevor J. Bishop | 10/16/2003 | 21 |
| Leslie E. Ellis | 10/21/2003 | 21 |
| Keith A. Brooks Jr. | 10/3/2006 | 18 |
| Michael B. Pettit | 10/7/2006 | 18 |
| James C. Reece | 10/20/2009 | 15 |
| Razvan C. Dumitru | 10/28/2011 | 13 |
| Gene E. Miller II | 10/8/2016 | 8 |
| Dennis S. Larson | 10/16/2017 | 7 |
| Filiberto Encinas-Tequida | 10/25/2018 | 6 |
| Randy L. Gyorffy | 10/7/2021 | 3 |
| Gerald D. Rosenbaum | 10/21/2021 | 3 |
| James A. Contreras | 10/6/2022 | 2 |
| David A. McMartin | 10/27/2022 | 2 |



| Brother | Birthday |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Robert L. Johnson Jr | Oct 6 |
| David N. Leiva | Oct 6 |
| Joseph B. Setticase | Oct 6 |
| Shane T. Miller | Oct 10 |
| Trevor J. Bishop | Oct 11 |
| Craig D. Cheetham | Oct 11 |
| William R. Sturdevant | Oct 13 |
| David M. Hodgins | Oct 17 |
| Gary M. Bain | Oct 18 |
| Razvan C. Dumitru | Oct 22 |
| Vincent T. Jones | Oct 23 |
| Laurence R. Iseman | Oct 26 |

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAYS
TO ALL!**



SUN CITY LODGE #72
SICKNESS & HEALTH
THE "ALMONER'S VOICE"



One of Freemasonry's core values is looking after others, and Almoners are at the forefront of delivering care and support to lodge members and their families. When things change in life, having a strong support system can make all the difference.

Never feel "embarrassed" or "uncomfortable" in reaching out for support or help with your Lodge Almoner. All conversations and communication are strictly private. Anything shared will only be released to the Lodge with your absolute permission.

October 2024

SUN CITY LODGE NO 72 - ALMONER NEWS

Brethren,

It is my sad duty to report the passing of a brother to the Celestial Grand Lodge Above. (Please see details on the following page)

If you have any news that you wish to share with the Brethren, do let me know via email.

For privacy my full Almoner report is attached separately in the members section.

Stay healthy Brethren.

W.Bro Barry White

Almoner.



Sun City Lodge Almoner contact information:
W.Bro Barry White,
Contact information in Members Area





ALMONER NOTIFICATION
NECROLOGY

**Bro. Charles E. Seiter, September 3, 2024, age 103,
WW-2 Veteran, D-Day Participant**

*As our beloved brother passes to the Celestial Grand
Lodge above, we will remember him in our hearts and
in our prayers, may the G.A.O.T.U look after him.*

R.I.P.

From all at Sun City Lodge #72

***If you hear of a Brother in Distress, please contact the
Lodge Almoner, WBro Barry White***



*"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the
places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can." -
anonymous*

SUN CITY WEST HIGH TWELVE CLUB

2024 Summer Lunches concluded in September. The September luncheon was held at Ji Michaels Diner in Sun City.

At the September Luncheon, there was a special recognition of Kevin Hokerk Robinson for his many years of dedicated service with High 12 International. Kevin has served the International High 12 Association in several capacities, most recently as International Treasurer. The Sun City West High 12 Club is fortunate to have Kevin as an involved Club Board Member and recognized Kevin with a special certificate and cake. The photos below show the special cake as well as Kevin receiving the special certificate from Club President Don Winscot.

Also at the September Luncheon, a High 12 Hero Certificate was awarded Glynn Ley for his many hours of effort and energy with the Club's Annual Pancake Breakfast. Glynn also serves the Club as a Director. In the photo below, Glynn (on the left) is receiving the special recognition from Club President Don Winscot.

Sun City West High 12 Club monthly meetings resume on the second Friday of October at 8AM at the Royal Café Restaurant, 10793 Grand Avenue (US Route 60) in Sun City. At the Friday, 11 October meeting, the Club will receive a presentation on the Sun City Firefighters Charities.

The Sun City West High 12 Club continues to work on including local Masonic Widows in Club events. The Club's efforts have assisted local Masonic Lodges in maintaining contact with the Masonic Widows living in the West Valley area.

Membership in the Sun City West High 12 Club is open to all Master Masons. Masonic Widows are also welcome. For additional information, contact Dave Miller or Gary Fullington



Gimmick Rallye “Revisited”

Saturday, October 5, 2024

Event Begins at 10:00 a.m.



Sun City Masonic Lodge
18810 N. 107th Ave, Sun City
(NOT the Elks lodge on Union Hills)

This is a FUN event, not a race! Each driver/navigator team will be given a set of instructions to guide them through the Lodge neighborhood. Questions can be answered by sharp-eyed occupants observed along the course.

Points will be awarded for each answer to determine winners.

The Rallye drive will be about 10 miles long and one hour in duration. Speed limits, detours and “rules of the road” must be observed. Courtesy to other drivers, respect for individuals in the neighborhoods and safety of pedestrians will be paramount.

Further details will be provided on the day of the event. Cars will be ‘released’ to the course, one by one, at about thirty second intervals.

There is no limit on the number of people who can be in the car and there will be no need to stop or exit the vehicle for any reason. Light refreshments will be provided as registrants complete the event in the Sun City Masonic Lodge.

THIS EVENT WILL BE LIMITED TO 50 CARS SO REGISTER EARLY!

The registration fee for the event is \$15 per car IF an RSVP is received not later than noon on Friday, September 28, 2024. Latecomers may register on the day of the event for \$20 IF the 50-car registration limit has not yet been reached.

RSVP by requesting a Registration Packet at SunCity72RB@gmail.com or in person, again not later than noon of September 28, 2024.

PAST MASTERS FELLOWSHIP 72

The Past Master's Fellowship (PMF) of Sun City Lodge is scheduled to next meet on **Thursday, 10 October 2024 beginning at 5:00 PM** in the Jackson Room of the Sun City Masonic Center. If you want to have Zoom connectivity for this PMF gathering, please contact Gary Loeb suncity72sec@gmail.com).

Remember that before the Sun City Lodge October Stated Meeting there is dinner. Dinner is served at 6:00 PM prior to the Stated Meeting. RSVP for the dinner is encouraged. RSVP with a dinner reservation at SunCity72RSVP@gmail.com.

The Past Master's Fellowship has set up collection barrels for the recycling of aluminum cans and clear plastic bottles. These collection barrels are located in the South hallway for the Sun City Masonic Center. Everyone using the Center is encouraged to bring these used items that they have available for recycling and deposit the items in the designated barrel. Please refrain from including garbage items. Proceeds from the collected items assist the Past Master's Fellowship to support various Sun City Lodge activities and recognitions.



Sun City York Rite, St. Andrew Commandery # 17

The October 2024 Conclave of St Andrew Commandery will be held at the Sun City Masonic Center on Saturday 12 October. Coffee and light refreshments at 8AM followed by practice at 8:30 AM. The monthly conclave opens in full form at 9AM.

St Andrew Commandery conferred the Order of the Temple on Saturday 24 August at the Sun City Masonic Center. Below is a photo of the new Sir Knights- Dustin Barron and Vinnie Esposito, along with many of the cast members for the conferral.

Sir Knights are reminded that the Annual Colorado River Fall Festival takes place in October in Laughlin Nevada. This is a full set of York Rite Degrees and Orders and is scheduled for Monday 21 October and Tuesday 22 October. Further information can be found at crff.org.

St Andrew Commandery meets every month on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 9AM except for the month of August. All regular conclaves are at the Sun City Masonic Center and include coffee and donuts at 8AM with practice at 8:30 AM. St Andrew Commandery now provides for Zelle processing of dues payments and donations. Contact Dave Miller or Pat Hayes for additional information.





Oasis Chapter # 15 † Stewart Council # 16 † St. Andrew Commandery # 17

More information from Lodge secretary

The next meeting of Stewart Council will take place on Monday 28 October 2024 at the Sun City Masonic Center. Pot Luck Dinner is scheduled for 6:30 PM with Education at 7 PM. The monthly meeting opens in full form at 7:30 PM.

Companions are reminded that the Annual Colorado River Fall Festival takes place in October in Laughlin Nevada. This is a full set of York Rite Degrees and Orders and is scheduled for Monday 21 October and Tuesday 22 October. Further information can be found at crff.org.

Stewart Council (purple) shirts are now available for purchase. The shirts are \$30.00 each. Contact Dave Miller with your order information, which should include —

- + Shirt Size; and,
 - + What, if anything, you want printed on the Left breast side of the shirt.
- Payment should be made to Stewart Council.

Stewart Council No 16, Cryptic Masons, meets every month on the 4th Monday of the month at 7:30 PM except for the months of August and December. All regular conclaves are at the Sun City Masonic Center. Stewart Council routinely includes a Pot Luck Dinner at 6:30 PM with an opportunity for Education at 7PM. Stewart Council now provides for Zelle processing of dues payments and donations. Contact Dave Miller or Pat Hayes for additional information.



Oasis Chapter No 15

Royal Arch Masons

Outdoor Mark Master Degree

Saturday October 19, 2024

9:30 AM

Location- 7304 W Libby St.

Glendale AZ 85308



Join Excellent High Priest Arizona Milke and other Companions in this annual outdoor Mark Master Degree conferral activity.

COST – Companions - \$30.00 (includes coffee/rolls and lunch)

Registered Candidates – No Cost.

For additional information contact-

+ Pat Hayes –

Register Using the tear off below:

+++++

Make _____ Reservations at \$30.00 each -Total \$ _____

Name: _____

Chapter: _____ Candidate? Yes/No (Circle)

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

To make your reservation and for security reasons, please contact the lodge using the link on the website or the Secretary info here.

Gary Loeb, Secretary

Sun City Lodge N^o 72,

F&AM PO Box 1353

Sun City, AZ 85372-1353



Oasis Chapter No 15

Royal Arch Masons

The next meeting of Oasis Chapter will be on Friday, 18 October. The Pot Luck Dinner is scheduled for 6:30 PM with Education following at 7PM. The monthly meeting is scheduled to open at 7:30 PM.

Companions are reminded that Oasis Chapter is hosting an Outdoor Mark Master and Past Master Degree on Saturday 19 October beginning at 9:30 AM. The flyer for the event appears elsewhere in this publication.

On Saturday 05 October, Arizona hosts the 4 Corners Royal Arch Festival. This annual event rotates between locations in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah. More information is available at www.winslowyorkrite.org. Later in October, the Annual Colorado River Fall Festival takes place in Laughlin Nevada. This is a full set of York Rite Degrees and Orders and is scheduled for Monday 21 October and Tuesday 22 October. Further information can be found at crff.org.

Oasis Chapter (red) shirts are now available for purchase. The shirts are \$30.00 each. Contact Dave Miller with your order information, which should include-
+ Shirt Size; and,
+ What, if anything, you want printed on the Left breast side of the shirt.
Payment should be made to Oasis Chapter.

Oasis Chapter No 15, Royal Arch Masons, meets every month on the 3rd Friday of the month at 7:30 PM except for the months of August and December. All regular meetings are at the Sun City Masonic Center and include Pot Luck Dinner at 6:30 PM with Education scheduled for 7PM. Oasis Chapter now provides for Zelle processing of dues payments, shirt purchases, and donations. Contact Dave Miller or Pat Hayes for additional information.

Masonic Education

Douglas C. Peck, Worshipful Master

So, Was Sir Isaac Newton a Mason or Not?

(NOTE BENE: Copied with minor editing but retention of its essence from [Freemasonry Today - Spring 2020 - Issue 49](#) by UGLE -DCP)

Not many people liked Isaac Newton. He was touchy, with a thin skin. He also had a prodigious temper. Anyone who questioned his work needed to prepare for a long and unpleasant feud. Nor was he sociable. Scholars of the age gathered in coffee shops and debated publicly, frequently crossing the Channel to compare notes with continental intellectuals. Contrarian by nature, Newton never left England and preferred life as a loner, sitting for days at his desk, filling notebooks with his every thought. His reputation as a scholar rests on his work in mathematics and natural philosophy – the precursor of science – with a special emphasis on what would become physics. But these were only part of his extensive interests, which took him into fields that do not fit with his image as the torchbearer of scientific rationalism. Aged 24, Newton was appointed a fellow of Trinity College Cambridge, and shortly afterwards Lucasian professor of mathematics. College rules required him to be ordained into the Church of England, so he began methodically studying theology. He fervently embraced Christianity but quickly concluded he could not accept Anglican theology on the Trinity and aligned himself instead with Arianism. Seeing the disaster approaching, friendly forces secured an exemption from ordination for the holder of the Lucasian professorship, so Newton's passionate but heretical Christianity did not derail his university career.

Compelled by the mysteries of alchemy Newton fell in love with the Bible and became convinced the prophetic books – especially Daniel and Revelation – held embedded messages that only a chosen few could understand. As he had been born on Christmas Day, and plainly given insight that others had not, he came to see himself as one of the adepts, specially chosen by God to decipher the universe.

He even called himself *leova Sanctus Unus* (the One Holy Jehovah) in his private notebooks, an anagram of his name in Latin, *Isaacus Neutonus*. Away from the respectable world of the universities, alchemy was an alternative and rich tradition of knowledge, offering spiritual, magical and quasi-scientific insights to those who labored over its arcane texts. Although some branches of alchemy were profoundly scholarly, most natural philosophers viewed it with suspicion, not least because of the many charlatans who grew rich on promises of elixirs of eternal life and compounds to transmute lead into gold. Newton found all of it compelling and was a lifelong devotee, staying up night after night over his crucibles and alembics, endeavoring to unlock the secrets of whether matter could be disassembled and reassembled with the right chemical and spiritual keys.



Continued.....

His fascination with unlocking hidden truths and secrets – whether in mathematics, natural philosophy, the Bible or alchemy – led him to view all these studies as connected. Towards the end of his life, he became convinced that sacred architecture was also a repository of arcane wisdom, and he began studying the temples of the ancient world. His last book, *The Chronology of Ancient Kingdoms, contains a detailed numerological analysis of the mysteries embedded in King Solomon's Temple, which held a special fascination for him.*

In the same circles as Freemasons, experimental philosophers were a subgroup of natural philosophers. They founded the Royal Society when Newton was a teenager, and their circle included many who were also fascinated with speculative philosophical Freemasonry. Newton was invited to join the Royal Society and eventually became its president, so knew many leading Freemasons of the generation. Whether or not Newton ever joined Freemasonry is unknown. In 1861, the founders of Cambridge University's lodge certainly thought he did, as they named it Isaac Newton University Lodge. However, like the Lodge of Antiquity, No. 2's claim to have had Newton's contemporary, Sir Christopher Wren, as a member, there is no way of knowing. Both men had the appropriate interests and mixed in the right philosophical circles.

But Freemasonry's records from the period are sparse, and none that survive demonstrate either of them was ever initiated. However, that does not mean they were not Freemasons.

On paper, they were exactly the kind of men who would have attended lodges of philosophical Freemasonry in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Newton was three years old when Elias Ashmole became the first person known to have been initiated into an English lodge of speculative Freemasons, at Warrington in 1646. And he was 74 when the Grand Lodge of England was formed in 1717. If he was a Freemason, it is unlikely he would have been a particularly sociable one. But for all that, he would have been one of the most fascinating, free-thinking, subversive and unconventional members of the Craft, not just of his age, but of any age.

Citation:

“Was Isaac Newton a Freemason?”

https://issuu.com/freemasonrytoday/docs/fmt_issue_49_spring_2020_low_res/s/10304480 Accession on September 28, 2024.





PEORIA OES CHAPTER #59:

PEORIA OES #59:

Peoria Chapter will be having their Friendship night on Wednesday, October 23, 2024.

This is where we invite other officers from the various chapters to come visit us and we usually, in turn, go and visit their chapters. This gives us a chance to see how the other chapters are doing and allows us to pick up or share ideas with them to help improve our chapters as well as theirs. If you are a member of one of the Eastern Star Chapters, please join us that evening. If you are an officer in your OES chapter, please let us know that you are coming.

On Monday, November 4, 2024 Peoria Chapter is having a "Stars Night Out Fundraiser at some of the Manuel's Restaurants in the valley. If you are interested in attending, please email me (richardjensen722@gmail.com) and I will send you the flyers (Manuel's has not created them for the November event yet.) We expect to have the flyers available before the next issue of the Trestleboard (November) and will be including them there as well.

We are looking into other restaurants for similar fundraising opportunities.

We are collecting shoes to donate for the countries that the main mode of transportation is by foot. The shoes need to be in decent enough shape that they can be worn for a fair length of time. The way it works, the shoes are provided to entrepreneurs in these countries who – in turn – sell them to their customers. We will get a donation from the company that collects them based on the weight of the usable shoes that we will use to support our charitable activities. The entrepreneurs will gain an income that will help support their families. Often they are not paid with money, but rather with livestock, or other commodities, sometimes in traded labor. The shoe buyers get shoes they can wear while traveling which helps them as well.

The donation box is in the lodge building in the same area as the cans and bottles are being collected. It is requested that the shoes be fastened together in some fashion (shoelaces toed together, shoes rubber banded, or some other method that will help keep them together.

With Fraternal regards and Star Love,
Richard Jensen – Associate Patron.