

SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76 AF & AM

MARCH
A.:L.:
6025

TRESTLEBOARD



2025 ELECTED LODGE OFFICERS

MASTER

BURX NORROD
CALL OR TEXT: (208) 571-9705
BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM

SENIOR WARDEN

JOHN KEEL
CALL OR TEXT: (505) 358-6224
K_JOHN87@YAHOO.COM

JUNIOR WARDEN

BILL WHELCHEL
CALL OR TEXT: (505) 980-5545
WHELCHEL2828@GMAIL.COM

SECRETARY

EUGENE MORSE, PM
CALL OR TEXT: (505) 527-7998
EUGENEMORSE46@GMAIL.COM

TREASURER

TIM DONOVAN, RWB
TIM@TAXHELPRR.COM



SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76

1420 BARBARA LOOP SE RIO
RANCHO 87124

MEETS ON THE 2ND & 4TH
MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

LODGE OPENS AT 7:00PM
FESTIVEBOARD AT 6:00PM
(\$10 CASH / \$11 CARD)

VISITORS: To RSVP EMAIL
BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM



**SANDOVAL LODGE No. 76: UPDATED LODGE OFFICERS PHOTO FOR
A.:L.: 6025**

SANDOVAL MASONIC LODGE No. 76 CONTINUES TO GROW AND EVOLVE, AND WITH THAT GROWTH COMES CHANGES IN OUR OFFICER LINEUP. WE ARE PLEASED TO SHARE AN UPDATED PHOTO OF OUR LODGE OFFICERS FOR ANNO LUCIS 6025, REFLECTING RECENT INSTALLATIONS IN KEY POSITIONS. THIS UPDATE FOLLOWS THE RECENT ELECTION OF BRO. BILL WHELCHEL AS JUNIOR WARDEN, AND APPOINTMENTS OF BRO. JONATHAN MUNIZ AS SENIOR DEACON, AND BRO. WALEED ASHOO AS TILER.

WHILE THIS IS NOT YET A COMPLETE PICTURE OF OUR OFFICER TEAM—OUR SENIOR DEACON, JUNIOR DEACON, AND TREASURER WERE UNAVAILABLE FOR THIS SESSION—WE INTEND TO RETAKE THE PHOTO ONCE ALL OFFICERS CAN BE PRESENT.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER: BURX NORROD
SENIOR WARDEN: JOHN KEEL
JUNIOR WARDEN: BILL WHELCHEL
SENIOR DEACON: JONATHAN MUNIZ
JUNIOR DEACON: CESARIO ALVILLAR
SENIOR STEWARD: KIRK BENSON
JUNIOR STEWARD: BENJAMIN COTE
CHAPLAIN: LOGAN JEFFERS
MARSHAL: LEON ALDERETTE
TILER: WALEED ASHOO
TREASURER: TIM DONOVAN
SECRETARY: EUGENE MORSE

AS ALWAYS, WE EXTEND OUR GRATITUDE TO ALL THE BRETHREN WHO DEDICATE THEIR TIME AND EFFORTS TO THE SERVICE OF OUR LODGE. OUR WORK IN THE COMMUNITY AND WITHIN THE CRAFT IS ONLY MADE POSSIBLE BY THE DEDICATION AND PASSION OF OUR OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.

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FROM THE EAST

WM BURX NORROD

BRETHREN,

WE ARE OFF TO A GREAT START THIS YEAR WITH OUR CONTINUED FOCUS ON MASONIC EDUCATION, RITUAL WORK, AND ENSURING THAT WE UPHOLD THE COMMITMENTS OF THE BLUE LODGE—MAKING MEN MASTER MASONS. WITHOUT OUR MEMBERSHIP, OUR LODGE DOES NOT EXIST. WITHOUT LODGES, THE GRAND LODGE DOES NOT EXIST. WITHOUT GRAND LODGES, FREEMASONRY ITSELF CEASES TO EXIST.

FREEMASONRY IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE PHILOSOPHIES OF HERMETICISM AND ROSICRUCIANISM, AND TO SHED LIGHT ON THIS, I HAVE INCLUDED AN ARTICLE IN THIS TRESTLEBOARD ISSUE THAT EXPLORES BOTH TRADITIONS AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON OUR CRAFT.

OUR STATED COMMUNICATIONS THIS MONTH WILL CONTINUE TO BE FILLED WITH LIGHT. WE WILL BE CONFERRING A FELLOWCRAFT DEGREE ON BROTHER KENNETH FREEMAN, FOLLOWED BY AN INSIGHTFUL PRESENTATION ON THE *HISTORY OF THE LODGE CHAPLAIN* BY OUR VERY OWN CHAPLAIN, REVEREND BROTHER LOGAN JEFFERS. AT OUR SECOND STATED COMMUNICATION, WE HAVE THE HONOR OF HEARING FROM MWB ROBERT G. DAVIS, WHO WILL PRESENT ON HIS BOOK *THE MASON'S WORDS*, WHICH DELVES INTO THE EVOLUTION OF AMERICAN MASONIC RITUAL. THIS IS A MUST-ATTEND EVENT FOR ANY BROTHER INTERESTED IN THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR CRAFT—OUR RITUAL.

I ALSO WANT TO ENCOURAGE ALL OF YOU TO SHARE YOUR OWN PERSPECTIVES ON MATTERS OF MASONIC RELEVANCE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PUT TOGETHER A PRESENTATION FOR THE LODGE THIS YEAR, PLEASE EMAIL ME. EVEN IF YOU DO NOT LIVE NEAR THE LODGE, WE CAN ARRANGE FOR YOUR PRESENTATION TO BE SHARED VIA ZOOM.

LET US CONTINUE WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN OUR LODGE AND ENRICH OUR JOURNEY IN THE CRAFT /G

SINCERELY & FRATELNALLY,
BURX

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TRESTLEBOARD



FROM THE SOUTH

BRO. BILL WHELCHER, JUNIOR WARDEN

IT IS AN HONOR TO HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO THE POSITION OF JUNIOR WARDEN, AND I SINCERELY APPRECIATE THE TRUST AND SUPPORT YOU HAVE PLACED IN ME. I AM COMMITTED TO FULFILLING MY DUTIES WITH THE UTMOST INTEGRITY, ALWAYS ADHERING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE PLUMB IN BOTH MY ACTIONS AND DECISIONS.

THIS MONTH, WE WILL BE CELEBRATING SAINT PATRICK'S DAY, AND I WANTED TO SHARE AN INTERESTING MASONIC STORY TIED TO THIS OCCASION. DURING THE HARSH WINTER OF 1779-1780, THE CONTINENTAL ARMY FACED THE COLDEST WINTER ON RECORD, WITH 28 DAYS OF SNOWSTORMS FROM NOVEMBER TO APRIL, WHICH BURIED THE ENCAMPMENT UNDER SIX FEET OF SNOW. THESE CHALLENGING CONDITIONS MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE SOLDIERS TO ACQUIRE SUPPLIES AND HUNT, LEADING TO PROLONGED PERIODS WITHOUT FOOD AND A SUBSEQUENT DIP IN MORALE.

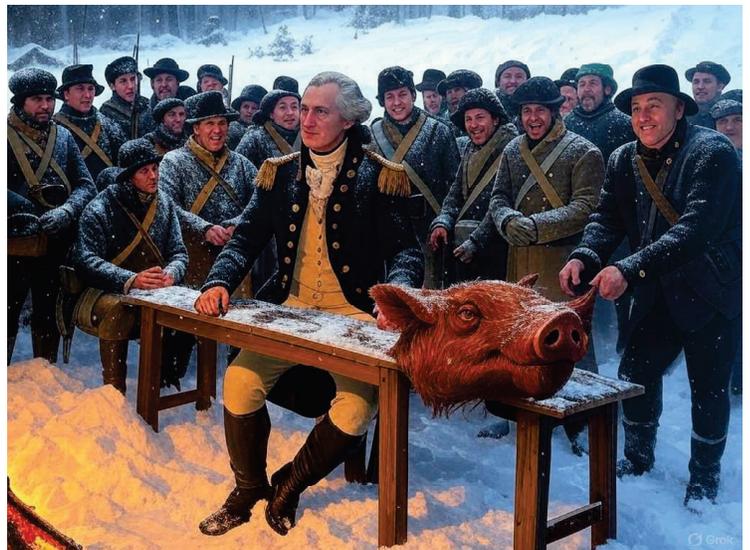
RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO UPLIFT HIS MEN, BROTHER GEORGE WASHINGTON, WITH MANY OF HIS SOLDIERS OF IRISH DESCENT, DECLARED SAINT PATRICK'S DAY A HOLIDAY. THIS WAS THE FIRST DAY OFF FOR THE TROOPS IN OVER A YEAR AND PROVIDED A MUCH-NEEDED BOOST TO THEIR SPIRITS. THOUGH BROTHER WASHINGTON EXPECTED DISCIPLINED CELEBRATIONS AND CAUTIONED AGAINST DISORDER, THE SOLDIERS NONETHELESS CELEBRATED WITH A FESTIVE FEAST, INCLUDING A HOG'S HEAD OF RUM— APPROXIMATELY 63 GALLONS!

WHILE WE WILL NOT BE CELEBRATING WITH SUCH AN EXTRAVAGANT QUANTITY OF RUM, WE WILL MARK OUR FIRST STATED MEETING WITH A TRADITIONAL CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER, FOLLOWED BY OUR USUAL LIBATIONS PROVIDED BY OUR ESTEEMED SENIOR WARDEN.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING THIS SPECIAL EVENING WITH ALL OF YOU AS WE CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF BROTHERHOOD AND OUR SHARED TRADITIONS.

SINCERELY & FRATEERNALLY,

**BILL WHELCHER
JUNIOR WARDEN**



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SANDOVAL LODGE WELCOMES RW JIM BUNGARD AND INITIATES BRO. MIKE MULDER

ON FEBRUARY 24TH, SANDOVAL MASONIC LODGE HELD ITS STATED COMMUNICATION, MARKING A PARTICULARLY SPECIAL EVENING FOR OUR FRATERNITY. WE HAD THE DISTINCT HONOR OF RECEIVING RW JIM BUNGARD, SENIOR GRAND DEACON OF THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW MEXICO, DURING HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO SANDOVAL LODGE. HIS PRESENCE BROUGHT A SENSE OF PRIDE AND UNITY AS WE REAFFIRMED OUR COMMITMENT TO THE CRAFT AND OUR MASONIC PRINCIPLES.

THE EVENING WAS MADE EVEN MORE MEMORABLE AS WE WELCOMED BROTHER MIKE MULDER INTO THE FRATERNITY, INITIATING HIM AS AN ENTERED APPRENTICE MASON. THIS SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN HIS MASONIC JOURNEY WAS WITNESSED AND SUPPORTED BY A STRONG SHOWING OF BRETHREN DEDICATED TO ENSURING THE CONTINUATION OF OUR TIME-HONORED TRADITIONS.

A SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT GOES TO RWB DANNY LUCERO, WHOSE DEDICATION AND MASTERY OF THE MASONIC LECTURE PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN DELIVERING A MEANINGFUL AND IMPACTFUL DEGREE. HIS COMMITMENT TO RITUAL EXCELLENCE CONTINUES TO SET A HIGH STANDARD FOR OUR LODGE AND THE CRAFT AS A WHOLE.

SANDOVAL LODGE REMAINS STEADFAST IN ITS MISSION TO FOSTER MASONIC EDUCATION, FELLOWSHIP, AND THE GROWTH OF NEW MEMBERS. WITH THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR BRETHREN AND ESTEEMED VISITORS LIKE RW JIM BUNGARD, WE LOOK FORWARD TO BUILDING UPON THESE SUCCESSES AND STRENGTHENING THE BONDS OF OUR FRATERNITY.

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BIG THANKS TO SENIOR GRAND DEACON RW JIM BUNGARD FOR HIS OFFICIAL VISIT, AND TO RWB DANNY LUCERO FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO SANDOVAL LODGE.

RW DANNY, RW JIM, WM BURX



AT SANDOVAL LODGE, NO DEGREE CONFERRAL HAPPENS WITHOUT THE DEDICATED BROTHERS WHO COMMIT THEIR TIME TO PRACTICE. RITUAL EXCELLENCE IS NOT ACHIEVED BY CHANCE—IT IS THE RESULT OF BROTHERS COMING TOGETHER, REFINING THEIR WORK, AND ENSURING THAT EVERY CANDIDATE RECEIVES A MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE. FROM FLOOR WORK TO LECTURES, EVERY ROLE IS ESSENTIAL IN PRESERVING THE INTEGRITY OF OUR CEREMONIES AND UPHOLDING THE HIGH STANDARDS OF OUR CRAFT.

TO THOSE WHO CONSISTENTLY SHOW UP, YOUR DEDICATION DOES NOT GO UNNOTICED, AND WE SINCERELY THANK YOU. YOUR COMMITMENT STRENGTHENS OUR LODGE AND ENSURES THAT OUR TRADITIONS CONTINUE WITH EXCELLENCE. IF YOU HAVEN'T ATTENDED A PRACTICE YET, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO JOIN US—YOUR PARTICIPATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

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JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY OUR LODGE CHAPLAIN!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR 1ST STATED COMMUNICATION ON MARCH 10TH, AS WE WELCOME A SPECIAL PRESENTATION FROM OUR NEW LODGE CHAPLAIN, REV. LOGAN JEFFERS. HE WILL PROVIDE AN INSIGHTFUL EXPLANATION OF THE ROLE OF THE LODGE CHAPLAIN, SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE SPIRITUAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS IMPORTANT OFFICE WITHIN OUR LODGE. THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THE CHAPLAIN'S DUTIES CONTRIBUTE TO THE HARMONY AND WELL-BEING OF OUR BROTHERHOOD. WE ENCOURAGE ALL BRETHREN TO ATTEND AND SUPPORT REV. JEFFERS AS HE SHARES HIS WISDOM WITH US!

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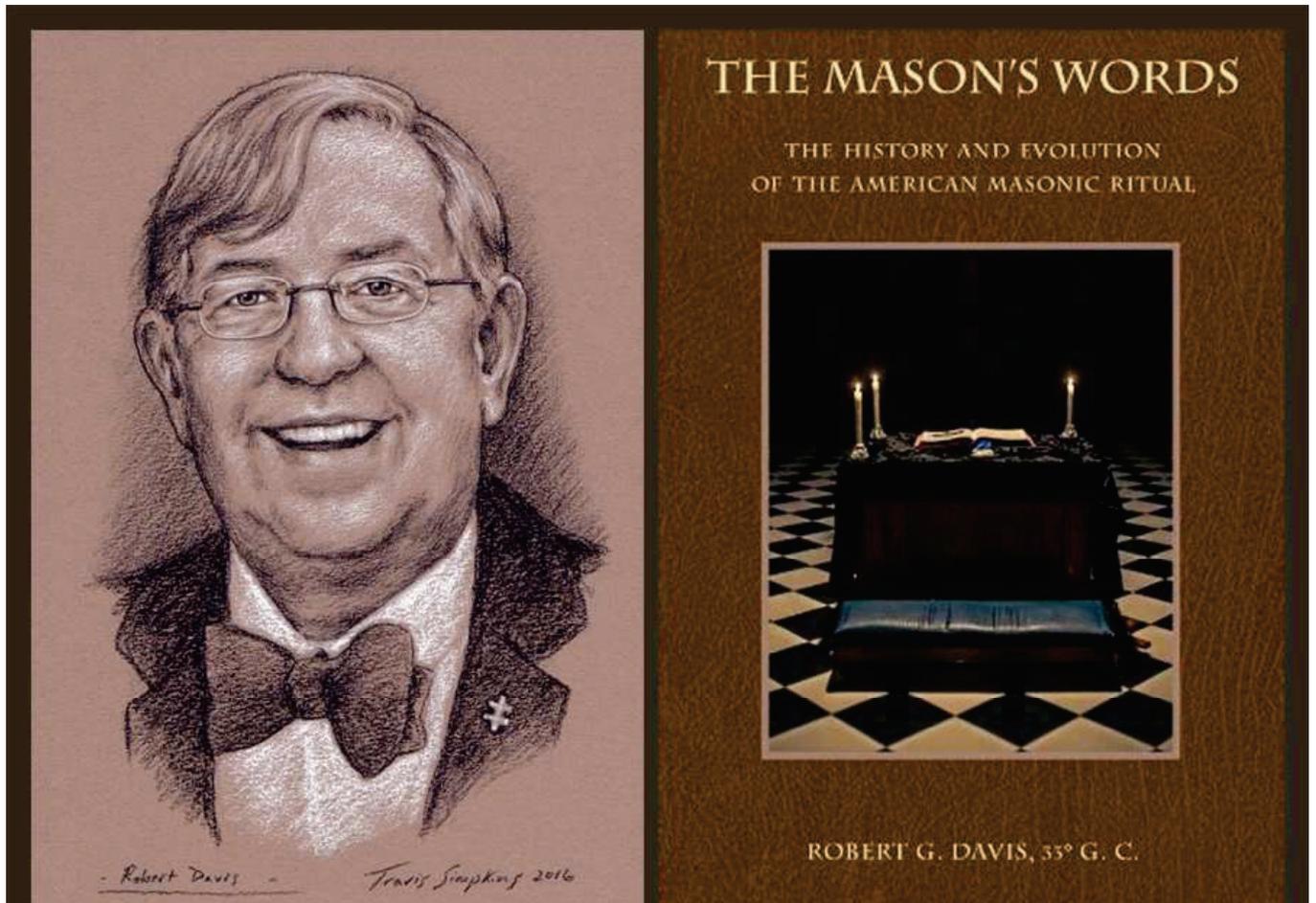
TRESTLEBOARD



SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTER, MWB ROBERT G. DAVIS ON MARCH 24TH!

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL PRESENTATION AT OUR SECOND STATED COMMUNICATION ON MARCH 24TH, AS WE WELCOME MWB ROBERT G. DAVIS—RENOWNED MASONIC SCHOLAR AND AUTHOR OF THE MASON'S WORDS AND MANY OTHER ESSENTIAL WORKS. HOSTED VIA ZOOM, MWB DAVIS WILL TAKE US ON A FASCINATING JOURNEY INTO THE ORIGINS OF OUR RITUAL, EXPLORING WHERE IT CAME FROM AND HOW IT EVOLVED INTO WHAT WE PRACTICE TODAY. THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN DEEPER INSIGHT INTO THE FOUNDATION OF OUR CRAFT FROM ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED VOICES IN MASONIC RESEARCH. OPEN TO ALL MASONS, THIS IS A NIGHT YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS!

ONLY AT SANDOVAL LODGE!



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THE SUCCESS OF OUR MONTHLY ZOOM MEETINGS

IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR LODGE OPERATIONS, WE IMPLEMENTED MONTHLY ZOOM MEETINGS FOR OFFICERS AND THE HEADS OF OUR APPENDANT BODIES. THESE VIRTUAL GATHERINGS HAVE PROVEN TO BE AN INVALUABLE TOOL IN ENSURING THAT OUR TWICE-MONTHLY STATED COMMUNICATIONS REMAIN STREAMLINED, PRODUCTIVE, AND ENGAGING.

BY ADDRESSING ADMINISTRATIVE, LOGISTICAL, AND PLANNING MATTERS IN THESE ZOOM MEETINGS, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEDICATE OUR STATED COMMUNICATIONS TO THEIR INTENDED PURPOSE—MASONIC EDUCATION AND RITUAL WORK. THIS SHIFT HAS NOT ONLY IMPROVED THE QUALITY OF OUR MEETINGS BUT HAS ALSO GIVEN OUR BRETHREN A TRUE REASON TO ATTEND LODGE. WITH THE FOCUS SQUARELY ON MASONIC ENRICHMENT, EACH MEETING SERVES AS A MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE THAT STRENGTHENS OUR BONDS AND DEEPENS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CRAFT.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVEN'T BEEN TO A STATED COMMUNICATION IN A WHILE, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO JOIN US AND SEE FIRSTHAND WHAT WE HAVE GOING ON. WHETHER IT'S WITNESSING PRECISE RITUAL WORK, ENGAGING IN ENLIGHTENING EDUCATIONAL DISCUSSIONS, OR SIMPLY ENJOYING FELLOWSHIP WITH BRETHREN, THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING WORTH EXPERIENCING.

ADDITIONALLY, YOU CAN STAY INFORMED ABOUT OUR ONGOING AND UPCOMING EVENTS BY REVIEWING OUR CURRENT, FUTURE, AND PREVIOUS TRESTLEBOARDS. THESE RESOURCES PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT OVERVIEW OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR LODGE AND ENSURE THAT EVERYONE HAS ACCESS TO THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS.

OUR NEXT MEETING ON ZOOM WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 6TH AT 6PM. IF YOU'D LIKE TO ATTEND IT, OR HAVE ANY LODGE QUESTION OR CONCERN ADDRESSED, EMAIL IT TO ME AT BURXNORROD@GMAIL.COM - AND I'LL SEE THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE RECEIVES YOUR MESSAGE.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR NEXT STATED COMMUNICATION. YOUR PRESENCE ENRICHES THE EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE, AND TOGETHER, WE CONTINUE TO BUILD A STRONGER AND MORE VIBRANT LODGE.

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WHITE BALLS ELECT, BLACK BALLS REJECT: VOTE FOR THE GOOD OF MASONRY

THE BALLOT BOX IS ONE OF THE MOST SACRED TRADITIONS IN FREEMASONRY, PRESERVING THE HARMONY OF OUR LODGES WHILE UPHOLDING OUR HIGH STANDARDS. THE PRINCIPLE IS SIMPLE:

WHITE BALLS ELECT, BLACK BALLS REJECT. EVERY MASON CASTING A BALLOT HAS A SOLEMN DUTY TO VOTE WITH INTEGRITY AND IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CRAFT. HOWEVER, IT IS JUST AS CRUCIAL TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE BALLOT BOX SHOULD NEVER BE USED AS A TOOL FOR PERSONAL GRIEVANCES OR UNFOUNDED BIAS.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BALLOT

WHEN A CANDIDATE PETITIONS A LODGE, EACH BROTHER MUST WEIGH THEIR DECISION WITH CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. THE QUESTION BEFORE EVERY VOTING MEMBER IS NOT WHETHER THEY PERSONALLY LIKE THE PETITIONER, BUT WHETHER THE PETITIONER WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE GROWTH AND HARMONY OF THE LODGE AND UPHOLD MASONIC VALUES.

SHOULD A BROTHER HAVE SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT A PETITIONER—WHETHER IT BE A CHARACTER ISSUE, UN-MASONIC CONDUCT, OR OTHER LEGITIMATE RESERVATIONS—IT IS HIS DUTY TO BRING THESE CONCERNS FORWARD BEFORE THE BALLOT IS CAST. OPEN AND HONEST DISCUSSION WITHIN THE LODGE, AS WE DO WITH ALL OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS, ALLOWS FOR A MORE INFORMED DECISION RATHER THAN RELYING SOLELY ON SILENT REJECTION.

ADDRESSING CONCERNS BEFORE THE BALLOT

THE MASONIC LODGE IS BUILT ON THE PRINCIPLES OF BROTHERHOOD, WISDOM, AND JUSTICE. IF A BROTHER HAS A VALID CONCERN ABOUT A CANDIDATE, HE SHOULD PRESENT HIS CONCERNS IN A FAIR AND RESPECTFUL MANNER DURING LODGE DISCUSSIONS. THIS ENSURES THAT ANY ISSUES CAN BE PROPERLY WEIGHED BY THE BRETHREN COLLECTIVELY RATHER THAN RELYING ON A SINGLE BROTHER'S SILENT OBJECTION.

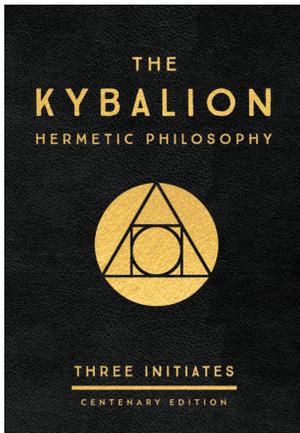
FURTHERMORE, IF THE CONCERN IS OF A PERSONAL NATURE RATHER THAN AN ISSUE THAT WOULD IMPACT THE LODGE AS A WHOLE, IT IS MORE HONORABLE TO ALLOW THE PETITIONER AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK MEMBERSHIP ELSEWHERE. BLACKBALLING A MAN OUT OF PERSONAL GRUDGES RATHER THAN FOR THE GOOD OF MASONRY IS AN ABUSE OF THE SYSTEM AND GOES AGAINST THE FUNDAMENTAL TEACHINGS OF OUR CRAFT.

THE HONOR OF THE FRATERNITY

FREEMASONRY TEACHES US TO BE JUST AND UPRIGHT MEN. THE BALLOT BOX SHOULD BE TREATED WITH THE SAME REVERENCE AS OUR OBLIGATIONS, ENSURING THAT OUR VOTES ARE CAST WITH FAIRNESS AND THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE LODGE IN MIND. IF A MAN IS TRULY UNWORTHY, LET THAT DETERMINATION BE MADE THROUGH REASONED DISCUSSION, NOT SILENT OPPOSITION. AND IF A MASON FINDS HIMSELF OPPOSING A CANDIDATE FOR PERSONAL REASONS, HE SHOULD REFLECT ON WHETHER DENYING THE CANDIDATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN THE FRATERNITY ALTOGETHER IS TRULY THE HONORABLE COURSE.

IN THE END, OUR COLLECTIVE GOAL IS THE PRESERVATION AND BETTERMENT OF FREEMASONRY. WHITE BALLS ELECT, BLACK BALLS REJECT—BUT THE GOOD OF MASONRY MUST ALWAYS BE THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE BEHIND OUR VOTE.

TRESTLEBOARD



THE KYBALION AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE TO FREEMASONRY A BOOK REVIEW BY WM BURX NORROD

FOR THOSE WHO SEEK DEEPER WISDOM, THE KYBALION STANDS AS ONE OF THE MOST PROFOUND ESOTERIC TEXTS OF THE MODERN ERA. WRITTEN IN 1908 BY THE MYSTERIOUS "THREE INITIATES," THE BOOK DISTILLS THE CORE PRINCIPLES OF HERMETIC PHILOSOPHY INTO WHAT IS KNOWN AS THE SEVEN HERMETIC PRINCIPLES. WHILE NOT A MASONIC TEXT PER SE, THE KYBALION ALIGNS CLOSELY WITH MANY OF THE CORE VALUES AND TEACHINGS OF FREEMASONRY, OFFERING INSIGHTS THAT CAN ENRICH A MASON'S SPIRITUAL AND INTELLECTUAL JOURNEY.

THE SEVEN HERMETIC PRINCIPLES

AT THE HEART OF THE KYBALION ARE THE SEVEN HERMETIC PRINCIPLES:
THE PRINCIPLE OF MENTALISM – "THE ALL IS MIND; THE UNIVERSE IS MENTAL."

THE PRINCIPLE OF CORRESPONDENCE – "AS ABOVE, SO BELOW; AS BELOW, SO ABOVE."

THE PRINCIPLE OF VIBRATION – "NOTHING RESTS; EVERYTHING MOVES; EVERYTHING VIBRATES."

THE PRINCIPLE OF POLARITY – "EVERYTHING IS DUAL; EVERYTHING HAS POLES; EVERYTHING HAS ITS PAIR OF OPPOSITES."

THE PRINCIPLE OF RHYTHM – "EVERYTHING FLOWS, OUT AND IN; EVERYTHING HAS ITS TIDES."

THE PRINCIPLE OF CAUSE AND EFFECT – "EVERY CAUSE HAS ITS EFFECT; EVERY EFFECT HAS ITS CAUSE."

THE PRINCIPLE OF GENDER – "GENDER IS IN EVERYTHING; EVERYTHING HAS ITS MASCULINE AND FEMININE PRINCIPLES."

EACH OF THESE PRINCIPLES OFFERS A FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING THE UNIVERSE, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THE HIDDEN FORCES THAT SHAPE OUR REALITY. THESE IDEAS HAVE DEEP CONNECTIONS TO MASONIC PHILOSOPHY, PARTICULARLY IN THE WAY MASONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEEK TRUTH, WISDOM, AND SELF-MASTERY.

THE CONNECTION TO FREEMASONRY

THE PURSUIT OF WISDOM – LIKE FREEMASONRY, THE KYBALION EMPHASIZES A STRUCTURED PATH TOWARD ENLIGHTENMENT. THE STUDY OF NATURAL LAWS, THE MYSTERIES OF EXISTENCE, AND THE POWER OF THE MIND ALIGNS WITH THE MASONIC JOURNEY OF SELF-IMPROVEMENT AND THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH.

THE PRINCIPLE OF CORRESPONDENCE AND MASONIC SYMBOLISM – THE HERMETIC MAXIM "AS ABOVE, SO BELOW" IS DEEPLY CONNECTED TO MASONIC TEACHINGS, WHICH USE SYMBOLS TO CONVEY THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF THE MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL WORLDS. THIS PRINCIPLE IS REFLECTED IN THE WORKING TOOLS OF A MASON, THE ALLEGORIES WITHIN THE DEGREES, AND THE STRUCTURE OF THE LODGE ITSELF.

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HARMONY AND BALANCE – THE PRINCIPLES OF POLARITY AND RHYTHM RESONATE WITH MASONIC IDEALS OF BALANCE IN LIFE. JUST AS A MASON SEEKS TO TEMPER JUSTICE WITH MERCY, STRENGTH WITH WISDOM, AND FAITH WITH REASON, THE KYBALION TEACHES THAT UNDERSTANDING OPPOSING FORCES LEADS TO MASTERY OVER ONESELF.

MORAL AND ETHICAL CAUSE AND EFFECT – THE PRINCIPLE OF CAUSE AND EFFECT SPEAKS TO THE MASONIC DUTY OF LIVING A JUST AND UPRIGHT LIFE. A MASON UNDERSTANDS THAT HIS ACTIONS SHAPE HIS FUTURE, AND BY ADHERING TO VIRTUE, HE ALIGNS HIMSELF WITH THE GREATER HARMONY OF THE COSMOS.

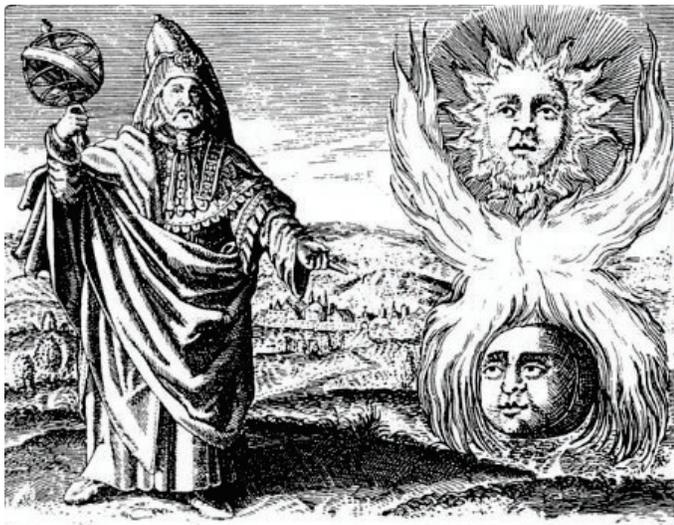
GENDER AND THE DUAL NATURE OF EXISTENCE – THE DUALITY FOUND IN THE PRINCIPLE OF GENDER MIRRORS THE MASONIC CONCEPT OF BALANCE—LIGHT AND DARKNESS, OPERATIVE AND SPECULATIVE, ACTION AND CONTEMPLATION. THIS UNDERSTANDING ALLOWS A MASON TO HARMONIZE HIS INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL WORLDS.

THE KYBALION AS A TOOL FOR MASONIC GROWTH

WHILE FREEMASONRY HAS ITS OWN SET OF TEACHINGS ROOTED IN ANCIENT TRADITIONS, THE KYBALION SERVES AS AN EXCELLENT COMPLEMENTARY TEXT FOR DEEPER REFLECTION. MANY OF THE LESSONS FOUND WITHIN ITS PAGES ECHO THOSE PRESENTED IN MASONIC DEGREES, AND STUDYING IT CAN PROVIDE A MASON WITH A BROADER PERSPECTIVE ON HIS PHILOSOPHICAL AND SPIRITUAL JOURNEY.

IN A WORLD WHERE SUPERFICIAL KNOWLEDGE IS ABUNDANT, BUT TRUE WISDOM REMAINS RARE, THE KYBALION OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SERIOUS SEEKERS TO LOOK BEYOND THE VEIL. ITS TEACHINGS CHALLENGE THE MIND, STRENGTHEN THE SPIRIT, AND ENCOURAGE THE SELF-DISCIPLINE THAT EVERY MASON SHOULD CULTIVATE.

JUST AS MASONRY URGES A MAN TO BUILD HIS TEMPLE—NOT OF STONE, BUT OF UNDERSTANDING—SO TOO DOES THE KYBALION PROVIDE THE TOOLS TO REFINE ONE’S PERCEPTION OF REALITY. BY EMBRACING ITS PRINCIPLES ALONGSIDE MASONIC TEACHINGS, A BROTHER CAN DEEPEN HIS GRASP OF THE HIDDEN MYSTERIES AND BETTER FULFILL HIS DUTY TO KNOW THYSELF AND SERVE HUMANITY.



LEFT

THE SUN, MOON, &
WORSHIPFUL
MASTER

RIGHT

"AS ABOVE, SO
BELOW"

COMPASSES IS THE
UNIVERSE, THE
SQUARE THE EARTH

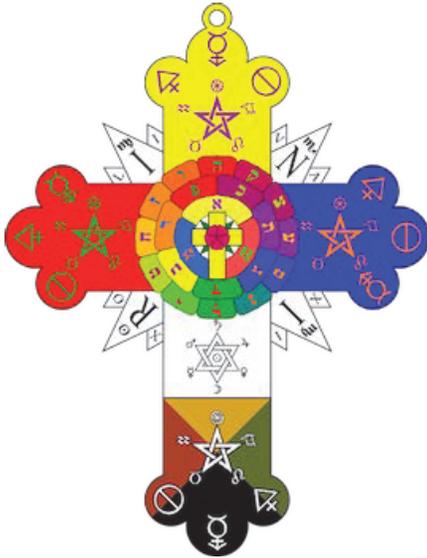


TRESTLEBOARD



ROSICRUCIANISM AND FREEMASONRY: A HISTORICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL CONNECTION

BY WM BURX NORROD



THE CONNECTION BETWEEN ROSICRUCIANISM AND FREEMASONRY HAS BEEN A SUBJECT OF FASCINATION FOR SCHOLARS, HISTORIANS, AND ESOTERICISTS FOR CENTURIES. WHILE THESE TWO TRADITIONS ARE DISTINCT, THEY SHARE COMMON THEMES, OVERLAPPING SYMBOLS, AND HISTORICAL INTERSECTIONS THAT SUGGEST AN INTRICATE RELATIONSHIP.

ORIGINS AND PHILOSOPHICAL SIMILARITIES

ROSICRUCIANISM EMERGED IN THE EARLY 17TH CENTURY WITH THE PUBLICATION OF THREE MYSTERIOUS MANIFESTOS: FAMA FRATERNITATIS (1614), CONFESSIO FRATERNITATIS (1615), AND CHYMICAL WEDDING OF CHRISTIAN ROSENKREUTZ (1616). THESE TEXTS DESCRIBED A SECRET FRATERNITY DEDICATED TO SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT, ALCHEMICAL TRANSFORMATION, AND THE PURSUIT OF HIDDEN WISDOM. THOUGH THE MANIFESTOS NEVER EXPLICITLY MENTIONED FREEMASONRY, THEIR THEMES

OF INITIATION, SECRECY, AND ESOTERIC KNOWLEDGE RESONATE STRONGLY WITH MASONIC TRADITIONS.

FREEMASONRY, ON THE OTHER HAND, FORMALIZED AS A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION IN THE EARLY 18TH CENTURY WITH THE FOUNDING OF THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND IN 1717. HOWEVER, MASONIC TRADITIONS AND SYMBOLS CAN BE TRACED BACK EARLIER. LIKE THE ROSICRUCIANS, FREEMASONS SOUGHT TO CULTIVATE MORAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL GROWTH THROUGH ALLEGORY, RITUAL, AND SYMBOLIC TEACHINGS. BOTH MOVEMENTS EMPHASIZE PERSONAL ENLIGHTENMENT, MORAL RECTITUDE, AND A DEEP APPRECIATION FOR ANCIENT WISDOM.

SHARED SYMBOLISM AND ESOTERIC INFLUENCE

ONE OF THE MOST COMPELLING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN ROSICRUCIANISM AND FREEMASONRY LIES IN THEIR SHARED USE OF SYMBOLS. THE ROSICRUCIAN EMBLEM—A CROSS ADORNED WITH A ROSE—HAS APPEARED IN VARIOUS MASONIC DEGREES AND ESOTERIC CIRCLES. SIMILARLY, ROSICRUCIAN WRITINGS CONTAIN REFERENCES TO TOOLS AND SYMBOLS FAMILIAR TO FREEMASONS, SUCH AS THE COMPASS, SQUARE, AND TEMPLE IMAGERY.

THE SCOTTISH RITE, ONE OF FREEMASONRY'S APPENDANT BODIES, CONTAINS DEGREES THAT INCORPORATE ROSICRUCIAN THEMES. THE 18TH DEGREE, KNOWN AS THE KNIGHT ROSE CROIX, EXPLICITLY REFERENCES THE ROSE CROSS AND EMPHASIZES SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT, RESURRECTION, AND THE TRIUMPH OF TRUTH OVER IGNORANCE. SOME SCHOLARS ARGUE THAT ROSICRUCIAN PHILOSOPHY SIGNIFICANTLY INFLUENCED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HIGHER DEGREES OF FREEMASONRY.

HISTORICAL INTERSECTIONS

WHILE FREEMASONRY AND ROSICRUCIANISM DEVELOPED INDEPENDENTLY, HISTORICAL RECORDS SUGGEST THAT SOME MASONS IN THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURIES WERE ALSO INVOLVED IN ROSICRUCIAN SOCIETIES. NOTABLY, FIGURES SUCH AS ELIAS ASHMOLE, AN EARLY SPECULATIVE MASON AND RENOWNED SCHOLAR, EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN ALCHEMY AND ROSICRUCIAN THOUGHT. SIMILARLY, GERMAN AND FRENCH MASONIC LODGES DURING THE ENLIGHTENMENT PERIOD INCORPORATED ROSICRUCIAN DOCTRINES, BLENDING MYSTICAL AND HERMETIC TEACHINGS INTO THEIR RITUALS.

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ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE SOCIETAS ROSICRUCIANA IN ANGLIA (SRIA), FOUNDED IN 1867, AND THE SOCIETAS ROSICRUCIANA IN CIVITATIBUS FOEDERATIS (SRICF), FOUNDED IN 1880 AS THE AMERICAN BRANCH OF THE ROSICRUCIANS, SPECIFICALLY CATER TO FREEMASONS WITH AN INTEREST IN ROSICRUCIANISM. MEMBERSHIP IN THESE SOCIETIES IS RESTRICTED TO MASTER MASONS; HOWEVER, THEY CREATE FUNDAMENTAL DIVISION WITHIN THE CRAFT AS THEY REQUIRE A BELIEF IN A SPECIFIC RELIGION—THE CHRISTIAN FAITH—WHEREAS FREEMASONRY ITSELF IS NON-SECTARIAN IN NATURE.

THE SRICF INTRIGUED ME—IN PART DUE TO GOING THROUGH THE MASTER CRAFTSMAN COURSE AND LEARNING THAT THE PHILOSOPHIES OF FREEMASONRY ARE ROOTED IN ROSICRUCIANISM AND HERMETICISM. HOWEVER, AFTER DISCOVERING THE MASONIC SECT OF THE ROSICRUCIANS ARE A CLIQUE DUE TO BEING 'INVITATION ONLY', I JOINED THE WORLD'S LARGEST ROSICRUCIAN ORDER, AMORC, THE ANCIENT MYSTICAL ORDER OF THE ROSY CROSS. IT IS A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION THAT STUDIES THE WESTERN ESOTERIC TRADITION. I FOUND THAT BECAUSE ROSICRUCIANISM DERIVES FROM ITS THREE MANIFESTOS, MUCH LIKE CHRISTIANITY DERIVES FROM THE BIBLE, A STUDY OF THESE THREE MANIFESTOS ALONE HELPED ME TO MAKE THE MASONIC CONNECTIONS, AND THEY ARE EASILY FOUND ONLINE FOR DOWNLOAD.

ALTHOUGH THE SRIA AND SRICF, AS WELL AS AMORC, TEACH ROSICRUCIANISM WITH THEIR OWN PARTICULAR DOGMA—MUCH LIKE THE NUMEROUS CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS DO WITH THEIR THOUSANDS OF RELIGIOUS INTERPRETATIONS—ONE CAN SIMPLY READ THROUGH THE THREE ROSICRUCIAN MANIFESTOS DIRECTLY TO GAIN INSIGHT AND FORM THEIR OWN ORIGINAL OPINIONS. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON A NON-INVITATION-ONLY BODY OF ROSICRUCIANS, VISIT WWW.ROSICRUCIAN.ORG

ADDITIONALLY, THREE MEMBERS OF A MASONIC ROSICRUCIAN SOCIETY WENT ON TO FOUND THE HERMETIC ORDER OF THE GOLDEN DAWN, A SOCIETY DEVOTED TO THE STUDY AND PRACTICE OF OCCULT HERMETICISM AND METAPHYSICS. THIS ORGANIZATION BECAME ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL WESTERN ESOTERIC GROUPS OF THE LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURIES, WITH NOTED OCCULTIST ALEISTER CROWLEY AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

THOUGH ROSICRUCIANISM AND FREEMASONRY REMAIN SEPARATE TRADITIONS, THEY SHARE AN ESOTERIC KINSHIP THAT HAS ENDURED FOR CENTURIES. THEIR MUTUAL EMPHASIS ON INITIATION, SECRECY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HIGHER KNOWLEDGE SUGGESTS A PHILOSOPHICAL BRIDGE BETWEEN THE TWO. WHILE NOT ALL FREEMASONS ARE ROSICRUCIANS, AND VICE VERSA, THOSE WHO STUDY BOTH TRADITIONS OFTEN FIND A DEEP AND ENRICHING CONNECTION THAT CONTINUES TO INSPIRE SEEKERS OF WISDOM AND ENLIGHTENMENT TO THIS DAY /G\



LEFT TO RIGHT:

LAMEN OF THE SRICF AND
SYMBOL OF THE SCOTTISH
RITE'S 18TH DEGREE, KNIGHT
OF THE ROSE CROIX

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**GOT AN IDEA FOR A MASONIC-RELATED ARTICLE FOR
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HIRED TO WRITE IT!**

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WILL ILLUMINATE AND INSPIRE ALL WHO READ IT.**

-TRESTLEBOARD EDITOR