

The Gold Country Trestleboard

The Quarterly Newsletter of Idaho Springs Lodge #26, A.F. & A.M.

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Happy Birthday!

October

Joseph Adelgren Andrew Burley
Clement Hackethal Ben Morgan
Michael Scott Kevin Townley
Byron Whistler

November

Ted Brown Danny Tomlinson
Albert Wells

December

Andrew Jeffrey Juan Carlos Milan
Joseph Porter Richard Porter
Phillip Vaillancourt

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STATED MEETINGS

October 6

October 20

(Budget Presentation)

November 3

November 17

(Budget Adoption)

**December 1 (Annual
Election & Installation)**

December 15

• **Lodge opens at 7:30 PM**

• **Dinner at 6:30. Freewill do-
nation (\$10 recommended
for those who are able).
Come and enjoy an hour of
fellowship before the Stated
Meeting.**

• **Building will be open by
6PM**



From the West: A Message from the Senior Warden



Brethren, I hope that this issue of your Trestleboard finds you and your families well and enjoying the ability to be out and about, as we continue to see relief from many of the restrictions of the past year-and-a-half.

Your Lodge is pleased to announce that pre-meeting dinners have been resumed at our customary 6:30PM time. We are not yet preparing meals entirely in the Temple kitchen, but we have found a variety of prepared items that allow us to offer a complete meal, for your enjoyment and to offer more of a time for fellowship before our meetings. So, come in time for dinner, and I believe you will find the efforts more than satisfactory.

September 15 was a very special occasion, for Idaho Springs #26. It was our Lodge's honor and pleasure to welcome MWB Michael D. Moore and several officers from the Grand Line, for the presentation of 50 Year Awards to WB Al Brown and to Bro. Ray Bishop of Breckenridge #47. WB Al & Bro. Ray are longtime friends, and both had waited through pandemic-caused delays to be honored for their accomplishment. Before the ceremony in the Lodge room, our nearly 50 members & guests enjoyed a superb dinner, provided by the Lodge & organized by WB Dean Clark & Karla Reeves. Pictures from the occasion can be found later in this newsletter, with two full pages in the emailed version.

The fall season brings with it several important annual events in our Lodge calendar. At our Oct. 20 Stated Meeting (as provided for in our by-laws), the Finance Committee will present their proposed budget, for the 2022 Masonic Year. We will vote on the adoption of that proposal at the Nov. 17 meeting. Dec. 1 will then be the occasion of our Annual Election & Installation of Officers.

We currently have two Entered Apprentices (Spike Emperor & Nick Arvey) and one Fellowcraft (Shawn Calder) who are working diligently on their proficiency work and should soon be ready for advancement. If you are able to contribute your ritualistic skills to parts in either the FC or MM Degrees, now would be a good time to begin brushing up on the work!

Denver Consistory's Sept. 24 Honors Dinner capped off a day that saw recognition of three members of our Lodge. WBs Bart Corfee & Joe Magoffin were coroneted to the Scottish Rite's 33rd Degree and WB Bill Achbach received the honor of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor (KCCH).

For other upcoming events and announcements, read on...!

Sincerely & Fraternally,

Bill

Masonic Trivia: "YOU MUST BE KIDDING...!!!"

How did a 1984 jurisdictional dispute and the issue of a Grand Master's power to make "Masons at sight" combine to place the GLs of New Jersey and California at odds with one another?
(The answer can be found at the end of "For the Good of the Order.")





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News & Coming Events

The Fall Reunion of Denver Consistory has been set for November 18 - 20. Idaho Springs currently has two candidates in the Reunion Class (Brothers Jonathan Herrmann & Russell Magyar), as well as a number of members active as Consistory officers, committee members and in degree casts. There's still time to get petitions in, so contact any Scottish Rite Mason or [click here](#) to use the new online petition.

WBs Danny Tomlinson & Ashley Buss (Georgetown #12) are recruiting a work crew to do cleanup & fixup work at Alvarado Cemetery on Sunday, Oct. 3. If you can devote a few hours to some much-needed work, meet at Marion's in Idaho

Springs at 7AM, for breakfast (complements of the Georgetown Temple Board) before a drive up to the cemetery. A sizable crew should allow the work to be completed in just a few hours.

The annual Wreaths Across America Day on Dec. 18, 2021 is an effort to place Veterans' wreaths in cemeteries all over the nation. If you are able to help in the effort, follow [this link](#) for our local campaign and more information.

For the Good of the Order

What, exactly, does it mean "to make (or to be made) a 'Mason at sight?'"

There is a good bit of misunderstanding regarding this traditional (and VERY rarely employed) practice. Indeed, no less an authority than Albert Mackey—in the course of examining the practice from a variety of angles (<http://masonicdictionary.com/sight.html>, with commentary by Colorado Bro. Wildey E. Atchison)—makes it "clear" that there is even some controversy regarding who, when and how (if at all) the power may be exercised.

Briefly explained, becoming a "Mason at sight" involves a non-Mason becoming a Brother as a result of the direct action of a jurisdictional Grand Master and without the usual process we experience in what Masonic jurisprudence would call a "private Lodge:" i.e. a warranted Lodge such as Idaho Springs #26. There's no petition, investigation, ballot, degree proficiency, etc.

Probably the most persistent myth, regarding this practice, is that the "making" is accomplished by a Grand Master at a single stroke: i.e. that he somehow, almost magically touches a man upon the shoulder and proclaims him to be a Brother. Not so! The ceremony, when it occurs, is abbreviated, but there is, nonetheless, a ceremony...in a Lodge (called an "Occasional Lodge") assembled by the Grand Master for the purpose. Questions are asked & answered, obligations taken, and lectures on the work delivered. The "at sight" event for William Howard Taft, for instance, is said to have taken "somewhat less than an hour."

One enduring question, regarding the practice, is whether it is (or should be) one still extant in the Grand Lodge era (i.e. after 1717) or if it was merely an expedient before that time. Suffice it to say that all authorities do not agree (with, perhaps a scant majority weighing in in favor of the former view), nor do all modern jurisdictions provide for the practice at all. Colorado's Book of Constitutions does not provide for it, for example. The GL of California prohibited the practice starting in 1855...and therein lies the issue which touches upon our Trivia Question for this issue. So, we'll pick up "The Rest of the Story" below...

Answer to "YOU MUST BE KIDDING!" (The Rest of the Story): When the GL of California revoked the GM's power to "make Masons at sight," in 1855, it did so because the state's third GM, Benjamin Daniel Hyam (a founder of the state's GL, just a few years before), had made a business of charging men money to make them "Masons at sight!" GM Hyam flaunted his power, claiming that no Masonic authority forbade his actions, even though an investigation showed that among those he made Masons were at least two who had been rejected for initiation in regular Lodges!

Fast forward to the year 1984—129 years later—when Mr. Amos Muzyad Yaqoob Kairouz, a professional actor & entertainer, petitioned Gothic Lodge #270 of Hamilton Square, New Jersey. Returning to Hamilton Square on March 15, after an engagement in Manhattan, Mr. Kairouz was met by New Jersey's GM, Daniel Wilson and other Lodge officers, who then conferred all of the degrees upon him that evening!

When the Grand Master of California received word of what had occurred, he withdrew recognition of **all** New Jersey Lodges...and the Grand Lodge of California ratified his action! Why? Well, complicating the differing positions of the two jurisdictions on the issue of "making Masons at sight," the added problem was that Mr. Kairouz had his principal residence in Beverly Hills, California. The GL of California decreed that all California Masons and Lodges were "to have no fraternal relations with a Mason carrying a New Jersey dues card ... including Scottish Rite, York Rite, Eastern Star and Order of Amaranth."

Despite his petition, California was unwilling to accept Mr. Kairouz's application for dual membership, saying he would need to take all three degrees again in proper form. However the two Grand Jurisdictions resolved their differences by October 19th of that year, and Bro. Kairouz (or, as he is much better known, Bro. Danny Thomas: Founder of St. Jude Children's Hospitals) was granted dual membership. He soon became a Scottish Rite Mason and an active member of the Shrine in California.

(Champion, Peter. Masonic Trivia Amusements & Curiosities (pp. 148-149). Kindle Edition.)



