



Flagstaff Lodge No. 7

TRESTLE BOARD

VOLUME XXII, ISSUE IV

JULY 2022

SENT TO SHAKE THE HANDS WE CANNOT REACH



From the West

by Bro. Tom Carpenter, Senior Warden

Our Departed Brothers

For this issue, I'll pay wages up front. Thank you to all who participated in the cemetery cleanup on May 14. A special thanks to Brother Brad Ingram, Junior Warden, who coordinated the cleanup. It was a beautiful day and many hands made the work light.

Masonry has tasks that are unique to the fraternity, tasks that we might otherwise never undertake our entire lives. Attending to an altar is one example; another is attending to the graves of those we never knew and yet call brothers.

The southwest corner of Citizen's Cemetery has many gravesites with borders and fences which are obstacles to the cemetery maintenance crew. If not for our efforts, those graves would eventually disappear beneath duff and dust.

Thus, we congregate annually to rake the grounds and titivate the gravesites of our departed brethren and the members of their families who have joined them in that undiscovered country.

Afterward, I'm usually too pooped to pop. When I get home, I sink into my reading chair, unbutton my pants and loosen my shoelaces. Eventually, I reach for my copy of *Spoon River Anthology*, by Edgar Lee Masters. Published in 1915, it contains poetic monologues of 244 departed souls speaking their own epitaphs from their graves.

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The Trestle Board is a bi-monthly publication of the Free and Accepted Masons of Flagstaff Lodge No.7. Articles are views of the author and not necessarily those of the lodge or of the Grand Lodge of Arizona. Articles may be edited for length and or content.

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From the West (Cont'd from page 1)

The book begins with this poem:

The Hill

Where are Elmer, Herman, Bert, Tom and Charley,

The weak of will, the strong of arm, the clown, the boozier, the fighter?

All, all, are sleeping on the hill.

One passed in a fever,

One was burned in a mine,

One was killed in a brawl,

One died in a jail,

One fell from a bridge toiling for children and wife—

All, all are sleeping, sleeping, sleeping on the hill.

One died in shameful child-birth,

One of a thwarted love,

One at the hands of a brute in a brothel,

One of a broken pride, in the search for heart's desire,

One after life in far-away London and Paris

Was brought to her little space by Ella and Kate and Mag—

All, all are sleeping, sleeping, sleeping on the hill.

Where are Uncle Isaac and Aunt Emily,

And old Towny Kincaid and Sevigne Houghton,

And Major Walker who had talked

With the venerable men of the revolution?—

All, all, are sleeping on the hill.

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They brought them dead sons from the war,
 And daughters whom life had crushed,
 And all their children fatherless, crying—
 All, all are sleeping, sleeping, sleeping on the hill.

Where is Old Fiddler Jones
 Who played with life all his ninety years,
 Braving the sleet with bared breast,
 Drinking, rioting, thinking neither of wife or kin,
 Nor gold, nor love, nor heaven?
 Lo! he babbles of the fish-frys of long ago,
 Of the horse-races of long ago at Clary's Grove,
 Of what Abe Lincoln said
 One time at Springfield.

Requiesce in pace.

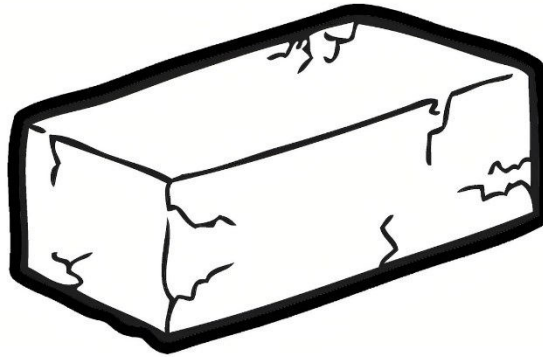
Parade
 Once again, we will participate in the Flagstaff Independence Day Parade.
 In preparation, brothers will meet at the lodge on Sunday, July 3 at 4:00 pm to
 decorate the firetruck.
 The next day, which happens to be July 4, brothers will meet at 7:30 a.m. on
 Dale St. (look for the decorated firetruck). The dress code will be dark pants,

Heritage Brick Sale

We have 130 bricks from the East wall of the Flagstaff #7 Lodge. The bricks were collected after the repairs to the East wall a few years ago. This is an opportunity to own a piece of our historic landmark building and preserve a piece of our heritage.

Each brick will have a plaque with the Lodge's information. Included at the bottom of the plaque will be the name of the brother who purchases the brick.

The "Heritage Bricks" are available now!



Get your "Heritage Brick" for \$100 now, while they last!

For purchase requests please contact WB John Graham:

928-522-8152 or Email: jd.graham.7@gmail.com

From the South

By Bro. Brad Ingram, Junior Warden

I recently attended the Annual Grand Communication for the first time. It was fascinating and enlightening to experience and to be a part in the governance of our fraternity. A participative view of the inner workings and mechanisms that have governed us from our origins and, with diligence, continue to govern our members into the foreseeable future.

As expected, there was much pomp and display of regalia associated with the event. This was not surprising given our fraternity's affinity for ritual and theatrics. Of course, there was the usual, not so sublime, inserts of opportunistic humor and pranks that we often see in our own lodge.

Of particular interest were the ceremonies and demonstrations from the concordant and appendant bodies. It was a refreshing glimpse at Masonic influences beyond the hallowed halls of our Blue Lodge.

Most inspiring was the presentation of awards. Pageantry aside, it is truly inspiring to see our brethren recognized for their hard work, generosity, and devotion to the craft. These are the wages that we Masons provide to our brothers who are the living examples of the tenets of Masonry. It is very moving to witness their recognition.

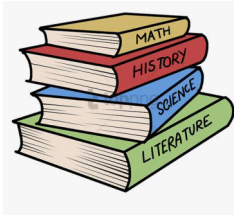
Another interesting portion of the Annual Communication was the committee reports. Most eye opening was learning that the Grand Lodge of Arizona communicates with lodges around the world. If you intend to visit a lodge of another country, you should always check with our Grand Lodge Foreign Relations Committee beforehand as there are many irregular Masonic lodges operating around the world. Attending an irregular lodge is a Masonic offense and can jeopardize your career as a Mason. If you should travel to a foreign lodge and find it irregular, it is your indispensable duty to report your findings to the Foreign Relations Committee so that others might be well informed in the future.

The general seriousness surrounding the task of navigating the various legislative amendments was pleasantly offset by the numerous opportunities we had to meet new brothers and get reacquaint ourselves with friends from other lodges. It's a fascinating dynamic when a Mason finds himself in a conversation with a brother only to find out that he is a man of great significance, meeting with you

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on the level. You may find yourself sitting with a Past Grand Master, an author of a series of books, or a man who has devoted his life to giving well-researched lectures on and to our great institution.

In closing, I highly recommend that everyone make it a point to attend the Annual Grand Communication. I am looking forward to the coming year under the competent and steady hand of our new Grand Master, MWB Jim Baker. I give a most honorable “Thank You” to our now PGM Randy Jager who’s thoughtful and diligent leadership will forever be remembered.



The Flagstaff #7 Scholarship Committee was pleased to award \$1500 payments to Erin Burdiss (daughter of Bro. Marc Burdiss) and Zach Brown (son of WB Lance Brown). Zach is in his first year at NAU and Erin attends Wright State University in Ohio. We wish them both great success in their academic careers.

Our brothers of Pioneer Lodge #82 will hold Master Mason Degree on July 25 in their lodge and were gracious enough to ask us to play. We will travel to Black Canyon City and fill all of the roles in the second section. Participants will include Worshipful Brothers Tom Hover, Cal Magness, John Graham, Lance Brown, Ralph Doudna, Brothers John Kains, Don Hack, Brad Ingram, Derald Hogeland, Justin Nelson, Keith Majors and Ahmed Al Ajaj. Most Worshipful Brother Randy Jager will participate in the second section as well.

From the Southwest

By Bro. Justin Nelson, Junior Deacon

Theoretical Arithmetic and the Demonstration of the More Important Truths of Morality

After being raised as a Master Mason, one of the first things I did, besides reading *Mackey's Jurisprudence* like one does from cover to cover, was get the ritual book. So many things had been said during the degrees and I was very eager to go over them again. One thing I had remembered hearing but did not fully understand was how Geometry could be used to learn morality. It is specifically mentioned in the first bit of ritual I learned, the Second Degree charge. When referring to geometry, it states that it can be used to learn the more important truths of morality. My question then was, how?

Being a classic textbook over-thinker, I thought the tools used in geometry were not a good enough answer. Certainly, the lessons of Freemasonry were more mysterious than that. I wanted to know if there is anything moral or philosophical to be learned from mathematics. Having been out of school for a while, I thought it was prudent to begin at the first science of the Quadrivium, arithmetic. I had found a book that I thought would give me a solid foundation on my search for light. It was Thomas Taylor's *Theoretic Arithmetic of the Pythagoreans*, published in 1816. He was the first person to translate the complete works of Plato and Aristotle into English, a Neo-Platonist, and a mathematician. In this book, he essentially pulled from Plato, Aristotle, Euclid, Iamblicus, the Pythagoreans, and others, of their teachings on specifically numbers and how they interact with each other and our reality. On the second page of the introduction, I was sure I was on the right track, when Taylor states "...*Theoretic Arithmetic, the study which has been almost totally neglected: for it has been superseded by practical arithmetic, which though eminently subservient to vulgar utility, and indispensably necessary in the shop and the counting house, yet is by no means calculated to purify, invigorate, and enlighten the mind, to elevate it from a sensible to an intellectual life, and thus promote the most real and exalted good of man.*"

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From the Southwest (Continued from page 8)

While the book goes into great detail on many things, what I began to see was a numerical cosmology that could be essentially universal regardless of which religion or faith you choose. All numbers would serve as additional insight into your particular faith, which is very harmonious with what Freemasonry says about itself and perhaps also why one of the main requirements of Freemasonry is a belief in a supreme being. Perhaps the Pythagoreans would rephrase that to say, “You must believe the **1** is the first number, from which all numbers are built from.” The number **1** was used by the Pythagoreans to represent God, or what they referred to as the Monad. Why did the number **1** represent deity? On page 10, Taylor states “Every number also is the half of the sum of the two numbers placed about it, in a natural series.” For example, look at the number **5**. The numbers that come before and after it are 4 and 6. $4+6=10$, which half of 10 is 5. If we wanted to go 2 or 3 away from the subject number, again in this case is five, we get the same results. 3 and 7 are both two less and more than 5, when added together we get 10, which halved is 5. If we look at 2 as the subject, we add one plus 3, which gives us 4, halved, brings us back to 2. The number 1 is the only number where this does not work. There is nothing (0 being a lack of a number rather than a number itself) that precedes 1, thus they found it to be a perfect representation of the first cause, the thing that creates all things.

The Pythagoreans also considered **1** and **2** to be as if they were non-numbers and that **3** was considered the first official number. A key insight to this can be found within the Staircase Lecture of the Second Degree. “A point is the beginning of all geometric matter. A line has length without breadth or thickness.” How does that relate to **1** and **2**? Well, **1** is the Monad of the Pythagoreans and represents the unfathomable God itself. If the Monad is the point from which all geometric matter, which is essentially all nature itself, stems. So, **2** must represent the line, by now having a “point A” and a “point B” connected by a line. It brings duality, light vs. dark, good vs. evil, or perhaps better stated as even vs. odd. That’s fine, but we really can’t do anything with a line, going back to the concept of **1** and **2** not being “real” numbers due to **1** being unfathomable and **2** really just giving us polarity and again, just a line. But now **3** brings us something conceivable by man, and perhaps why almost all religions have a three-part God, and example being Christians breaking God (**1**) down to three things, the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost. Having three points, we can now draw a triangle which coincidentally was often used to represent the Deity. Now we have something to

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From the Southwest (Continued from page 9)

look at. But it is still just a concept in this analogy, being a two-dimensional figure and not something physical. It is curious to point out that the first three of the seven liberal arts and sciences (Grammar, Rhetoric and Logic), known as the Trivium, deal strictly with non-physical subjects. It is only when we reach the fourth science of Arithmetic that we begin to examine our physical universe. When we add a fourth point to the triangle, we now have our first three-dimensional shape, the tetrahedron or a three-sided pyramid. We have now finally reached matter or the physical world. Is this why the ancients seem to have agreed that our physical world is made up of the four elements? The numbers **1**, **2**, **3**, and **4** can also be seen in the Quadrivium, where **1** would represent the concepts of numbers and their relations to each other as Arithmetic (the point from all other number sciences are based), **2** would represent Geometry, perfecting the space between numbers (a line), **3** would represent Music, the science of numbers in time or the timing between number (or notes on a scale), and **4** would represent Astronomy, which is the use of numbers in space-time, and again brings us to the physical world we all know.

While the book goes into much more detail on the relationships between numbers, special significance of various numbers, such as 3, 5, and 7 being looked at extensions of Deity (**1**) due to them not being equally divisible (into whole numbers) other than by themselves and Deity or **1**. What I learned from the book is the beginning of the answer to my original question, “How can geometry teach moral truths?” Perhaps the moral truth of geometry, having its foundation in numbers, could be one of harmony, rather than focusing on the “*I am right so you must be wrong*” dichotomy. This universality is created not only by numbers, but by all men and women together. We are all truly on the level with one another, as no number is better than another but is especially unique in its own way. We, as all numbers, originate from the one.

Sandbagging

In an effort to alleviate the damage from potential monsoon flooding caused by the impacts of the Schultz, Museum, Tunnel, Pipeline and Haywire Fires (that’s too many fires), Worshipful Master Tom Hover is organizing a ‘sandbag group’ to assist our neighbors. WB Tom issues this rallying call for all of the brothers who are able to help. This is a great opportunity to get ahead of an imminent threat and retain peace and order in our community.

Upcoming Events

(Thursdays are typically reserved for degrees or degree practice).

July 1	Stated Meeting, Longevity and Mason of the Year Awards	Reception: 5:30 Dinner: 6:00 Awards: 7:00 Meeting: 7:30
July 3	Firetruck Decoration	4:00 p.m. at the lodge
July 4	Independence Day Parade	7:30 a.m. on Dale St.
July 15-17	Celtic Festival	Fort Tuthill
August 4	Stated Meeting	Dinner at 6:30
August 20	Outdoor Degree	9:00 a.m.
September 1	Stated Meeting	Dinner at 6:30
October 6	Stated Meeting (White Apron Night)	Dinner at 6:30
November 3	Stated Meeting	Dinner at 6:30
November 4-5	Scottish Rite Reunion	Tucson
November 19	Clothe-a-Child	
December 1	Stated Meeting/Elections	Dinner at 6:30
December 10*	Officer Installation	

On Monday, February 23, 2023, there will be a re-enactment of the Cornerstone Dedication of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Arlington, Virginia.

All Masons are encouraged to visit the memorial. For those who cannot make the trip, an excellent virtual tour of the memorial can be taken via the memorial website at gwmemorial.org.



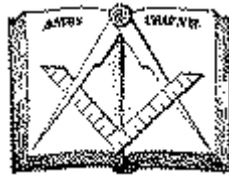
Flagstaff Lodge No. 7 congratulates our brothers
on their Masonic accomplishments:

Entered Apprentice



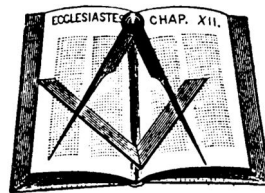
Bro. Michael Wesley Humphrey
Initiated May 12, 2022

Fellowcraft



Bro. Michael Wesley Humphrey
Passed June 23, 2022

Master Mason



Bro. Zachary David Ward Nelson
Raised April 28, 2022

IN MEMORIUM

We were recently informed of the passing of Bro. Marvin Winston Ratcliff on February 16. Bro. Ratcliff was raised in Flagstaff #7 in 1957 and would have received his 65-year pin this year. Masonic services were performed by Ottawa Lodge No. 51 in Marysville, Montana.



Masonic Anniversaries



Charles Vierthaler PM	7/6/1987
Victor Hawley PM	7/9/1981
Reed Houge	7/13/2013
Walter Greer	7/16/1992
Carl Sechrist	7/16/1953
Calvin Magness PM	7/20/1989
Donald Hack, Jr.	7/21/2011
Ryun Mann	7/21/2005
Warren Smith	7/21/1977
Jerry Lively	7/24/1976
John Brooks	7/25/1957
Aaron Burr	7/25/2013
John Russell	7/26/1962
Jeffery Browne	7/27/1989



Birthdays



Phil Cobbin	7/2/1954
Scott Welsch	7/5/1986
Lance Brown PM	7/9/1969
Keith Majors	7/14/1991
Todd Barrett	7/16/1987
Jesse Calvin	7/19/1990
Ray Teague	7/22/1940
James Wilson	7/24/1963
Charles Vierthaler PM	7/26/1941
Eddie Cash, Sr.	7/29/1934
D. Brook Cunningham PGM	7/30/1945