

The High Desert Masonic Trestleboard



September 2018

A COMMUNICATION BY AND FOR
OASIS OF MARA LODGE # 735
YUCCA VALLEY LODGE # 802
TOGETHER WITH THE APPENDANT AND CONCORDANT BODIES
IN THE HIGH DESERT COMMUNITIES OF
TWENTYNINE PALMS AND YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

BY THE WORK YOU DID TODAY

Can you say tonight in parting
with the day that's slipping past
That you helped a single brother
of the many that you passed?

Is a single heart rejoicing
over what you did and said?
Does the man whose hopes were fading,
Now with courage look ahead?

Did you waste the day or lose it,
Was it well or poorly spent?
Did you leave a trail of kindness,
Or a scar of discontent?

As you close your eyes in slumber,
Do you think that God will say,
"You have earned one more tomorrow,
By the work you did today."

Messages from Oasis of Mara #735

Masters Message for September

For the past several months I have been struggling to reply to some folks who apparently have a particular animus against Masonry. Along the way I have found a rejoinder that works. It is not an angry reply; rather it gets both me and the other guy thinking. That response uses only three words, *“Yes, therefore what?”*



Thus, when in the most accusatory tone possible I am told, *“You guys are a secret society!”* The reply, *“Yes, therefore what?”* forces the accuser to try to determine/understand/state how being a secret society (if it were one) would be a bad thing. Would it be a bad thing for the members? The community? The country? How? Why?

I have been told that it is ridiculous for grown men to dress up in tuxedos in this utterly informal community. *“Yes, therefore what?”* Is any harm done to anyone, including ourselves? It has repeatedly been noted that people behave better when they are “dressed up.” That doesn’t seem to me to be a problem. And this statement gives me the opportunity to point out that we are seeking to honor our candidates and especially each other at our Lodge meetings. Dressing in an out of the ordinary way is one opportunity to do that.

“You guys have to memorize all kinds of strange folderol in odd language.” In this case I’m not sure whether the objection is to the memorization, to the folderol, or to the language. It really doesn’t matter, though. Our question, *“Yes, therefore what?”* replies to all of those issues. Isn’t exercising one’s memory a good thing, regardless of the object? A developed memory keeps a man out of trouble because he can remember his wedding anniversary. He doesn’t have to search for the phrase he wants in order to characterize politicians’ ravings. He

can remember the tire sizes for both his sedan and his RV. And in particular, using unusual ritual or language helps to promote our fraternal identity among ourselves. One last (unworthy) thought on the subject is that using arcane language in otherwise ordinary conversation keeps one from being ignored.

A corollary of the ability to tame argument regarding Masonry, is that the question works for addressing any categorical statement that is not simply expressing a preference. There's no need to reply when someone tells you that he prefers *Miller* to *Budweiser*, for example. But if, for example, he tells you that the City of Twentynine Palms needs to provide trash cans on every downtown corner, our question shines. That's because, "*Yes, therefore what?*" is really asking for the expected consequences of such a decision. Consequences which come immediately to mind in this case include cost, vandalizing, unsightliness, and more.

And the most beneficial for me of our question is that it keeps me thinking instead of just reacting—perhaps angrily. When I ask, "*Yes, therefore what?*" I find that it's necessary to stand back and consider just what is being discussed. Do I clearly understand what the questioner's statement is? His point of view? Whether he is simply trying to be argumentative? And my hesitation to shoot from the hip/lip means that my answer, when I finally give it, will likely be more satisfying to me and to him than it otherwise might have been.



For me, then, Masonry is working. Slowly, admittedly very slowly, by looking at everything through the glass of Freemasonry, I think I'm beginning to achieve the purpose of our fraternity—to become a better man.

Fraternally
Phil Fultz PM



Messages from Yucca Valley Lodge #802

Master Message for September

Brethren,

We're entering the back half of the Masonic year, which means we begin looking to the next year as well as taking stock of this year. We have been pretty successful this year, adding new, vibrant members to our lodge, made improvements to the water system (yea), and reset the path our lodge is taking. I could not be more proud of what you, the brothers of our lodge, have done this year. Through your efforts, the viability of Yucca Valley Lodge has greatly increased. We have been able to execute degrees, increase our communications, and have developed a lodge that is mutually supportive and active. Our finances are coming along with the gains made through our investment accounts and avoided some pretty expensive items, such as the sewer project. If we work it right, the sewer project may even strengthen and beautify the parking lot! Providence has smiled on us and we need to show proper thanks to the Great Architect for His many blessings! Thank Him also for the recovery of brother Lee Sims from his heart surgery.

Next year, Worshipful Darin will be again taking the Oriental chair and will be following the five-year plan that was approved by the brethren last year. I will be returning to the West for next year. I sincerely hope that our members (that's you) will continue to step up and keep the ball rolling! Newer members are taking more responsibility for lodge activities and improvements, as it should be. Don't wait on the sidelines



and expect things to happen, make it so! Our institution is based on the collective work of all of us and each of us should be offering what we can to continue the positive trends we have seen. That being said, we will be looking for brothers to fill out the officer line. Don't be reticent about stepping forward and taking a chair, there's a place for anyone willing to put in the time for the betterment of the whole. Let Brother Sanden know what your desires are and make a difference!

We will be balloting on Mr. Vince Gantz at the September stated meeting, so please attend. First degree for him on Sept 27th.

This month we celebrate third degree raisings for brothers Steve Calvert (10), Wor. Sean Clay (23), Wor. Joe DuPont (12), Wor. Matt Harris (4), Ben Lawless (12), and Joe McNamee (25)! September birthdays include brother Jason Walsh on the 22nd, and Wor. Joe DuPont on the 28th.

Look forward to our October stated meeting for an Oktoberfest meal, made by yours truly!

Fraternally,
TC Dowden

Senior Wardens Message for September

Brothers, Friends, Family,

Another hot season is on its way out and Lodge activities should start to pick up. Through the heat and the flames we have remained vigilant this year and made much progress toward our Five Year Plan. We have a new Entered Apprentice and two new Fellowcrafts to strengthen our foundation and help us build upon that which was started long ago. We have once again felt the anguish of loss and mourn the passing of our dear brother Past Master Gary Mason who dedicated a lifetime to our craft and many years to our lodge. The level of time has called him home where we will meet again to share stories of triumph and tribulation in the great hall that our Father has prepared for us. I would like to thank our newest bothers who have helped so much to keep the lodge running smoothly in the background through all our recent activity.

Many of you may have noticed that our parking lot has been subject to construction this last month as they install the new sewer lines. Thank you all for your patience as this work continues. We have been blessed during this project and will end up saving much expense due to changes in the proposed plans for the easement that the water company is using to run the new system.



I would also like to congratulate brother York on his installation as our worthy Senior Deacon an on the most excellent job that he

is doing. I have never seen a staircase lecture delivered with such fervency and zeal.

In closing Yucca Valley lodge is once again growing into the lodge that it is destined to be, a great lodge with a true band of brothers who can best work and best agree. May our Father bless each and every one of you and may He keep you close to his heart as you keep Him close to yours.

Come out and join us on Thursday nights for the wonderful fellowship that we are enjoying.

Fraternally and gratefully,
Darin Sanden PM



Congratulations to our newly Passed Fellowcrafts Brothers Michael Samu and Raymond Cano. We look forward to working with you as you continue your masonic journey.

Our Fraternal Ties



Concordant and appendant organizations are encouraged to send articles, to help "get the word out". Articles should be brief, since space is limited.

MESA FEST 2018

The Yucca Mesa Community Center is hosting its annual Mesa Fest on Saturday, September 22, at the YMIA Community Center

in Yucca Valley (just off Aberdeen), Noon to 9.m. We have the opportunity, as a non-profit organization to have a booth at the event. This is **FREE** to all non-profit organizations in the area. This is an opportunity for us to get our name out in the community. Like last year, our information booth will be open from Noon to 3 p.m. But, if you come and participate as a non-profit, you will not have to pay admission and be able to stay at the festival and enjoy the food, drink and live music. Last year was the first year we participated. I am coordinating it again this year for our Chapter. I will have a canopy and two tables. We would like to partner with the Masonic Lodge and/or Shrine. You are welcome to set up a table under our booth if you would like or have your own adjoining booth. I can give you contact information to reserve your own space. I hope you can participate with us! You can call or text me at 760-501-6088 if you are interested or would like to help in any way. Thank you all for your continued support!

Cherryl LaMar (Associate Conductress)

Desert Valley Chapter #602

LAS PALMAS FUNDRAISER



On Tuesday, September 18, Desert Valley Chapter #602 will be holding a fundraiser at Las Palmas Restaurant in Yucca Valley. They are known for their authentic Mexican cuisine and are extremely popular with the locals here in the area. Please join us to help raise money for our Galaxy Club, which is the fundraising entity of our Desert Valley Chapter. Las Palmas

is located at 55792 Twentynine Palms Highway (Highway 62), Yucca Valley, CA,

Just arrive on Tuesday, September 18, 2018, between the hours of 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. and order anything on their menu. You don't need to give them your name or show them a flyer. This is

important because they will be donating money to our group based on all their proceeds during this time. Yes, you can order ANYTHING! This includes all meal, fountain drinks and alcohol purchases. A donation will be made on their behalf to our Galaxy Club. So, come and help us make this a great time for EATING and FELLOWSHIP! Hope you can join us in an evening of fun! If you should have questions, please call or text me at 760-501-6088. Thank you for your continued support!
Cheryl LaMar (Associate Conductress)
Desert Valley Chapter #602

Time to begin planning for The 169th Annual Communication. Reservations are filling up fast.



Masons4Mitts
: Baseball Is Back!

California Masons are once again stepping up to the plate in support of local kids. Every \$20 gift puts a high-quality leather baseball mitt – embossed with the Masons of California logo – into the hands of a child in need. New this year: Masons4Mitts has expanded to Orange County with the addition of Angels Baseball!

Your Masonic Heart - Bring It Home

Written by MW Bro. John Hart Grand Master of Alberta for 2008-2009.

As a young boy my mother told me home is where the heart is, but I didn't grasp the concept at that time in my life. Years later, as a grown man returning home with a family, the realization was brought home each time we arrived. Today our children bring the grandkids home, home to our hearts.

Let me convey a story I read the other day about a man who owned a house by the river. As the river's waters flooded in the spring, the water came up to the porch. A canoeist came by and asked the man if he wanted a lift. The man said, "My faith is in the Lord and he will save me." The waters continued to rise to the first floor. A rower came by asking again if the man wanted a lift to be saved. He again stated that, "My faith is with the Lord and he will save me." As the waters rose to the third floor a power boater came by with the same offer and got the same reply. The floodwaters were now at the roofline and a helicopter flew by and its crew offered the man their help. His reply again was, "My faith is with the Lord and he will save me." Well, the man drowned and he appeared before the Lord. He asked, "Lord my faith was with you, why did you not save me?" The Lord said, "What do you want from me? I sent three boats and a helicopter."

Are you this same man? Are Masonic hearts dying and demitting while you wait for some miracle to save them because you have faith in what Freemasonry stands for? Brethren, faith alone will not save you; the Masonic degrees alone only make you a paper Mason. Like the man in the story, your Masonic heart begins with faith in what we stand for, but unlike the man in the story we must do something.

Brethren, the Masonic order is like a family. When one member of our family is not well, you will do everything in your power to save that life. Yet, my Brethren, we are sitting idly by while both Lodges and membership die. Yes, Brethren, many Lodges are not well and could die. Look at the number of Lodges that cannot fill chairs or are going years without a new candidate. Are you going to make an effort to save this patient? Well, are you? Or are you one of those who sit by the bedside of the patient and hold his hand, wondering why someone won't do something, while you sit waiting for him to die? Can our Lodges and membership be saved? Are you a hand holder, or are you willing to give the Lodge artificial resuscitation until they can breathe on their own?

Let us set the standard that will raise our Lodges above the mediocre to a new level of excitement and interest. It is up to us to see that our young Freemasons are not left standing alone before Lodge, in Lodge, or at the festive board. It is our duty to assign a Brother to watch over them and introduce them around, take them visiting, mentor them with Brethren their own age, and involve their family in their Masonic life. Let them see that Freemasons love one another and care for each other. Freemasonry is a step that should never be regretted, because the road lit by a Masonic heart is a road of happiness, blessed by peace and harmony. The Masonic heart is built around the individual, with the erection of a moral and social edifice directed at making a Brother wiser, better, and consequently happier.

Brethren, you can do this. You can do this by encouraging better programs, conferring better degrees, studying the meaning of our ritual, presenting inspiring talks and motivating presentations. This is not for the membership and education committees to do. This is something each and every Brother must do. What contribution can you make for your Lodge? Show your Masonic heart outside the Lodge and project it into the communities, so those you come in contact with will see the quality of men associated in this great fraternity, and so others can see what Freemasonry has to offer them. Brethren, have you ever asked your ladies who of your friends and neighbors they think would make a good Mason? Because you know, Brethren, women have a better sense of character than men; after all, they picked you didn't they?

Now is the time to bring your Masonry home to your heart, because that is where we learn the basic values. We learn what a Mason should be, how a Mason should treat others, how a Mason should live. We learn what it means to become a Mason. We learn the importance of committing ourselves as officers at any level, of raising our level of volunteerism, of dedicating ourselves to the task we have accepted. Those of you assembled today I know have Masonry in your hearts, and have brought it home to this Communication. Now is the time for you to pass that inner feeling, that knowledge and experience, on to other Brethren, that they too can bring their Masonry home. Brethren if we have taught our Master Masons well, and if we live the lessons of Freemasonry in our daily lives, we will have Masonry in our hearts and we will have brought it home.

In conclusion, I thank all Masons who have taught me, and continue to teach me, to live my life as a Master Mason. Freemasonry is made from the inside out, from the heart: an inner feeling, a way of life. "Brethren,

when anyone is said to be a Mason the world at large may know that he is one to whom the burdened heart may pour forth its sorrow, to whom the distressed may prefer their suit, whose hand is guided by justice and whose heart is expanded by benevolence.” (General Charge.) Your heart is your one true home. Bring your Masonry home.

Lodge Calendars

Thu Aug 30	7 – 10pm	YV802 Fellowship & Practice
Sat Sep 1	11am – 2pm	OES Meeting
Mon Sep 3	All day	Labor Day
Tue Sep 4	6:30 – 8:30pm	OM735 Fellowship and Practice
Thu Sep 6	6:30 – 7:30pm	YV802 Lodge Dinner
Thu Sep 6	7:30 – 9pm	YV802 Stated Meeting
Sat Sep 8	8 – 10am	YV802 Breakfast
Mon Sep 10	6 – 7:30pm	OM735 Stated Meeting Dinner
Mon Sep 10	7:30 – 9pm	OM735 Stated Meeting
Wed Sep 12	11am – 2pm	Daughters of Nile
Thu Sep 13	7 – 10pm	YV802 Fellowship & Practice
Sat Sep 15	11am – 2pm	High Desert Shrine Club
Tue Sep 18	7 – 9pm	OSI Palm Springs Masonic Lodge
Tue Sep 18	4 – 8pm	OES – Las Palmas
Thu Sep 20	7 – 10pm	YV802 Fellowship & Practice
Sat Sep 22	12 – 9pm	OES – Mesa Fest
Tue Sep 25	6:30 – 8:30pm	OM735 Fellowship and Practice
Thu Sep 27	6 – 7pm	HA 802 Meeting
Thu Sep 27	7 – 10pm	YV802 First Degree – Vince Gantz
Mon Oct 1	6 – 7:30pm	OM735 Stated Meeting Dinner
Mon Oct 1	7:30 – 9pm	OM735 Stated Meeting
Thu Oct 4	6:30 – 7:30pm	YV802 Lodge Dinner
Thu Oct 4	7:30 – 9pm	YV802 Stated Meeting
Sat Oct 6	8 – 10am	YV802 Breakfast
Sat Oct 6	11am – 2pm	OES Meeting

The Lodge calendars are subject to change. When in doubt contact a lodge officer. Please respect organizations by not interrupting their private activities. Members and Family are encouraged to participate in all public activities of our Masonic Family.

**Grand Master of the State of California
Most Worshipful Bruce R. Galloway**



**Inspector 830th Masonic District
Worshipful Jim Ridley PM**

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- MARSHALL** *Vacant*
- SENIOR STEWARD** *Vacant*
- JUNIOR STEWARD** *Vacant*
- TILER** *Lance Ash*

Sudoku is a game of number logic, not math.

Each row, each column, and box must contain the numbers 1-9 only once.

Exercise your mind.

		7	2			3	5	
		8					1	
				4	6			7
		5					9	8
		4	3	9	5	2		
2	9					5		
4			8	6				
	7					1		
	8	2			9	4		



<http://lodge802.freemason.org/>

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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Yucca-Valley-Masonic-Lodge-802/387646035017>

From the Editor

I encourage everyone who is able to receive the Trestleboard by email. It helps reduce lodge operating expenses and allow features that are not possible in printed editions.

Send an email to jdupont1@gmail.com I will happily change your delivery preference.

Brothers are encouraged to submit articles that they believe would be of interest to the members and our masonic family.

Trestleboard Editor
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