

The High Desert Masonic Trestleboard



January 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

Freemasonry

THE DIFFERENCE IS...YOU



Messages from Oasis of Mara #735

Masters Message for January

It's fairly customary for us to begin each new calendar year by making "resolutions"--promises to ourselves and to the world in general—to do or not to do something valuable. Commonly, those promises are to ourselves and involve things like giving up smoking, losing weight, or reducing our intake of candy. That's well and good, but there also seems to be competition to see who among us can break his resolution(s) soonest.

Nevertheless, our yearly New Years' resolutions explicitly state what we want to do with and about ourselves during the coming year. We don't do that at any other time in the year. And sometimes a good deal of thought goes into those matters. Let me suggest a few topics for us all to address. They cannot be resolutions until each of us has accepted and internalized them, but we might begin with them to arrive at the things we want to do in 2019.

The ending year has had nature be particularly difficult for Californians. The recent fires have been characterized as the most destructive in California history, both as concerns casualties and property loss. Literally thousands of people are suddenly homeless. One of our resolutions could address those losses. Cash? Certainly. But every bit as important would be volunteering in dozens of ways, from seeking to match missing people with their displaced families, to assisting people at the various shelters.

Similarly, there seem to be more homeless/destitute people among us than there used to be. Can we engage in Masonic relief of them?

Our society seems to be especially fragmented just now. And too many



citizens treat anyone who disagrees with them as though they are horrible, depraved, enemies. We can and should decline to take that position, and furthermore seek to moderate our neighbors' as well as our own behavior.

In Lodge matters, we have been talking about increasing our participation in community matters, but we haven't done much. Isn't it time?

One final consideration is implementing our Masonic goal of "making good men better." As a general sort of thing that's well and good; but what does that mean personally and specifically? Determining what that goal means, then living by it may be the most important New Year's resolution of all.

It is an old question, and at least in part specious, but it is a cliché because it is true, *"If you don't know where you are going, how will you tell when you get there?"*

Junior Wardens Message for January

Good day Brethren:

Thank you for the great attendance on our Prime Rib Dinner we had at our December 3 stated meeting. Also, we had a great attendance for our December breakfast we have on every second Saturday of the month. Congratulations to our new Master Mason Jose Landeros who was just recently raised. You are a valuable asset to our fraternity.



On December 27 we are having our January Stated Meeting to honor St John the Evangelist. We are having Beef stew, cornbread and apple pie. This is on a Thursday evening from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. It has been a pleasure being the Junior Warden and I thank everyone who has helped me with the duties. Again, the Ash family is preparing our meal on the 27th so it's going to be great! I hope everyone has a great holiday and a happy new year.

Fraternally,
Cory Adrian



Messages from Yucca Valley Lodge #802

Master Message for January

Friends and Brothers,

We are saddened to end our year with the loss of our newly installed Jr. Warden Brother Michel Lee Sims. We will all miss his presence and his wisdom. Brother Sims told me many times how happy he was to find a home with our lodge and how much he loved being a member of Yucca Valley. We will be honoring him and his memory at a masonic funeral service to be held on Jan 12th at 1pm at the Yucca Valley Masonic Lodge. Part of the ceremony will include Native Sun Dance songs performed by our brother Rob York who is a certified Fire Chief and Pipe Carrier in the Native American Church.

We will be heading into our year with new officers and new Master Masons, we have two first degrees coming up on January 31st. We are very excited to have these young men join our ranks. They have been diligent and earnest in their interest and participation and will become valuable members of our family.

Therese DuPont will be preparing our first stated dinner of the year. Her meals are one of the highlights of our dinning year and set the bar for others to try to compare to. Please come out and join us in fellowship and support. Remember we meet each Tuesday night for proficiency work and Thursday nights for Practice and fellowship.

Looking forward to seeing each of you at lodge. May the Great Architect bless and keep you and yours.



Fraternally,

W. Darin Sanden PM



Senior Wardens Message for January

Brethren,

January is upon us and with it, the new Masonic Year. We had a very good year last year, as we gained seven new Masons. Unfortunately, we also lost 12 members. Seven translated to the celestial lodge above, four were suspended and one withdrew. We ended with 53 total

members. Now, the seven new members are all active participants, which is why I consider it a good year. As long as we, as a lodge, continue to guard the West Gate and properly acculturate new members, we will thrive as a lodge.

We will have two first degrees coming in either/both January or February, so be prepared for that. We will also paying our final respects to Brother Lee Sims. Both ceremonies should have active attendance by more than just the installed officers! Sideliners are extremely important, as it demonstrates the solidarity of our brotherhood in passing and the support of new Masons as they join us. Participate, brothers!

Newly installed officers should be memorizing their parts now and be prepared for the January Stated Meeting and the two First Degrees. Do your part and demonstrate professionalism is how we perform our ritual.

That's all for now, so I'll see you in the New Year!

W. TC Dowden, PM

Lodge Website & Social Media

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



Facebook page

<https://m.facebook.com/YuccaValleyMasonicLodgeNo802/>



The Lodge App:

https://www.groupphead.com/app/ent_cafmgl_yucca_802/a9225fe9-a726-49f6-ab49-53cd57e49717



Yucca Valley Lodge Stated Meeting Dinner Menu

*Appetizers
Green Salad
Seasoned Pork Chops
Twice Baked Potato's*

*Baked Beans
Green Vegetables
Desert
Assorted Beverages*

Our Fraternal Ties



GRAND LODGE
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA MASONIC CENTER
1111 COLLEGE AVENUE
SAN DIEGO, CALIF. 92161
PH: 619-594-1234 FAX: 619-594-1235

2019 Grand Master's Proclamations

January	Pledge to Make a Difference Every Month
February	Masonic Widows Month
March	Youth Orders Month
April	Public Schools Month
June	Masonic Homes Month
July	Support Our Masonic Veterans Month
September	Constitutional Observance Month & Masonic Lodge Open House Month

Make a Masonic New Years resolution:

MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERY MONTH.



2019 MASONIC LEADERSHIP RETREATS

John Taylor
Paul Springer
Don Brown
Irene



2019 O.S.I. SCHEDULE

DISTRICT 830

JIM RIDLEY, INSPECTOR

ALL OFFICERS SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION START AT 7P.M.

PLEASE HAVE FOOD READY TO START AT 6P.M.

JANUARY 21- PALM SPRINGS LODGE LODGE. FIRST DEGREE, Both Sections
FEBUARY 21 -COACHELLA LODGE, SECOND DEGREE, First Section
MARCH 18– OASIS OF MARA LODGE, SECOND DEGREE, Second Section
APRIL 20- DESERT DAYLIGHT LODGE- THIRD DEGREE, First Section
MAY 16-YUCCA VALLEY LODGE- THIRD DEGREE, Second section
JUNE 20- COACHELLA LODGE- FIRST DEGREE, Both Sections
JULY 15- OASIS OF MARA LODGE- SECOND DEGREE, First Section
AUGUST - DARK
SEPTEMBER 19 – YUCCA VALLEY LODGE- SECOND DEGREE, Second Section
OCTOBER 19 –DESERT DAYLIGHT LODGE- THIRD DEGREE, First Section
NOVEMBER 19- PALM SPRINGS LODGE- THIRD DEGREE, Second Section
DECEMBER - DARK
LODGES ARE EXPECTED TO PRESENT THE WORK LISTED BY THEIR NAME.



*Seek and ye shall find.
Ask and it shall be given you.
Knock and the door will be opened
unto you.*

There's always something happening, if you are willing to look for it.



Lodge Calendars

27 Dec, Thu	6 – 7:30pm 7:30 – 9pm 6 – 7pm 7 – 10pm	OM735 Stated Meeting Dinner OM735 Stated Meeting HA 802 Meeting YV802 Fellowship & Practice
31 Dec, Mon	All day	New Year's Eve
1 Jan, Tue	All day All day	New Year's Day Make a difference every month Pledge
3 Jan, Thu	6:30 – 7:30pm 7:30 – 9pm	YV802 Lodge Dinner YV802 Stated Meeting
5 Jan, Sat	8 – 10am 11am – 2pm	YV802 Lodge Breakfast OES Meeting
8 Jan, Tue	6:30 – 8:30pm 6:30 – 8:30pm	OM735 Fellowship and Practice YV802 Masonic Education
9 Jan, Wed	11am – 2pm	Daughters of Nile
10 Jan, Thu	6:30 – 8:30pm	YV802 Fellowship & Practice
12 Jan, Sat	8 – 10:30am	OM735 Lodge Breakfast
15 Jan, Tue	6:30 – 8:30pm 6:30 – 8:30pm	OM735 Fellowship and Practice YV802 Masonic Education
17 Jan, Thu	6:30 – 8:30pm	YV802 Fellowship & Practice
19 Jan, Sat	11am – 2pm	High Desert Shrine Club
21 Jan, Mon	All day 6 – 9pm	Martin Luther King Jr. Day OSI @ Palm Springs
22 Jan, Tue	6:30 – 8:30pm 6:30 – 8:30pm	OM735 Fellowship and Practice YV802 Masonic Education
24 Jan, Thu	6 – 7pm 7 – 10pm	HA 802 Meeting YV802 Fellowship & Practice
29 Jan, Tue	6:30 – 8:30pm 6:30 – 8:30pm	OM735 Fellowship and Practice YV802 Masonic Education
31 Jan, Thu	6:30 – 8:30pm	YV802 Fellowship & Practice
2 Feb, Sat	8 – 10am 11am – 2pm	YV802 Breakfast OES Meeting
4 Feb, Mon	6 – 7:30pm 7:30 – 9pm	OM735 Stated Meeting Dinner OM735 Stated Meeting
5 Feb, Tue	6:30 – 8:30pm 6:30 – 8:30pm	YV802 Masonic Education OM735 Practice
7 Feb, Thu	6:30 – 7:30pm 7:30 – 9pm	YV802 Lodge Dinner YV802 Stated Meeting

Lodge Calendars are subject to change.

Watch your email and the Lodge App for updates to events and activities.

**Grand Master of the State of California
Most Worshipful Stuart A. Wright**



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

OASIS OF MARA LODGE # 735

- MASTER** *Phil Fultz*
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- JUNIOR WARDEN** *Cory Adrian*
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- SECRETARY** *Vacant*
- CHAPLAIN** *Sam Jones*
- SENIOR DEACON** *Bob Coghill*
- JUNIOR DEACON** *Vacant*
- 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.

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

1sudoku.com - n° 29960 - Level Medium



YUCCA VALLEY LODGE # 802

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

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SENIOR DEACON

Rob York

JUNIOR DEACON

Vacant

MARSHALL

Spiro Zafirov

SENIOR STEWARD

JUNIOR STEWARD

Vernon Monroe

TILER

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

From the Editor

To receive the Trestleboard by email, contact me at jdupont1@gmail.com and

The Trestleboard: Is not for only for Masons its for our masonic family. Share generously.

Information from your lodge, chapter or club are always welcome. News for about our fraternity of interest to Lodge members and our extended Masonic Family. Brothers are encouraged to submit articles that they believe would be of interest to the members and our masonic family.

What's Your Answer

Written by Masonic Service Association of the United States

A Mason is sometimes asked by a friend, a neighbour, or a business associate, "What do the Masons do?" The question may be worded more generally, "What are the Masons?"

In either case, the Brother is challenged by the realization that there is no simple answer which he can rattle off "from the top of his head," because the questioner is really asking him for a comprehensive explanation about what organized Freemasonry is, what its principles and purposes are, what programs it is engaged in, how it carries them out, and what satisfactions the individual Mason derives from his Masonic membership.

Some of these considerations arouse the fraternal doubt that "you can't tell that," or "that's secret," so that the Brother's reply is marked by hesitation or reluctance to explain.

Puzzled by the difficulty of knowing what facets of the vast subject of Freemasonry the questioner is really inquiring about, the Mason "just doesn't know where to begin," and too often may avoid a simple statement of facts. He isn't sure of what to say.

Or, knowing that his questioner is a "practical man of affairs" who measures outcomes quantitatively, in materialistic terms, he realizes that Freemasonry's reputation cannot be explained by charts, statistics, or financial statements, because the Fraternity's real worth can be expressed only in spiritual terms, and that is rather difficult to explain to the uninitiated. Masonic terminology, the most comfortable words with which to reply, seems inadequate or out of place. Masonic "secrecy" gets in the way.

Embarrassment is probably the commonest cause of a Brother's difficulty in replying to the question. He is embarrassed because he realizes that he doesn't really know enough about the Fraternity to give a good simple reply. He knows that there is much more Masonic activity going on in other lodges all over the country and throughout the world, but he has never taken the time to experience some of it or to read about it with real interest. He hasn't given much thought to the subject.

He never expected to be asked such a question by a non-Mason outside the lodge. Even though he has experienced Masonry, he has never tried to express in words just what Freemasonry means to himself.

A well-informed Brother, therefore, will prepare himself for the possibility of being asked such a question. Even though no one ever asks the question, he will have the confidence of knowing what Freemasonry means, especially to himself.

First of all, he will determine to give a Masonic answer, one which asserts the real nature of the Fraternity as a spiritual force, as "a way of life" which seeks to improve men morally and spiritually, by associating with other idealistic men who want to improve the quality of life around them by means of a brotherhood which emphasizes the Fatherhood of God.

In an age which derides ideals, absolutes, the concepts of law and order, and advocates relativism instead of standards of excellence, which angrily demands rights instead of responsibility, and which preaches a nihilistic doctrine of individualism (doing your own thing), Masons find it difficult to explain the Fraternity's idealism and its charitable and educational purposes. But it must be done. A Mason must give a Masonic answer to the question, "What are the Masons."

There are really so few "secrets" which a Mason is required to keep, and so much that he should be proud to proclaim to others, that his principal concern in answering questions is probably the doubt that he can give an adequate Masonic reply.

The esoteric parts of the ritual work, the grips and pass-words of the three degrees, these are really the only "secrets" which should be kept inviolate. Because it is impossible to communicate to the uninitiated the joys and satisfactions of brotherhood experienced in "the labours of the lodge," this too becomes a secret because it is inexpressible.

But there is so much that can be told about Freemasonry, about the particular lodge, about the individual Mason, that the real problem in answering the question, "What do the Masons do?" is to say only enough to satisfy the questioner without boring or distracting him.

He can point out that Freemasonry is an educational organization. By means of the ritualistic ceremonies and other educational programs, Masons learn and teach the truths of morality, justice, patriotism, and the necessity of brotherly love to achieve those universal ideals. Reverence for the Great Architect is inculcated because men are brothers only if they are related to God as the, sons of the Creator Father.

He can explain that Masonic meetings, while resembling the meetings of any organized society, have a distinctly Masonic character. They are opened and closed with prayer. They are patriotic because the nation's flag is kept in an honoured place in the lodge and properly saluted with the pledge of allegiance. They are opened and closed with Masonic ceremonies to remind the members of the principal purposes of the Fraternity, which are to develop brotherly love and respect for truth, not the truths of scientific facts or history, but the truths which guide a man to live happily and harmoniously with his fellow man.

For that reason Masonic meetings do not permit the introduction of discussions about sectarian religious differences or partisan political opinions. A Masonic lodge, if it is working seriously, teaches its members the principles involved in attaining a universal Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

A Mason is also free to explain that Freemasonry is a charitable organization, which acts to relieve the distress of local individuals who are victims of calamity, and that it has created programs and institutions to care for its needy senior citizens, or to provide scholarship aid for worthy and needy young people in college. Masonic Homes and Hospitals, Grand' Lodge Scholarship Programs, Charity Funds, and the Hospital Visitation Program of the Masonic Service Association are examples of such achievements.

Freemasonry is also, but not primarily, a social organization, which arranges special meetings to which are invited wives, children, neighbours and friends for the purposes of entertainment and sociability. Masons seek the pleasure of associating with other members of the community, hoping thereby to reveal the serious and idealistic nature of the Fraternity's objectives.

There is so much that a Mason can tell about his beloved Fraternity. But the way in which he tells it is more important than what he tells. When a Mason is conscious and proud of the moral and spiritual achievements he has made through Masonry, when he has been inspired to display the beauties of friendship, morality, and brotherly love, when he realizes that his own personal life is the most important evidence he can give to show what a Mason is, he usually finds it very easy to talk about the Fraternity to his non-Masonic friends. When he knows that his lodge is a spiritual force, when it is learning and teaching its members the universal ideals of the Craft, when it is actively promoting charitable programs and pursuing truth, he will tell what Freemasonry is with conviction and enthusiasm.

But he must know what he is talking about. This essay suggests only in general terms what he can talk about. He should be prepared to fill in the details. When he is convinced that he can supply those details, he is ready to answer the questions, "What do the Masons do?" and "What are the Masons?"

When he is asked the question he must then decide on how much or how little to say. A brief but adequate reply is advised, for if the questioner is not satisfied, he will undoubtedly ask for further information. The following answer is only a suggestion.

"Masons are men who voluntarily asked to join a lodge. They were accepted because they were good men who believe in God and hold high ethical and moral ideals. They go to meetings which they call the lodge, in order to learn and to teach what 'friendship, morality, and truth really involve, and to practice on a small scale the reality of brotherhood. They also have meetings open to their wives, children, and friends where they promote an understanding of the serious nature of the Fraternity by entertainment and sociability. Practical programs for charity and relief are planned and executed. The special kinship they feel for each other as a brotherhood is their deepest satisfaction."

Trestleboard Editor
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED