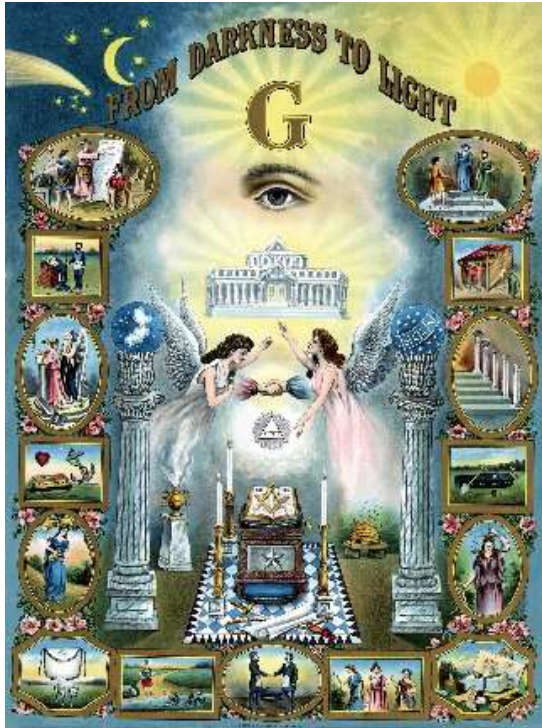


The High Desert Masonic Trestleboard



February 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 February

Fraternal Greetings,

I first would like to thank the Brethren of Oasis of Mara for entrusting me with the mantel again. I shall do my best to govern the lodge with zeal and fidelity.

As this is our first meeting of the new Masonic year, we must pass our budget for this year. I would hope to get a good budget passed so that we can move the lodge forward to doing bigger and better things. I will be presenting a couple of fundraiser ideas for the year as well. Starting with a dance for the cure in May. We will discuss that as well at the stated meeting.

I would like to thank Worshipfuls J.B. Carrol, Fred Wolf, and T.C. Dowden for the fine work they did during the installation. It is fine brethren like yourselves who make this craft enjoyable.

As we move forward, let us remember we get out Freemasonry what we put into it. Let us endeavor to make our study groups and practices so that our work is not void when we have our time to display it. I will devote my time to any brother who needs assistance with proficiency in degrees or their chairs. I am but a phone call away. May the Great Architect of the Universe grant us all a successful year.

Fraternally,

Thomas R Johnson, PM



Senior Wardens Message for February

Good day brothers.

I am looking forward to this masonic year as the senior warden of our lodge. I would like to thank Fred Wolf and JB Carrol for assisting us in our installation of officers that was on the 19th of January. Worshipful

Thomas will do an outstanding job as he did the 3 previous times as Worshipful Master. In our lodge we have a picture of George Washington and Harry Truman who were Master Masons and of course presidents of the united states. I wanted to list all of the presidents who were Freemasons to our younger brothers who have just joined our institution. George Washington our 1st



president. James Monroe our 5th president. Andrew Jackson our 7th president. James Polk our 11th president. James Buchanan our 15th president. Andrew Johnson our 17th president. James Garfield our 20th president. William McKinley our 25th president. Theodore Roosevelt our 26th president. William Taft our 27th president. Warren Harding our 29th president. Franklin Roosevelt our 32nd president. Harry Truman our 33rd president. Gerald Ford our 38th president. A total of 14. According to Wikipedia Lyndon Johnson was initiated as an entered apprentice mason but did not go any further. To me that would make him a mason in today's day in age. This is all for now and I wish good things and happiness to all my brothers and families.

Fraternally
Cory Adrian

Junior Wardens Message for February

Brethren:

As your new Junior Warden I want to get started on the right foot. So for our Stated Meeting on 4 February I'm planning on:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Baked Ham | Baked Sweet Potatoes |
| Green Beans Almondine | Rolls & butter |
| Bundt Cake | Assorted Drinks Coffee/Tea |

This isn't an overwhelming menu to prepare, but this old guy would definitely like to have some help cooking, and with preparing the dining room and serving the brothers and guests. Doctrinally, that help should be rendered by the Stewards, and you would be very welcome. But I will certainly accept help from any willing member. The same goes for help with breakfast on the second Saturdays. It's no particular trouble to scramble an egg, but preparation and cleanup can get to be chores. Join me? In my previous stint as Junior Warden it was my practice to keep expenses down by serving whatever was on sale at the super market—but once including a surf and turf of steak and lobster (at a higher dinner price than usual). It may be a better, however, to plan ahead so that brothers know what to expect at later dates, as for example when they expect friends or relatives to be visiting. If we plan ahead, therefore, I would really like to react to your preferences and particularly to avoid anything you hate. You need to tell me, because personally I



happen to like liver and onions, for example. So please take a few minutes to email or telephone me with your preferences/hates, along with any preferred dates to serve them. Here's to a great Masonic New Year!

Fraternally
Phil Fultz PM



Messages from Yucca Valley Lodge #802

Master Message for February

Friends, Brothers,

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication to our lodge. We are enjoying a time of true fellowship among our active members and the results are showing. we have the pool table back in the lodge and with some tlc it will be up and running for some fun soon. Our special ceremonies and regular meeting have had great attendance and our momentum is growing.

We are now practicing for a couple of upcoming first degrees and also preparing for some 3 degree proficiency returns. I have asked for our members to choose a month that they would like to prepare a meal for our stated meetings and have so far solidified March, April, May, and Oct. If any person would like to sign up to prepare one of our monthly meals please let me know.

It is time for us to look at our goals for the rest of the year and put together our plan of attack and our calendar of events for the rest of the year. Public Schools Appreciation night will be held on April 11th. please mark your calendars and plan on attending.

See you all in Lodge.



Fraternally,
Darin Sanden PM

Senior Wardens Message for February



Brethren,
Our activities of late have centered around preparing for degrees and working on proficiencies. Both are extremely important for both those men entering the fraternity and also for those working on mastering the Craft. The degrees are the transformative

events that take a man from prospect to Master Mason. They present the lessons through allegory and symbols, leaving the meaning of each degree to be worked on through the proficiencies.

But what are proficiencies? Are they words minimally presented and memorized, meant only as a symbolic mastery of the initiatory rites? Or are they more? The full proficiencies walk a new Mason through the experience of the degrees and serve as a reminder of what he experienced. They sample the ritual, but they don't explain the ritual or the lessons that the new Mason is to learn. True, the proficiencies prepare a new Mason to participate in the degree work by him memorizing the lines, but they don't explain the ritual or the lessons. Proficiencies are, in reality, the outer layer of the onion, so to speak. They are a framework that is presented to the new Mason that he then must finish through study, through discussion, through interpretation, and through introspection. Our proficiencies don't make us proficient in understanding and application, they make us proficient in memorization and preparation. If I am to call a new Mason "proficient" and prepared for the next degree, then I am saying that he has returned the memorization and has BEGUN the true journey of Masonic education, nothing more.

We do proficiency work on Tuesdays. We work on understanding the cypher and memorization. However, the real proficiency work happens through discussion and study, digging deeper into the words that are used, examining the symbology, and contemplating the allegory. Most often, that happens after the memory work in the context of brotherly fellowship.

Join us in the discussions, brothers. Tuesdays starting at 6:00 pm. We welcome brethren and prospects.

TC Dowden, PM

Secretary's Message for February

The New Year has begun and the new Officers for the Masonic year 2019 have been properly installed. We had a well-attended Installation of Officers in December.

As some of you know, the month of December was darkened by the loss of Brother Michael Lee Sims. We were pleased that he was able to be among us to be installed as Junior Warden of this lodge. Brother Sims will be missed. He was a smart and capable man with many varied talents that served him well through his life. I have known him but a short time, but I learned a great deal from him and learned to have a very great respect for him. As some of my navy friends would say, "fair winds and following seas," my brother. If you don't know what that means, do a bit of study about the days of sailing ships, now long gone I cannot let this opportunity pass without casting out a gentle reminder that the dues for the year 2019 became due on January 1st of this New Year. If there is any doubt in your mind as to whether you have paid them or not, take a look at your dues receipt and if it doesn't indicate that your dues are paid through December 31st, 2019, take the time to send the lodge a check for \$125.00. The primary source of income for the lodge is your dues, so please take this obligation seriously: The per capita tax and the rent still have to be paid whether your dues are current or not.

While on the topic of dues, Yucca Valley will have its first year where dues can be paid electronically via Pay Pal. Access to do so can be gained via the lodge website. Note that there is a fee to do this electronically and that fee does not go to the lodge. The fee goes to the Pay Pal Corporation for providing the necessary access. This electronic access should make it easier for those who are deployed and our other members scattered about the planet. Two of our members have already taken advantage of electronic dues payment.

While we are on the topic of obligations, I would also like to mention the Masonic homes of California. If you are lucky, you might live long enough to need assistance from the Homes of California or the Masonic Outreach Services (MOS) that your donations support. So, consider making a donation to the Homes of California. You can do so directly via the Grand Lodge. Many of your brothers and sisters have taken advantage of this benefit of masonry and many more will need to do so in the future, so be generous.



If there are any of you out there who have recently bought a new computer and are wondering what to do with the old one (assuming the OS and software are still being supported). The lodge and the hall association could make good use of it provided it has word processing and spreadsheet software (preferably MS Office). Financial and personal record management via the Internet is more and more a fact of life. Virtually all of the records exchanged between the lodges and the California Grand Lodge are via the Internet. Even the Applications for the Degrees and the Application to Affiliate are available on line. Thus, the lodge and the Hall are less and less able to conduct business without a computer.

Mahalo,
Your Secretary

Lodge Website & Social Media

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



Facebook page

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

The Lodge App:

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



Our Fraternal Ties



Dear Brothers,
My name is Marlene White. I am your new Masonic Outreach Coordinator. I grew up in a Masonic family. My Dad was a Mason and Shriner, Mom in Eastern Star, and my sisters and I were Rainbow

Girls. I am currently a member of Eastern Star here in Yucca Valley as well as Coachella.

For those who don't know what this is a brief explanation. I am here to assist you and your widows with help you may need. For example, do you need help getting to the grocery store or doctor appointments, getting to your Lodge meeting, or possibly financial assistance for house repairs? These are some of the things Masonic Outreach can assist you with? Everything is confidential!

If you have any questions please email me at whitemarlene@hotmail.com.

You can reach me on my cell at 760-831-0854.

Please leave a message if I am unable to answer when you call.

Fraternally,
Marlene



Hi there Brothers and Sisters,

I hope that you had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We had a very wonderful Yucca Valley Masonic Lodge Dinner on January 3rd. It was provided by one of our sisters, Therese DuPont. It was very yummy! Thank you, Therese.

The Masonic Breakfast was wonderful as usual. Our January meeting at Desert Valley Chapter #602 was a great meeting. Clint Marshall, Worthy Patron and I are very happy that our officers did such a wonderful job. Our D.G. Matron was there and she complimented all of us on our work.

It was sad that Brother Michael Lee Sims passed away. The memorial for him was on January 12th and it was very impressive. I am part Choctah and Cherokee just like him. He would have been a special Jr. Warden. I am sure that he will be missed by all. I am praying for his family.

I am planning on going to the Installation of officers at Oasis of Mara Lodge where my husband, Bill, was a member. It is on January 19th at 1 p.m. My congratulations will be for all the officers there.

Fraternal love,
Barbara Wiley, Worthy Matron
Desert Valley Chapter #602

LODGE CALENDARS

Thu, Jan 31	6:30 – 7:30pm	YV802 1st Degree Conferral
FEBRUARY		Masonic Widows month
Sat, Feb 2	8:00 – 10:00am	YV802 Lodge Breakfast
	11am – 2pm	OES Meeting
Mon, Feb 4	6 – 7:30pm	OM735 Stated Meeting Dinner
	7:30 – 9pm	OM735 Stated Meeting
Tue, Feb 5	6:30 – 8:30pm	YV802 Masonic Education
Thu, Feb 7	6:30 – 7:30pm	YV802 Lodge Dinner
	7:30 – 9pm	YV802 Stated Meeting
Sat, Feb 9	8 – 10:30am	OM735 Breakfast
Tue, Feb 12	6:30 – 8:30pm	OM735 Fellowship and Practice
	6:30 – 8:30pm	YV802 Masonic Education
Wed, Feb 13	11am – 2pm	Daughters of Nile
Thu, Feb 14	All day	Valentine's Day
	7 – 10pm	YV802 Fellowship & Practice
Sat, Feb 16	11am – 2pm	High Desert Shrine Club
Mon, Feb 18	All day	Presidents' Day
Tue, Feb 19	6:30 – 8:30pm	OM735 Fellowship and Practice
	6:30 – 8:30pm	YV802 Masonic Education
Thu, Feb 21	6 – 9pm	OSI - Coachella
Tue, Feb 26	6:30 – 8:30pm	OM735 Fellowship and Practice
	6:30 – 8:30pm	YV802 Masonic Education
Thu, Feb 28	6 – 7pm	HA 802 Meeting
	7 – 10pm	YV802 Fellowship & Practice
MARCH		Youth orders month
Sat, Mar 2	8 – 10am	YV802 Lodge Breakfast
	11:00 – 2:00pm	OES Meeting
Mon, Mar 4	6:00 – 7:30pm	OM735 Stated Meeting Dinner
	7:30 – 9:00pm	OM735 Stated Meeting
Tue, Mar 5	6:30 – 8:30pm	YV802 Masonic Education
Thu, Mar 7	6:30 – 7:30pm	YV802 Lodge Dinner
	7:30 – 9:00pm	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**

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- TREASURER** *Jason Dixon*
- SECRETARY** *Clint Marshall PM*
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(760) 464-5124
- CHAPLAIN** *Vacant*
- SENIOR DEACON** *Sam Jones*
- JUNIOR DEACON** *Bob Coghill*
- 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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Mark Clark PM

SENIOR DEACON

Rob York

JUNIOR DEACON

Vernon Monroe

MARSHALL

Spiro Zafirov

SENIOR STEWARD

Raymond Cano

JUNIOR STEWARD

Vacant

TILER

Eric Swanson

<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.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS:
REFLECTIONS ON AN OBLIGATION
By John R. Hartsock

Right Worshipful Brother Hartsock is a Past District Education Officer and Past District Deputy Grand Master for the Grand Lodge of Ohio. He is serving as Secretary for Madison Lodge #221 in West Jefferson, Ohio.

As the Executive Officer of the University Police Department at The Ohio State University, I recently had the sad and difficult duty of handling the funeral arrangements for a fellow officer, friend and Brother Mason killed in the line of duty, Officer Michael Blankenship, a member of Westgate Lodge #623.

During the course of that difficult task, I was reminded of one of our important obligations as a Master Mason. One that we tend to take lightly at times, but one that is a fundamental precept of our order. It was the source of that reminder that made it so striking, for it appeared without warning and was totally unexpected.

As is usually the case at a police funeral, an Honor Guard was posted during viewing hours at the funeral home. As supervisor of the Honor Guard and family liaison officer, I had just completed changing the guard on the casket and was walking through one of the numerous small rooms in the funeral home. I observed a young girl sitting by herself in a corner crying so hard that her entire body was shaking. I approached her and holding out my hand, asked whether I could help her. She looked up at my uniform, then took my hand in hers and turned it over so that my ring was visible, then said, "You're a Mason!" and jumped to her feet and hugged me. After she composed herself, she explained why she had hugged me, and it is THAT story that we as Master Masons need to hear.

The girl is tiny, maybe 4'10" tall and 85 pounds soaking wet, just 17 years old and a Freshman at Ohio State. She is from a small town in Tennessee; her father was a Master Mason and was killed in an accident when she was 11.

Every month since his death, someone from the Lodge has contacted her family to assure that they were doing well. Sometimes it was in person, sometimes by telephone. When visits were made in person, she would notice that many times another man or men would arrive within a couple of days to fix something on the house. As she and her younger brother grew, she noticed that many of her teachers and businessmen

in the town were always interested in how the family was doing and "did she need anything." She came to recognize that all of them were Masons.

When she got ready to leave for college, she received an envelope containing 10 new \$100 bills, with a note enclosed saying "This is to help with expenses not covered by your scholarship." She doesn't know where the money came from other than it is from her father's Lodge.

Officer Blankenship taught Women's Self-Defense classes for students, staff and faculty as part of his job with the Police Department. This girl had been one of his students. Before taking the classes however, she had called her Mother and asked her to sign a permission form (since she was not yet 18). Her mother was reluctant, fearing she might be injured due to her small size. "It's OK, mom. The instructor, Officer Blankenship, is a Mason," she said on the telephone. The discussion was ended with an approval. She had completed taking her last class of self-defense course from "Officer Mike" less than an hour before he was killed.

"I will aid and assist all worthy distressed Master Masons, their widows and orphans."

In less than 10 minutes, I was taught the real meaning of that phrase by a small Lodge somewhere in Tennessee, through the mouth of a 17-year old girl, whose last name I don't even know. I gave her my business card with both work and home telephone numbers and instructions to use it if she had any problems or needed help. I gave her a second card to be sent to her mother.

The full meaning of what she told me didn't really hit until the next day. Long hours and high stress slow down the thinking processes. When it did hit, it was like a ton of bricks — she by example, posed the questions "Have you met and are you meeting your obligations to your widows and orphans?"

All I can ask, my brethren, is that each us reflects on that question, then act accordingly.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERY MONTH.

Trestleboard Editor
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED