



The Gavel

MONTEZUMA LODGE No. 1 AF & AM

431 Paseo de Peralta

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501-1958

Just west of the Scottish Rite Temple

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Volume 24 Issue 3

"The Oldest Masonic Lodge in the Rockies" Organized May 8, 1851

August 2024

From the East...



Greetings Brethren,

One of the most impactful and important of the Masonic Rites are the Obligations, Oaths and Penalties. These are all recited "Before God and Man", and should be indelibly engraved upon our minds by constant repetition, privately at home during our leisure hours and during the Degrees.

The root word of obligation comes from the Latin "obligare", which means a promise and also that which enjoins obedience. The obligation and the manner in which it is taken constitute visible and audible evidence of the candidate's sincerity and purpose. Without it, nothing the Freemason might say or do could be considered binding. By taking it of his own free will, he gives irrevocable evidence of his intentions.

Thus, the Fraternity not only binds him to certain responsibilities, among which are to protect itself against a revelation of the secrets of Freemasonry, which have to do with the obligations, methods of recognition and of the symbolic instructions.

An obligation is not the same as an oath. An oath is the binding clause at the end of the formal, legal obligation. An example could be in a court of law where a witness takes an obligation to "tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth," the conclusion is made by saying, "So help me God", which constitutes the oath. The oath can be considered a person's "fear of God" (consequences for failure to perform). The obligation in the above example signifies the promises and agreements made prior to the oath.

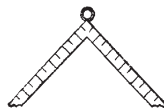
The penalties associated with failure to perform the obligations can be perplexing to the reflecting mind of a Freemason. The Masonic penalties are our ties to the Middle Ages, as are the Working Tools. Both are symbolic and allegorical in modern day usage, in other words, the second layer of meaning to both. The ritual penalties (abhorrent or barbaric to the modern mind) are retained because of their historical significance and impact upon the mind. The violation of a Masonic obligation is a serious offense, which may cause a Mason to feel that he deserves the kind of punishment the literal penalties describe (infliction by God). The actual penalty that can legally be inflicted by man may range a formal reprimand to expulsion from the Fraternity.

Constant repetition and reflecting upon our obligations and the associated penalties slowly start to change us for the better, thus coming closer to the vaunted perfection of mind and Spirit we all aspire to.

Fraternally and Respectfully,

Jose Montaña

Worshipful Master



Happy 147th Birthday to the Grand Lodge of NM!

Regular Meetings

RECURRENCE

First Monday
 Second Tuesday
 Second Wednesday
 Third Tuesday
 Third Tuesday
 Last Wednesday

EVENT

Regular Communication at 7:00 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM
 Regular Communication at 7:30 PM
 Regular Communication at 7:30 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM
 Regular Communication at 5:30 PM
 Brotherhood Night at 6:00PM
 Property Management Board at 6:00 PM

ORGANIZATION

Montezuma Lodge No. 1
 York Rite Bodies
 Cerrillos Lodge No. 19
 Santa Fez Shrine Club
 Montezuma Lodge No. 1
 Montezuma Lodge No. 1

The Knights of the Mystic SATAM meet every Saturday morning at 10AM in the Library. The discussion group is open to Masons and non-Masons alike. Come ready to explore!



Special Notices And Events

Property Management Board

The next monthly meeting of the Property Management Board will be held on **Wednesday, August 28th at 6:00 PM** in the library.

Degrees Conferred

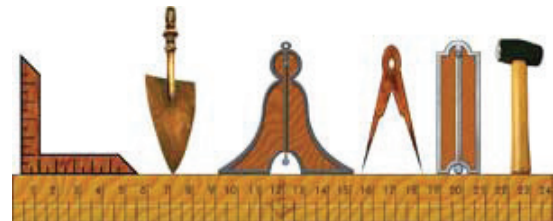
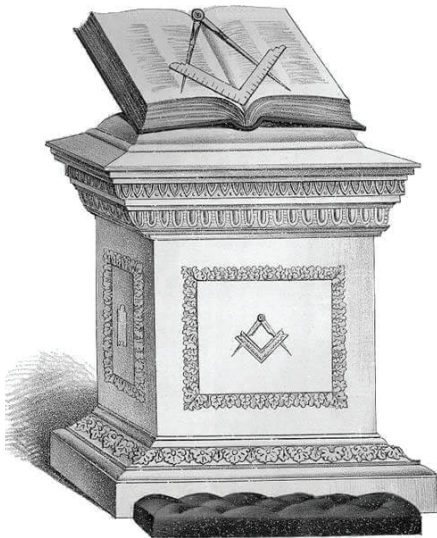
Brother James Gomez of Santa Fe, New Mexico was regularly initiated an Entered Apprentice on August 9th, 2024. Brother Gomez is a life-long resident of Santa Fe and is a website developer at the State of New Mexico. Welcome to the Brotherhood, Brother Gomez!

September Meeting Date

Our Stated Communication in September will take place on **September 8th, 2024** due to the Labor Day holiday the first week of that month. Please mark your calendars accordingly!

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Entered Apprentice



Attendees and Degree Team for the Entered Apprentice Degree for Brother James Gomez.

Top Row (L-R): Jerry Noedel, PM*, Greg Pringle*, Yudi Wong, PM, Doug Ottersberg, PM*, Nathan Metheny* **Bottom Row:** John Feins,*, James Gomez, WM Jose Montaño*, Tim Gilmore, PM*, Jee Hwang, PM*, Dan Mulcahy, PM*
**Indicates Degree Team Member*



At Left: Brother James Gomez, Montezuma Lodge No. 1's newest Entered Apprentice.

Grand Lodge Visit



Deputy Grand Master Robin Justice is introduced for his official visit at Montezuma Lodge. He shared his experience and history with our Lodge in a relatable and personal fashion, which was well received by all in attendance. Thank you, RWB Justice, for spending your time, wisdom and experience with us!

Deputy Grand Master Robin Justice is introduced at the Altar by SD Greg Pringle



Pictured (L-R): John Feins, RWB Robin Justice, John Adams, PM, WM Jose Montaña

Our Impact



Ms. Isabella Gallegos (Middle) holds a check with her family from Montezuma Lodge for her travel expenses to cheerleading camp in Phoenix, Arizona in July. Ms. Gallegos spent the month of June fundraising by selling breakfast burritos to local businesses. Due to a member of Montezuma Lodge recognizing her dedication and talent for the sport, she was awarded a donation from our Lodge for her efforts. We wish her success in all her endeavors!

Other Lodge Happenings

Land Of Enchantment Festival

The Land of Enchantment York Rite Festival took place on July 26th through 28th. The Santa Fe York Rite Bodies had a single candidate in the class. Twelve New Mexico Masons were members of the class and we congratulate all members of that class in taking their next steps in their Masonic journey. The event was a great success and Montezuma Lodge is always happy to host the Land of Enchantment Festival on its annual recurrence. If you are interested in York Rite Masonry, the Montezuma Lodge building is the regular meeting location for the Santa Fe York Rite Bodies. All you need to do is ask the Secretary for information and he can point you towards a York Rite Mason that will happily answer any questions you have.

Blood Drive

On August 10th, a blood drive occurred at the Montezuma Lodge building. Many thanks to WB Dan Mulcahy for his time and effort in setting up the event and coordinating all of its intricacies as well as getting volunteers to assist in participation. We will repeat events like this in the future, so if you are interested in volunteering, participating or have ideas, reach out and let a Brother know! There are many ways to be charitable!



From The Wardens

Brethren,

I hope you are doing well. I am excited to share with you some ongoing efforts by the Lodge to get back in touch with potential candidates who have reached out for more information about Masonry. To address this need, a new committee on leads has been created by the Worshipful Master with members: Dan Mulcahy (Chair), David Taylor, and John Feins. These brothers have gotten in touch with several leads and some have accepted invitations to join us for dinner. For their work, I would like to personally thank them in this issue of the Gavel. For those of you who have not come to Lodge in sometime, we would love to see you for a nice dinner and an evening of fraternal discourse.

Best Regards,

-- Jee Hwang, Senior Warden

Brethren;

It has been my pleasure to assist and work with all of you in order to perform the responsibilities of the South. I've witnessed tremendous Brotherhood and Unity. In order for Freemasonry to continue to bud, blossom, and flourish, it requires the seed of our Fraternity to be planted, nourished, and allowed to bloom. From my perspective, what we are experiencing is a budding for new opportunities. We have new Brothers, we are awakening out of our COVID slumber, and we are all, both individually as well as a Lodge, continuing to discover, grow, and succeed. Let us all remain dedicated and vigilant to the Craft and its lessons. For those whom have not joined us in Lodge recently that are able - please do! We miss you!

-- Nathan Metheny, Junior Warden

Closing Thoughts

“Flattering as it may be to the human mind, and truly honorable as it is to receive from our fellow citizens testimonies of approbation for exertions to promote the public welfare, it is not less pleasing to know that the milder virtues of the heart are highly respected by a Society whose liberal principles must be founded in the immutable laws of truth and justice. To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy of the benevolent design of a Masonic institution; and it is most fervently to be wished that the conduct of every member of the Fraternity, as well as those publications that discover the principles which actuate them, may tend to convince mankind that the great object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race.”

Worshipful Brother George Washington, First President of the United States of America



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Sept. Dinner Menu



Join us on **September 8th** for dinner at **6:00 PM** before the stated meeting. The entire family is invited. Our chefs have planned an excellent menu. If you have any dietary restrictions, please contact the secretary so that we may arrange suitable alternatives.

Spaghetti, Penne, and Meatballs
 Garlic Bread, Italian Sausage
 Green Salad, Steamed Veggies
 Watermelon, Pies
 Coffee, Tea, and Sodas



2023-2024 Officers

- Worshipful Master:** - Jose M. Montaño, PM
(C): (505) 692-9183
- Senior Warden** - Jee W. Hwang, PM
(C): (704) 654-1270
- Junior Warden** - Nathan W. Metheny
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- Treasurer** - Patrick J. Varela, PM
(H): (505) 471-2555
- Secretary** - Don L. Helberg, PDDGM
(H): (505) 471-0168
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- Chaplain** - Open
- Senior Deacon** - Gregory O. Pringle
(C): (505) 920-7012
- Junior Deacon** - Frank E. Ruybalid
- Senior Steward** - Timothy R. Gilmore, PM
(C): (505) 660-5919
- Junior Steward** - Daniel Mulcahy, PM
- Marshal:** - Alfonso J. Rodriguez
(C): (505) 501-0078
- Tyler:** - Jerry Noedel, PM

What is the purpose of Freemasonry?

“To admit, make and pass Freemasons according to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge. To advance the moral and social interests of its membership; to foster good citizenship, honest industry and upright living; to cultivate the exercise of charity in its best and broadest sense; to assist the widows and orphans of its deceased members; to stimulate friendship, harmony and Brotherly love and generally to promote, in its own way, the happiness of mankind — it is a fraternity of good men, linked together by honorable and indissoluble bonds, to accomplish these noble purposes, eschewing all interests in factional politics and sectarian religion and free from the dictation of both.”

For more information about Masonry:

- Call the Lodge at 982-0971
- Stop by the Lodge
- Visit our website @ www.montezumalodge.org
- Ask any Mason