



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

Phone: 505-982-0971 - Email: hiram@montezumalodge.org

Volume 24 Issue 4

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

Fall/Winter 2024

From the East...



Greetings Brethren,

A universally recognized and remembered symbol of Speculative Masonry is the lambskin or white leather apron. It is tangible evidence of our admission into the Fraternity, a constant reminder to live a pure and upright life as well as a constant reminder of our mortality. At our funeral, deposited with our lifeless remains, pure and unstained as the day that we received it.

The apron, or some equivalent mode of investiture, in the mystic rites throughout the world was used from antiquity. The apron, in particular, was given as an honorary and exalted badge distinction. The principal honor of the apron consisted in its reference to innocence of conduct and purity of heart regarding our thoughts, words and actions. The white, unblemished color of the apron symbolizes purity. The color white has been associated with innocence and purity in the Jewish, Roman, Essenes, Rites of Mithras and Druidic mystic rites. Early Christians invested the newly baptized with a pure white robe to symbolize cleansing of sins and an exhortation to live a life of purity.

The apron's material must be made of lambskin. The lamb has always been considered an emblem of innocence. Wearing the lambskin is for Masons a constant reminder to always live a pure and upright life.

The Apron is said to be more ancient and honorable than certain orders and decorations. The Order of the Golden Fleece was founded by Philip, Duke of Normandy in 1429, the Roman Eagle was Rome's symbol of power and might, the Order of the Star was created by John II of France in mid Fourteenth Century and the Order of the Garter was founded in 1349 by Edward III of England as a decoration for himself and twenty five of his knights, all collectively called the Knights of the Garter.

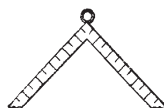
The Grand Lodge of England's constitution precisely defines the Masonic apron's dimensions for each of the three degrees. American lodges do not necessarily follow these regulations. The simple white apron has been allowed to be adorned with all sorts of frills and other symbols.

One of those additions is the downward pointing triangle. I could not find a reference to this innovation. The following is a synopsis of my own interpretation of the apron with the downward pointing triangle. The square and the triangle, taken together is a symbol of my mortal self. The square, symbolizes the physical body that is composed of the alchemical elements of Fire, Air, Water and Earth. That immortal spark of the Divine, symbolized by the downward pointing triangle, in turn, animates the physical body. The apron is my constant reminder of not only my mortality, but also what it is that I came here to do. The downward pointing triangle, according to linear thinking, is a portion of the Divine coming from above. However if we believe that our Creator is everywhere present, then the square and the triangle considered together accurately describe our relationship to our Creator and the cosmos.

Fraternally and Respectfully,

Jose Montaña

Worshipful Master



Happy Holidays 2024!

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, January 29th** at **6:00 PM** in the library.

Degrees Conferred

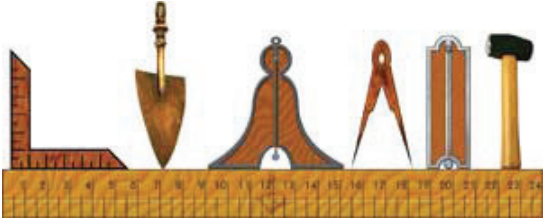
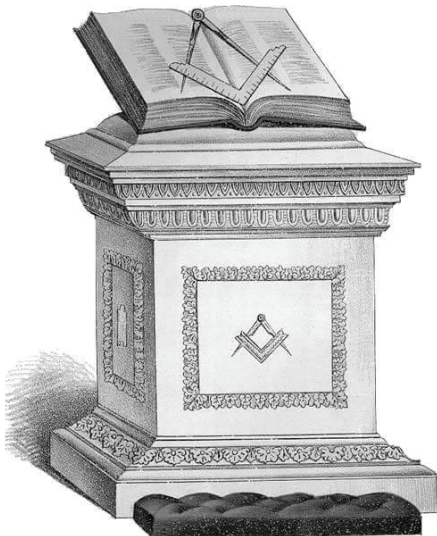
Brother James Gomez of Santa Fe, New Mexico was passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on November 1st, 2024. He also successfully passed his Fellowcraft Proficiency on December 2nd, 2024. Congratulations, James! Please watch out for a Master Mason Degree to be scheduled in the early part of 2025.

January Meeting Date

Our Stated Communication in January will take place on **January 6th, 2025**. Please mark your calendars accordingly!

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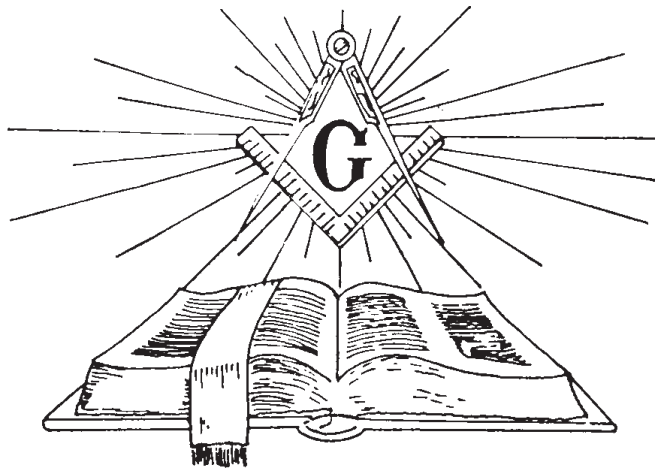
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Fellowcraft



Brother James Gomez was passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft and also passed his proficiency at a recent meeting. Congratulations, Brother Gomez!



Colorado Visit



Montezuma Lodge was fortunate to receive many visiting Brethren from Boulder, Colorado. Pictured here are some of the visitors to our October meeting. Two Past Grand Masters were in attendance as well as a visiting Entered Apprentice. They enjoyed Brotherhood and a tour of Downtown Santa Fe as well as several meals. Many thanks to the visiting Brothers from our neighboring state up north!



Our Impact



Right Worshipful Brother Scott Jaquith gave a presentation on a Kiva Restoration Project that was being performed by the Hopi Tribe. The presentation was very well received and the Kiva Restoration Project received one of our higher donations in the 2024 Charitable Giving Program. See the next section for more details on the recipients of Montezuma Lodge's charitable giving for the year.



Earlier in the year, Chaplain Joe's Outreach received a donation from Montezuma Lodge to cover expenses related to supplies that are assembled into kits for distribution to needy members of our community for winter preparedness. Worshipful Brother David Taylor organized a presentation from Chaplain Joe, and also in November organized a group of Masons and friends to lend a hand in assembling these kits for Joe's great community program. You may recognize a few faces in the photograph above from both Montezuma No. 1 and Cerrillos Lodge No. 19! Many thanks to the Brethren for spending their time on this valuable charitable resource.

Officer Installation



At Left, The Wardens and Elected Officers of Montezuma Lodge No. 1 and Cerrillos Lodge No. 19 were installed. From L to R: Worshipful Brother Burt Dalton, RWB John R. Adams, Nathan Metheny, Joaquin Rench, Gregory Pringle, RWB Jeffrey Assad and John Gamache.



At Right, The new Worshipful Masters for Cerrillos Lodge No. 19 and Montezuma Lodge No. 1 are installed. From L to R: Worshipful Master Alexander Marcus and Worshipful Master Jee W. Hwang.



At Left, Most Worshipful Brother Steven A. Almager, Grand Master of Masons in New Mexico was kind enough to come up to Santa Fe and attend the Joint Installation ceremonies.

At Right, the newly installed Worshipful Masters occupy their corresponding Oriental Chairs in the East. Welcome, Worshipful Masters! We look forward to 2025.



Other Lodge Happenings

Charitable Giving Program

The recipients of the 2024 Charitable Giving Program featured some new recipients as well as familiar recipients of programs that we all love and support at Montezuma Lodge. Totalling \$21,500 this year, the recipients from highest giving to lowest are as follows: The Hopi Tribe Kiva Restoration Project received \$6000, Communities in Schools, New Mexico received \$5000, Cooking with Kids, Innovate + Education New Mexico, The Food Depot, and the Interfaith Homeless Shelter all received \$2000, The Eseperanza Homeless Shelter received \$1500, and The Solace Crisis Center received \$1000. The Masonic Charities Foudation Matching Program assisted with many of these amounts .

Officer Elections

On December 2nd, Montezuma Lodge held its annual election of officers. The results of the election were: Jee W. Hwang - Worshipful Master, Nathan Metheny - Senior Warden, Gregory O Pringle - Junior Warden, Jose M. Montañó - Secretary, and Patrick J. Varela - Treasurer. Congratulations to all of our newly elected officers for 2025 and we look forward to a wonderful year of Masonry!,



From The Wardens

Brethren,

As we enter into a new year, let us pay careful attention to the many successes and developments we have had at Montezuma Lodge this year. We initiated several new members, passed a member, and we look forward to Raising our new Brother to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason early in the coming year. Fundraising efforts were successful, our Charitable Giving was very well received, a new Candidate Review Committee has been doing hard work reaching out to new Prospects, and we continue to strive to better ourselves and the Lodge for years to come. I very much look forward to serving as Senior Warden for you all this year and seeing you in Lodge!

-- Nathan Metheny, Senior Warden

Brethren;

Entering into the South is a humbling task. Overseeing the Lodge at Refreshment is a comprehensive position, one that can be far more involved than what some may perceive. I look forward to assisting the Lodge in this chair for the coming year and seeing you at Lodge and all of our other functions!

-- Gregory Pringle, Junior Warden

Closing Thoughts

“Freemasonry has endured not because of its antiquity, its influence, or its social standing, but because there have been so many who have lived it. The effectiveness of Masonic teachings will always be the measure by which the outside world judges Freemasonry; the proof of Freemasonry is in our deeds and it is in our deeds that Freemasonry is made known to non-Masons. The only way that the Craft can be judged is by its product. The prestige of Freemasonry lies squarely on the shoulders of each of us.”

Bro. G. Wilbur Best



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Secretary

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Editor

Nathan W. Metheny
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Sept. Dinner Menu



Join us on **January 6th, 2025** 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.

Dinner menu TBA

Coffee, Tea, and Sodas



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Return Service Requested

2025 Officers

Worshipful Master: - Jee W. Hwang, PM
 (C): (704) 654-1270

Senior Warden - Nathan W. Metheny
 (C): (505) 930-9390

Junior Warden - Gregory O. Pringle
 (C): (505) 920-7012

Treasurer - Patrick J. Varela, PM
 (H): (505) 471-2555

Secretary - Jose M. Montano
 (H): (505) 982-0971

Lodge Office: (505) 982-0971
 Email: hiram@montezumalodge.org

Chaplain - Douglas D. Ottersberg

Senior Deacon - Frank E. Ruybalid

Junior Deacon - Daniel Mulcahy, PM

Senior Steward - Desmond S. Denetchee

Junior Steward - Open

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