



Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Colorado AF&AM

June 1, 2023

Volume 5 Issue 5

Tidings from the East by way of the West

WHAT IS MASONRY?

What distinguishes Masonry from the various religious institutions? It is firmly declared that Masonry is not a religion, and this is true. It is also true that Masonry bears a close affinity to religion and requires its members to believe in Deity. Masonry has a deep tradition of spiritual teachings that informs a brother Mason of his relationship to God, his neighbor and himself. He takes his solemn obligations on a book of sacred law from the tradition that is most congenial to him. Masonry is not a religion, but it unites men of every religious tradition by a fundamental belief in Deity and an acknowledgement that we are all created equal in the eyes of God and consequently brothers.

Masons do not necessarily agree as to what Masonry is. If you join Masonry to be a member of a fraternal organization then your answer will reflect that. If you join Masonry to practice philanthropy, then Masonry becomes a philanthropic institution. If your interest is in the mysteries of the universe and studying the unseen energies and forces, then Masonry becomes a mystery school.

The plain fact of the matter is that Masonry expresses all these things, not because it is any one of these things but because each point is a subset of one great institution that reflects the different areas of relationship between the Mason and his chosen field of activity.

When we have a clear understanding of the very nature of Masonry then Masons can have a clear identification as to who and what we are and consequently what is expected from the institution by its members and what the institution expects from its members.

These days there is little focus on the inner nature of Masonry. Nor do we as an institution, deal specifically with the "Mysteries of Masonry, or Masonry as a "Craft." There are relatively few Masonic authors that delve into the very heart of Masonry examining its nature from the spiritual point of view. The authors presented here will be familiar to many, others perhaps will not. The authors listed here are William Hutchinson, Albert Pike, Henry Pelham Bromwell, Walter L. Wilmshurst, Foster Bailey, as well as the Theosophical Society, and the trans-Himalayan literature.

Each of these authors gives a definition of what Masonry is. We find a general agreement between them as to the meaning and nature of Masonry. These Masons have attained much honor and respect among Masons of the past and present. The following is a short compilation of their definitions.

William Hutchinson, (1732-1814), His book, *The Spirit of Masonry*, was a collection of his lectures published in 1775. Brother Hutchinson made this statement about the Masonic Lodge,

The lodge, when revealed to an entering Mason, discovers to him a representation of the world; in which from the wonders of nature, we are led to contemplate the great Original, and worship him for his mighty works; and we are thereby also moved to exercise those moral and social virtues,



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which become mankind as the servants of the Great Architect of the world, in whose image we were formed in the beginning.¹

Henry Pelham Bromwell approaches Masonry from a Geometrical and Astronomical point of view. In his masterful opus, *The Restorations of Masonic Geometry and Symbolry*, he examines the main points of Masonry deriving the particulars geometrically and astronomically.

Masonry is a system of sublime truths, including those of the natural universe, as well as of moral and intellectual science and philosophy, based on the accepted fact of one Almighty, infinite and perfect Deity, called by Masons 'the Grand Architect of the Universe'—the perfection and completeness of the order of the Universe—its correspondence with itself throughout; that is, in all its parts and Degrees—the co-ordination of these last by correspondence, from first to last—their correspondence with the degrees found in man, in the same order—the immortality of the human spirit—a righteous system of Divine Government—The enjoining of the practice of all moral and social virtues and duties, by means of lessons embodied in symbolic representations of deep significance together with apt and wisely-ordered discourse; all contained in certain ancient and simple, but sublime, coordinated in Degrees according to the order of the universe, which is the Divine Order.²

W. L. Wilmshurst describes Masonry from a spiritual, philosophical, and esoteric point of view.

Masonry is a sacramental system, possessing sacraments, and outward and visible side consisting of its ceremonial, its doctrine, and its symbols which we can see and hear, and an inward, intellectual, and spiritual side, which is concealed behind the ceremonial, the doctrine, and the symbols and which is available only to the Mason who has learned to use his spiritual imagination and who can appreciate the reality that lies behind the veil of outward symbol.³

Foster Bailey approaches Masonry from the point of view of law and initiation and that the three degrees of the Blue Lodge and the deep spiritual journey of the soul.

Masonry is a system of symbols and allegory which are intended to convey:

- **Revelation of the underlying purpose of T.G.A.O.T.U.**
- **Inspiration to the individual Mason whereby he may contribute to the whole**
- **Prophetic Information relative to man's past and present, which is the guarantee of the future.**

Masonry is the embodying symbolically the drama of human evolution, and as picturing for us the steps by which man reaches his goal of liberation.⁴

The following is from the trans-Himalayan writings, the *Externalization of the Hierarchy*,

¹ William Hutchinson, *The Spirit of Masonry*, (New York: bell Publishing, 1982 edition, 102).

² Ibid, 23.

³ Walter L. Wilmshurst, *The Meaning of Masonry*, (Gramercy Books, London, 1980), 21.

⁴ Foster Bailey, *The Spirit of Masonry*, (New York: Lucis Publishing, 1957), 18.

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The Masonic Movement, when it can be divorced from politics and social ends and from its present paralyzing condition of inertia, will meet the need of those who can and should wield power. Masonry is the custodian of the law; it is the home of the Mysteries and the seat of initiation. It holds in symbolism the ritual of Deity, and the way of salvation is pictorially preserved in its work⁵

Albert Pike, perhaps the most influential Mason writes abundantly about the spiritual purpose of Masonry. In his famous opus, *Morals and Dogma*, can be found a treasure trove of revelation about the nature and spirit of Masonry. Our esteemed brother writes of Masonry:

It is the universal, eternal, immutable religion, such as God planted it in the heart of universal humanity. No creed has ever been long-lived that was not built on this foundation. It is the base, and they are the superstructure. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father are this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and keep himself unspotted from the world."⁶

In the book entitled *The Rays and The Initiations* it is stated:

Masonry is a laudable attempt to preserve in some germinal form the spiritual truth of initiation.

In addition to the above definitions, we must also examine the relationship between Masonry and Geometry. There was a period when Masonry and Geometry were synonymous terms. Masonry like geometry is understood by axioms and postulates and demonstrated by proofs. In the final analysis it is difficult to define Masonry, however, we can derive the proof necessary to validate the system of the craft as we tread the way toward the east the place of light.

With little exception there is today, within the scope of the greater body of the Masonic institution, a slow growing support for such a spiritual approach. There has been little alignment with the lofty divine purpose for which the very life and spirit of Masonry stands. Sadly, enough, this present dilemma is nothing new. We can read the words of the already quoted authors who bemoan the sad state of Masonry during their time.

Bromwell indicates many disturbing points relative to the deterioration and inertia of the craft. The following is a quote from his book, *The Restoration of Masonic Geometry and Symbolry*.

One principal cause of the great loss of Masonic ideas, thought, and knowledge among the fraternity, which has occurred during recent years, is this: At the very time during which over six hundred thousand persons have been admitted to the Degrees of Masonry in the United States alone, and while consequently the Lodges everywhere have been busied with the mere "work," to the exclusion of everything else, the Grand Lodges have used no means whatever to teach, or cause the Lodges to teach, that Masonry is a craft—not a mere order—and in what that craft consists...The want of a constantly present perception and understanding that the entire "work" of the lodge, even to the characters of the actors whomsoever, engaged in any part thereof, is entirely symbolical, has been and still is a

⁵ Alice Bailey, *Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, (New York: Lucis Publishing, 1957), 511.

⁶ Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, (Washington, D.C. Southern Jurisdiction of the United States, 1871), 219.

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great stumbling block to thousands of Masons, even among the better informed and most active of the Craftsmen.⁷

Wilmshurst refers to the general attitude or understanding of the average Mason as to what constitutes the import and success of a Mason. He says,

Masonry's meaning is not discernible all at once, and unless our minds are properly prepared and our understandings carefully trained, they are unlikely ever to participate in the real secrets and mysteries of Masonry at all, however often we may watch the performance of external ceremonial or however proficient we may be in memorizing the rituals and instruction lectures.

Having presented the views of these remarkable men and Masons and having established that there is more to Masonry than making good men better as well as understanding that Masonry is a universal path to walk in the light of deity, we should now take stock of the present condition of Masonry in the 21st century.

The beauty of Masonry is that it is still intact, or at least can be restored, as the following lecture states,

The lapse of time, the ruthless hand of ignorance, and the devastation of war have laid waste and destroyed many valuable monuments of antiquity on which the utmost exertions of human genius have been employed. Even the Temple of Solomon, so spacious and magnificent, constructed by so many celebrated artists, escaped not the unsparing ravages of barbarous force. Freemasonry notwithstanding, still survived. The A. E. receives the sound from I.T., and the mysteries of Masonry are safely lodged in the repository of F.B. Tools and implements of architecture, and symbolic emblems most expressive, are selected by the Fraternity to imprint on the mind wise and serious truths; and thus, through a succession of ages are transmitted, unimpaired, the most excellent tenets of our institution⁸

Grand Lodges and Masons in general are still primarily focused on the external side of Masonry. It is incumbent on every son of light, every Mason worthy of such a title, to make it his first care to become a living example of the principles and teachings of Masonry and demonstrate to the world the geometrical exactitude of that which he professes to admire and be.

From a book written by:

Kevin T. Townley
Grand Lecturer
Grand Lodge of Colorado



⁷ Ibid, p. 25.

⁸ Charles Leslie, *A Vindication of Masonry*, (Edinburgh)

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Calendar of Grand Lodge Events

To help your lodge plan your Official Visits please note that activities may change due to various issues that may arise.

Thu Jun 1, 2023

Awards Night @ Century Lodge No. 190

Where: 2532 9th Ave, Greeley, CO 80631, USA

Description: 6:30pm - dinner Awards to follow

Sat Jun 3, 2023

8am Akron Royal Arch Festival

Description: At the Ranch

Sat June 17, 2023

8am Grand River Rendezvous

Where: 2400 Consistory Ct, Grand Junction, CO 81501, USA

Description: Cryptic Masons Grand River Rendezvous.

Sun Jun 25, 2023

10::00am Awards Breakfast at Columbine No. 147

Tue Jun 27, 2023

6:15pm OV @ Centurion Lodge No. 195

Where: 18275 Furrow Rd, Monument, CO 80132, USA

Description: 6:15pm - Dinner 7:00pm - Lodge Meeting

Fri Jun 30,- Tue Jul 4, 2023

Colorado Masonic Band Camp

Mon Jul 3, 2023

Colorado Masonic Band Camp Concert

Sat Jul 8, 2023

8am Angel in the Forest

Where: Rye, CO 81069, USA

Description: Knights Templar

Calendar of Grand Lodge Events (Continued)

Thu Jul 13, 2023

1pm Cornerstone Nucla West End Public Schools RE-2

Where: 225 W 4th Ave, Nucla, CO 81424, USA

Description: The cornerstone starts at 1:00pm and lunch will be served after the ceremony. Hosted by Telluride Lodge No. 56

Fri Jul 21,—Sat Jul 22, 2023

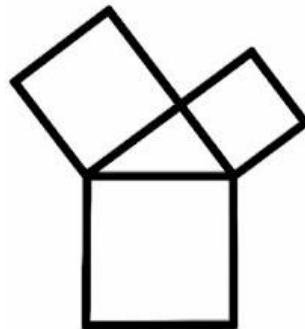
All day 2023 Rocky Mountain Masonic Conference

Where: Las Vegas, NV, USA

Sat Jul 22, 2023

11:30am Colorado Masons Benevolent Fund Scholarship Luncheon

Where: 1370 Grant St, Denver, CO 80203, USA



Submission Deadline

Articles and events that you want included in the newsletter are due to the Grand Master, or Grand Secretary, by the 25th of the month prior to the publication month.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Colorado Masonic Family Historical Donations Committee is looking for volunteers to do research. This research is to determine the amount of hours we've donated, the amount of money we've donated, and the number of people we've helped as a Masonic family since our inception in Colorado in 1861. This applies to every branch of the Masonic family. The goal of this research is to shed light on what we've contributed as an organization to our communities. This information will be utilized to educate both to our organizations internally and to the residents of the State of Colorado. This is a daunting task and we are looking for help. If you're interested in working on this project please contact WB Mike Brewer at mike.brewer@allurdata.com.

Colorado Masons, were you in DeMolay, from any state?

Please use the following link address from DeMolay International, and let us know where you are and what you are doing in your Masonic life:

<https://beademolay.org/update-info/>

Traveling Gavels

In an effort to promote visitations among lodges in the state of Colorado we are going to attempt to provide information in each newsletter about where the travelling gavels are located

There are two gavels that travel around the state. One we are going to call the **Regular Gavel** and one the **Western Slope Gavel**. Check the requirements for claiming the gavel including the number of brethren required to attend the visit.

Regular Gavel

Location: Montrose Lodge #63 , 187 Rose Lane, Montrose, Colorado.

Meeting Dates: 1st and 3rd Tuesday's at 7:00 p.m.

Western Slope Gavel

Location: Corinthian Lodge # 35, 619 Harrison Avenue, Leadville, Colorado 80461

Meeting Dates: 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, 7:30 p.m.

**Camp is
FREE!**

COLORADO MASONIC Band Camp!



This five-day band camp is held June 30 to July 4, 2023 on the University of Northern Colorado campus in Greeley, Colorado. The camp is a rewarding and exciting opportunity for promising band students to attend a first-rate marching band clinic and meet students from around Colorado.

Music activities are directed by the UNC band faculty and staff. Camp culminates with the performance of an evening concert on campus July 3rd, and marching in the Greeley Rocky Mountain Stampede Parade on July 4th.

Camp is FREE. Costs (excluding travel to and from Greeley) are paid in full by Colorado Masons and affiliates. Student housing, social and recreational activities are sponsored by Colorado Masonic Lodges and affiliated organizations.

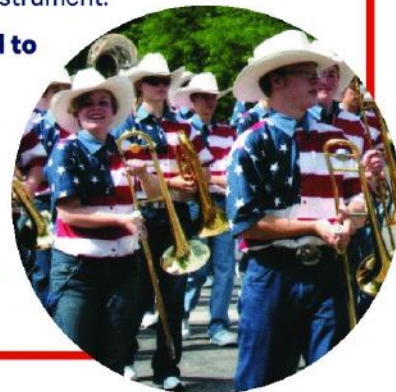
The camp accepts talented 9th, 10th and 11th grade students enrolled in a Colorado high school band program during the 2022-23 school year; capable of performing in the parade, and who play at least one marching band instrument.

Colorado high school band instructors are encouraged to recommend at least three promising band students.

Direct questions to:

**Bill Feldman at bandcamp@coloradofreemasons.org
or 303-910-9266**

Registration must be received by April 21, 2023



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**COLORADO MASONIC HIGH SCHOOL BAND CAMP
JUNE 30 – JULY 4, 2023**



Mail to:

Colorado Masonic High School Band Camp
c/o Jerry Fenimore, Grand Treasurer
82 Brookhaven Drive, Littleton, CO 80123
email: bandcamp@coloradofreemasons.org

Our organization will participate and we are submitting the following:

We would like to make a donation to sponsor _____ student(s) for the 2023 Colorado Masonic Band Camp.

The cost to sponsor a student is \$375. Enclosed is our donation of \$ _____.

*Make checks payable to: **Colorado Masonic Band Camp**

NAME & NUMBER OF SPONSORING LODGE OR MASONIC AFFILIATED BODY:

PRINT CLEARLY OR TYPE

Organization Name _____ No. _____

Organization Mailing Address _____

City _____, CO, (Zip) _____ - _____

Name _____ Title _____
(Officer submitting this form)

email _____

We do not have a student to nominate. Please provide one nominated by the Band Camp ☐

If you have contacted a Band Director and have a student, include the student information here.

Name of Student _____ Student email address _____
(Please print clearly, as it will appear on Name Badge and Concert Program)

Address: _____

City: _____, CO, (ZIP) _____ - _____

Guardian/Parent's Name: _____

Guardian/Parent's Home Phone: () _____

Guardian/Parent's Mobile Phone: () _____

Guardian/Parent's email: _____

Name of High School: _____

Band Director's Signature: _____ Phone No _____

Please Print Band Directors Name _____

Marching Band Instrument _____

List music honors received and chair in HS Band. Information in this section is important. Please give all facts and details.

CIRCLE: Male Female

CIRCLE: Class in the 2022-2023 School Year 9th grade 10th grade 11th grade

Outdoor Lodge Meeting & Weekend Camping!

Friday, July 28, 2023 - 6:00pm to Sunday, July 30, 2023 - 9:30am

Description

You must RSVP via email to Kevin Townley at **ktownley8@gmail.com** by July 19 if you plan to attend the Saturday Evening Dinner and/or Sunday Morning Breakfast. *No RSVPs are required for camping, fellowship, or the Outdoor Lodge Meeting.*

Event info:

- **Free tent camping Friday and Saturday nights.**
 - Camping begins at 6:00pm Friday afternoon and we need to be all packed up by 9:30am Sunday morning (going over to Lupton Lodge precincts, 1.6mi away, for breakfast at 10:00am.)
 - Campers provide their own camping gear, food, and drinks.
- **Fellowship and fun with Brethren, family, & friends ALL DAY Saturday.**
 - **Don't forget chairs, drinks, and snacks!**
 - Feel free to bring yard games!
 - Well-behaved pets are allowed. Owners must pick up after their pets.
- **Outdoor Lodge Meeting at 5:00pm Saturday with dinner provided afterward** (*RSVP by July 19. Suggested donation: \$20*).
- **Breakfast provided by Boulder Lodge #14 at Fort Lupton Masonic Lodge Sunday morning at 10:00am** (*RSVP by July 19. Suggested donation: \$15*)

Camping, fun, & fellowship are open to the public. Please feel free to bring your family and friends.

Outdoor Lodge Meeting is open to all Freemasons recognized within this jurisdiction. EAs & FCs must have a MM to vouch for them.

Location and Parking info:

Camping & Fellowship parking:

South Platte Valley Historical Society Rendezvous Area

170 Weld County Road 14, 5

Fort Lupton, CO 80621

Outdoor Lodge Meeting parking:

Lancaster Lupton's Trade Fort - South Platte Valley Historical Society

2001 Historic Pkwy

Fort Lupton, CO 80621

Sunday Morning Breakfast location:

5/31/23, 11:20 AM

Boulder Lodge #14 A.F. & A.M.

Fort Lupton Masonic Lodge

130 Denver Ave

Fort Lupton, CO 80621

Location



(<https://maps.google.com/maps?>

q=170+Weld+County+Road+14%2C+5%2C+Fort+Lupton%2C+CO+80621+%28South+Platte+Valley+Historical+Society+Rendezvous+Area%29&z=15',
170 Weld County Road 14, 5, Fort Lupton, CO 80621 (South Platte Valley Historical Society Rendezvous Area)

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Calling all Masons!!

Douglas Lodge No. 153 invites ALL Colorado Masons to join us Saturday July 29th, 2023 in Castle Rock Colorado for the Douglas County Fair Parade! This is a great opportunity to represent the values of Masonry in our communities!

Please contact WM C. Dave Tuck in OLP for further details



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MEET YOUR GRAND LODGE OFFICERS



R.W.Bro. Jerry L. Fenimore
Grand Treasurer



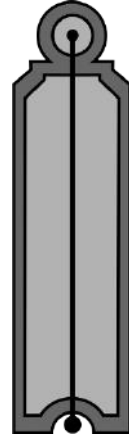
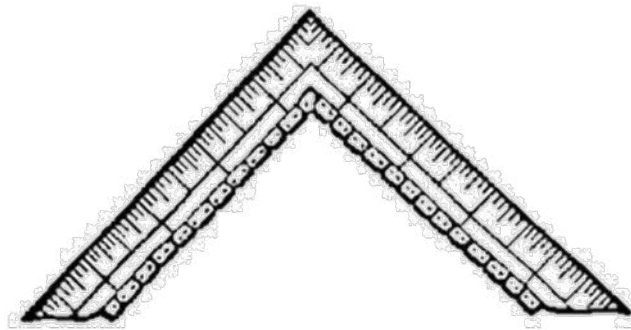
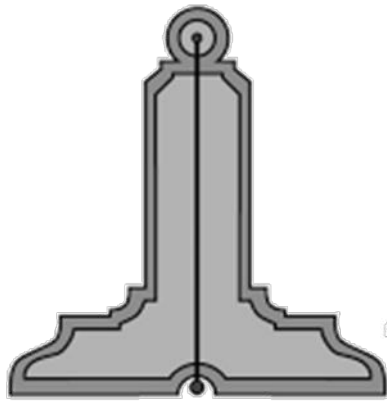
R.W.Bro. Scot M. Autry
Grand Secretary



R.W.Bro. Kevin T. Townley
Grand Lecturer



W.Bro. Gerald P. Underwood
Senior Grand Deacon



If your lodge is having special events or activities please send the information to the Grand Master
(grandmaster@coloradofreemasons.org)
and the Grand Secretary
(grandsecretary@coloradofreemasons.org)
so that it can be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

Contacts

Grand Lodge of Colorado

1130 Panorama Drive
Colorado Springs, Colorado. 80904
(719) 471-9587
Fax Number: (719) 484-8993
gloffice@coloradofreemasons.org

Grand Master

M.W. Bro. Ross A Allen, G.M.
grandmaster@coloradofreemasons.org
(719) 623-5345

Grand Secretary

R.W.Bro. Scot M. Autry, P.M.
grandsecretary@coloradofreemasons.org
(719) 623-5342



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COLORADO MASONS - SPREAD THE WORD ON YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA, AND WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES ABOUT A NEW WEBSITE ABOUT MASONRY: BEAFREEMASON.ORG

The Grand Lodge Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm. All are welcome as long as you are not feeling ill. For the front door please ring the door bell for access.

