



Trestleboard – February 2019

DOWNTOWN LODGE #86

Free & Accepted Masons of Arizona



Downtown Lodge #86 meets every 4th Monday 7:30 pm at: 450 S. Tucson Blvd. Tucson, AZ

Dark: July & August

Contents

Articles of Pedestal Officers..... 2

 By WB Dave Morganflash, Worshipful Master Downtown 86 2

 By WB Bil Hole, Senior Warden Downtown 86..... 3

 By Brother Marcos Castro, Junior Warden Downtown 86 4

Articles of Appointed Officers..... 4

 By WB Gustavo Portillo, Secretary Downtown 86 4

Further Education 5

 By Bro Timothy Strasser, Junior Deacon Downtown 86 5

Appendant Bodies..... 6

 By Brother Toby Thomas, Senior Deacon Downtown 86..... 6

Masonic Birthdates 7

Committee & Contact Information..... 7

2017-2018 Downtown 86 Lodge Line-up..... 7

Upcoming Events 8

Sickness & Distress..... 8

Our Partners..... 8



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Articles of Pedestal Officers

By WB Dave Morganflash, Worshipful Master Downtown 86

A MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

I recently found myself in a conversation with a person who asked, “What is Freemasonry?” and “Why are you a Freemason?” I have given the usual answers to the same questions in the past: “Masonry makes good men better” and “Masonry is a peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.”

I realized during my conversation it was like explaining what chocolate taste like to someone who has never tasted chocolate before. I left the conversation with “Freemasonry is kind of like the rules of camping, leave the campsite in better condition than it was when you got there.” Elementary as it was it ended the conversation. In the days that followed I found myself thinking deeper into the questions that were posed to me: What is Freemasonry? Why are you a Freemason?

I have many answers to both questions, as I am sure most Masons do. I do know for a fact that Freemasonry has changed my life for the better in many ways. My wife would agree that I am more centered and an improved version of myself. I have always felt there was something bigger out there calling to me, pulling me toward it, and I do believe Freemasonry is that something. There are many things particular to Masonry that seem easy for someone outside the craft to see:

1. Love of God
2. Fraternal bond (the tight bond of brothers)
3. Camaraderie
4. Trust in each other
5. Community involvement
6. Civility
7. Diversity
8. Values

The list could go on and on. But how in a short conversation does a brother convey the answer? I think it depends on the audience. There is no short answer; just the actions of a good man becoming a better man, living his life in the glow of this great fraternity! There is a time when one’s actions speak louder than his words. Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth!

Happy February Brethren!

Fraternally,

David Morganflash, WM

Downtown Lodge #86



Trestleboard – February 2019

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By WB Bil Hole, Senior Warden Downtown 86

A LEVEL OF THE WEST

Freemasonry has many symbols passed along through a rich heritage. These symbols are a visual teaching aide for members, and many are related to the craft of architecture. The Level is one of the most important Masonic symbols of fraternal equality. The meaning of this symbol has several dimensions, with the foremost being that it is a reminder that all men are equal. They are on a level playing field with other members and with other men in general.

The concept of equality has been very important to the founding of the United States of America, as many of the founding fathers were active Masons, and the Masonic symbols and teachings are evident in many of the historical documents created by these founding fathers. The concept that all men are equal in the eyes of the Creator is a primary teaching that the ancient Level represents. Masons acknowledge that it is impossible for all men to possess equal gifts and talents, but that all men should be treated with equal respect and opportunity to thrive, in and out of the fraternal organization.

In architecture, the level is a useful instrument for determining and laying out horizontal planes. A building must be built upon a level foundation for best results. In Masonry, the level is used to remind members that they are all equal, in that everyone operates on the same level of time during their travels through a lifetime. Time is equal for everyone; what one does with his or her time is important, and when an allotted lifetime is over, that same time leads everyone to the same finality. The value of time is determined by the choices a person makes during their lifetime. For the Masons, the choices lie in being moral and fair to all.

Within the practice of Freemasonry, the Level also is an emblem reserved for the Lodge's Senior Warden. It is an immovable jewel, a teaching tool that keeps the Senior Warden presiding over all members on an equal basis. As long as men live, each will be walking on the same plane of equal time until they pass away. During their time on Earth, Masons should use their talents and gifts and develop their natural assets. Within a Masonic Lodge, each Member is entitled to have an equally important voice, no matter how rich or poor they may be, or educated or uneducated. As such equals, every member has the same duties, privileges and rights as another member.

The Level remains horizontally balanced when all is at rest and peaceful. This is the way the Masonic Lodge instructs its members to live, to strive for balance and poise while reaching for high ideals and standards of living. Members are bound in a common quest to serve others and to stand up for equal rights of all men to live life to their fullest capacity. Each serves by using their personal gifts and talents to achieve a common goal that all will enjoy.

Bil Hole, PM, SW

With thanks to Jason



Trestleboard – February 2019

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By Brother Marcos Castro, Junior Warden Downtown 86

A MESSAGE FROM THE SOUTH

On January 12, a group of us from 86 went to cigar night and met a group of Masons from 87 at the Fox Cigar Bar in Gilbert, AZ. We had a great time and had conversations about how can we bring new members into the fraternity which made me think. My personal opinion is it will soon become a thing of the past, which I would like because, I like a small and elite group of only true brothers who take Masonry seriously.

The average 20 year old male would have no interest in Freemasonry unless the lodge is doing 20 year old activities because Lord knows, after the first meeting he isn't dying to go to the next meeting or the pancake breakfast on Saturday after he's been out all night.

So the moral of the story is, in my opinion, we need to kick it up a notch before we lose this thing of ours. So the next time you ask a young brother why he didn't go to the Tom burns fund raiser it's probably because he doesn't know who Tom Burns is-ha ha!

Marcos Castro, JW

Articles of Appointed Officers

By WB Gustavo Portillo, Secretary Downtown 86

FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

It's hard to believe that another year has gone by! We had our Installation of Officers on December 1st and it was a beautiful ceremony! The emotions flourished from start to finish and our brother Marshal was there to take a picture at the right moment. I would like to thank everyone who made the time to be with us that afternoon.

We have several candidates who are working hard with their respective mentors to complete their proficiencies in the different degrees. Most importantly, we have a wonderful line of officers who are ready to do the work and willing to listen to our Past Masters who are always giving us good advice.

Together at 86 we blend tradition and new ideas for our lodge to face the difficult obstacles of the future.

Gustavo Portillo

Secretary.

PS: Be sure to get your dues paid!!



Trestleboard – February 2019

DOWNTOWN LODGE #86

Free & Accepted Masons of Arizona



Further Education

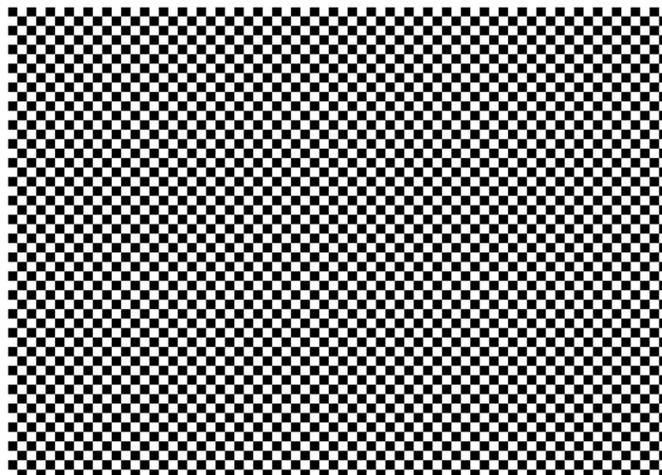
By Bro Timothy Strasser, Junior Deacon Downtown 86

During January’s Downtown 86 Master Mason Education Brother Tony Kincheloe shared these words from *The Fundamental Philosophic Secrets Within Masonry* W.L. Wilmshurst, P.M. 275, PPG Reg. West Yorks:

We are to speak of the fundamental philosophic secrets concealed within the Masonic system. These our system declares to be many and invaluable and to be kept by Masons in their hearts. They are therefore obviously to be distinguished from the merely formal secrets imparted ceremonially, which are kept in the head and are neither many nor of any value, though (as we shall see) they are deeply significant.

By these secrets, then, is not meant some definite precise information that can be imparted to or withheld from another person at will, but the arcane truths inherent in the system itself; truths needing to be extracted from it, like poetry or music from the printed page, by personal effort and that can be recognised as truths only by the inward responsiveness of the soul itself after deeply meditating and assimilating them. Hence we are taught that they are matters of the heart, and that they are communicable only to brethren and fellows (that is, to those whose minds have developed a common measure of spirituality), and then not orally, but only by means of signs, tokens and perfect points of entrance....not because of any capricious withholding of them by some better informed person, but because such men are without the appropriate faculty for perceiving them; their inner vision is as yet hoodwinked, darkened, and prevented from recognising them.

I hold the fundamental belief that as in most instances of life there are varying degrees in which a man can invest himself in Masonry. The common phrase amongst our PM and WM is that “You get out of Masonry what you put in”. This applies not only to fraternal, charitable aspect of Freemasonry but also to the deeper, “darker”, more sacred truths held within ritual. These truths can be expressed in meaningful, life-altering capacity only when a worthy brother seeks them and dedicates himself to the transformation required see the truths which have occupied his space all along. A tool in finding these truths, for me, comes through the most perfect rendition of mathematics: geometry. To express the idea of transformation visually consider this: how many circles do you see in the plane below:





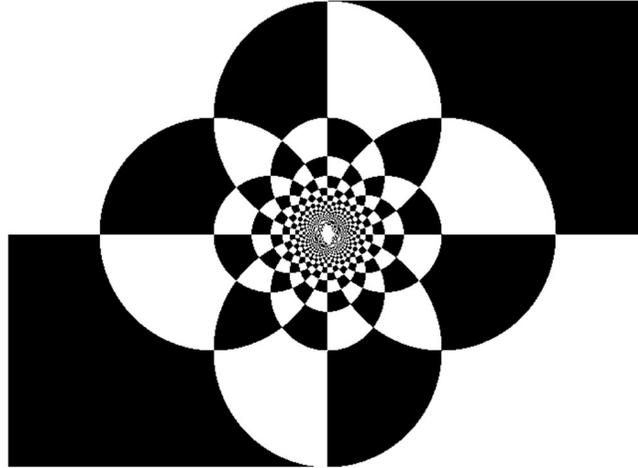
Trestleboard – February 2019

DOWNTOWN LODGE #86

Free & Accepted Masons of Arizona



And now?



The plane did not change; rather a transformation of how a point’s value was expressed occurred in the tune of $z \rightarrow \frac{1}{z}$. You exist in an infinite plane, brethren. One that begs to be defined. We all start at a place from whence to infinity and the “arcane truths inherent in the system itself” exist in that same plane just waiting for us to find, leverage, and bathe in them. When commit yourself to that masonic transformation to alter your own perspective and open your mind in order to find them – that is when the true splendor of those Masonic ornaments will unfold before you.

Brother Tim Strasser with a thank you to Brother Tony Kincheloe (for sharing the words), W.L. Wilmshurst (for writing from his soul) and JP WB Aaron Feagley (for bringing me into the craft).

Appendant Bodies

By Brother Toby Thomas, Senior Deacon Downtown 86

SHRINE HAPPENINGS

The 2019 Divan line is as follows: Potentate-Illustrious Jim Wolfe, Chief Rabban-Noble Jerry Shultz, Assistant Rabban-Noble Toby Thomas, High Priest and Prophet-Noble Roger Biede III and Oriental Guide-Van Elrod.

Saturday February 16 from 6 to 11, the Shrine is having their annual rodeo dance. There will be raffles, drink specials, brisket and all the fixings. \$15 for singles and \$25 for couples. Come on down and enjoy the fun!

Toby Thomas AR



Trestleboard – February 2019

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Masonic Birthdates

February:

- None

March:

- JP WB Aaron Feagley
- Bro Marcos Castro

Committee & Contact Information

Officer/Committee Title	Contact Name	Contact Email Address	Contact Phone
Worshipful Master	WB Dave Morganflash	dmorganflash@hotmail.com	(520) 549-8292
Senior Warden	WB Bil Hole	bilpuka@yahoo.com	(520) 869-8311
Junior Warden	Bro. Marcos Castro	mcast3.mc@gmail.com	(520) 358-1975
Secretary	WB Gus Portillo	woodyman9@yahoo.com	(520) 437-1106
E-Communication Committee	Bro. Timothy Strasser	tbstrasser@gmail.com	(520) 780-6417
Advertising Committee	WB Bil Hole	bilpuka@yahoo.com	(520) 869-8311

2017-2018 Downtown 86 Lodge Line-up

Position / Station	Name
Worshipful Master	WB Dave Morganflash
Senior Warden	WB Bil Hole
Junior Warden	Bro. Marcos Castro
Treasurer	WB Jason Stryker
Secretary	WB Gus Portillo
Chaplain	JP WB Aaron Feagley
Marshall	Bro. Glenn Morgan
Senior Deacon	Bro. Toby Thomas
Junior Deacon	Bro. Timothy Strasser
Senior Steward	Bro. Mark Jaime
Junior Steward	Bro. Nick Dacus
Tiler	Bro. Larry Wilhite

Trustee (Yr)	Name
1	WB Pat Zech
2	WB Eric Dupree
3	WB Aaron Feagley



Trestleboard – February 2019

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Upcoming Events

Please see our most complete calendar of events at: www.downtown86.com/meet-dt86

Sickness & Distress

There is health and happiness in the lodge, however, this does not mean there is peace or contentment in all corners. If you or a loved one are suffering from an illness or are in any kind of distress, please reach out to our Worshipful Master Dave Morganflash at: (520) 549-8292 or dmorganflash@hotmail.com

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