

The Trestle-Board



Bent Lodge No. 42 - AF&AM

Taos, NM

January 2015 - 6015 A.L.



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Grand Lodge of New Mexico on the Web

Freemasonry today is not the Freemasonry of Bro. Kit Carson's time and it isn't even the Freemasonry that Past Masters, as recent as the turn of the century, knew it to be.

Today's Freemason is no longer isolated from their Brethren, near or far, but connected to all the lodges within the Grand Lodge in the jurisdiction of New Mexico. And in this one sentence is the key... the Grand Lodge of New Mexico.

The Grand Lodge of New Mexico maintains a website (www.nmmasons.org) and a very popular Facebook page (www.facebook.com/nmmasons.org) to stay in touch with its members.

The website is open to the public, however, sensitive information is only accessed by a log-in portal for members only. To access all the information on the website, a New Mexico Mason in good standing needs to register on the website and create an account. All you need, besides the obvious information, is your member number found on your Dues Card. Once you register, everything here is accessible.

The Facebook page is, of course, open to the world... meaning that everything contained in this page is public. Here you may find news from lodges across the state, shares of good news and not-so-good news, shares of inspirational or Masonic content and photos, and lots and lots of photos. The amazing thing about social media is that once you share something on this page, you can track how far the message has gone and how many people it has reached. It is not uncommon to see a post get hundreds of "Likes." Also, you can see how many liked the post so much that they wanted to share it on their own page. The most impressive number is the number of visitors that a post has reached, which gives us an indication of the many like-minded people there are in our world.

The Facebook page contributors are the Grand Lodge officers and about four non-GL members from Albuquerque, Roswell, Ruidoso and Taos. The page is quite a bit more interactive, so that a daily visit will give you a different view daily. And feel free to comment on anything posted on this page... after all, it is your page.



NMMasons.org gets a new look

From the West



Dear Brethren,

Greetings from the West, the land of the dead.

I hope this year will be filled with revelation and light and may we share that with each other and the world of darkness. I believe our Blue Lodge will be a beacon of hope and love in Taos. May the Supreme Grand Master show you every day and in every way, how to be prepared for the moment when we shut our eyes and in a blink will open them to the touch of the lion's paw and be raised to eternal High 12.

WB Greg Smith

Senior Warden, Bent Lodge No. 42

2015

From the East

JANUARY

19 Regular Communication

FEBRUARY

14 Pancake Breakfast
Taos Integrated School of Arts
16 Regular Communication

MARCH

14 Pancake Breakfast
Taos County Historical Society
16 Regular Communication

APRIL

11 Pancake Breakfast
Taos Optimists Club
20 Regular Communication

MAY

09 Pancake Breakfast
Kiwanis Club of Taos
18 Regular Communication

JUNE

13 Pancake Breakfast
Taos Men's Shelter
15 Regular Communication

JULY

11 Pancake Breakfast
Ensueños
20 Regular Communication

AUGUST

08 Pancake Breakfast
Taos School of Music
17 Regular Communication

SEPTEMBER

12 Pancake Breakfast
First Presbyterian Church
21 Regular Communication

OCTOBER

19 Regular Communication

NOVEMBER

14 Pancake Breakfast
Taos Feeds Taos
16 Regular Communication

DECEMBER

21 Regular Communication
26 Bent Lodge Installations

Dear Brethren,

It is my belief that the more Bent Lodge No. 42 works together the more we will be able to optimize our limited resources, time and harmony being the most limited and valuable. To that end, I have outlined a draft plan with many loose ends to be worked out. This document will be released in the next two weeks but has been worked on heavily by WB Shapiro and myself with support and consideration from WB Yule. When you receive this outline of the problems and opportunities before the lodge, please look over this evolving document and add your wisdom.

I would like us all to communicate our intentions in Lodge as clearly as possible, giving our Brothers time to have their say, and the Lodge time to form a consensus on plans. Then we need to move forward with our plans. If you are the lead Brother, it is important to take responsibility for the objectives you agreed to lead. We should measure our progress and outcomes and report to each other through email and in Lodge. Below is a list of the items I intend to cover in this plan most of which are coming together already so please feel free to contact me with any ideas at any time.

- 1) Perform the best possible ritual work
- 2) Create and act upon a plan that ensures the long-term viability of the Lodge owned buildings
- 3) Continue to create helpful relationships with other community groups and Lodges
- 4) Amend the by-laws beginning with coming to an agreement on how we change our by-laws
- 5) Address the Town of Taos stopping financial support for the public bathroom at the Kit Carson Home compound
- 6) Landscaping Revitalization Plan
- 7) 2015 Committee Information
- 8) Bent Lodge No. 42 Calendar of Events 2015
- 9) Bent Lodge No. 42 Contact List

I would like to announce the committees that have formed thus far. Brother MacDonald will head up a committee to take proper care of all of our assets other than the buildings. This committee will recommend to the lodge what we need to do to properly insure and protect our artwork, furniture and any other valuable asset.

The pancake breakfasts will be scheduled by Brother Loomis' committee and Brother McIntosh will manage the day of the event. Brother LeMoine will head up the grounds committee, while WB Burling will stay on as our trusted lawn mower and caretaker of our memorial tree. PM Wagner will lead up the scholarship committee.

Finally the lodge officers and the trustees will form the Finance Committee and we will stay in contact with the treasurer through all of our decision-making.

I believe that the more we work together and include different ideas and the different ideologies our brothers bring to the table the more effective and harmonious we will be. Please get involved and make your voice heard as Bro. LeMoine pointed out, harmony that turns into homogeneity is not really Masonry. Let's shake it up this year but remember, we are all Brothers and must act as such.

WB Jed Noble 32°
Master (2015)
Bent Lodge No. 42



WB Noah Shapiro

WB Nolan 'Noah' Shapiro was born to a Russian father and a Polish mother in London, England, on April 6, 1944, during a bombing attack on that city. He immigrated to the United States in 1960 and, in 1962, just three days after his 18th birthday, enlisted in US military service, being honorably discharged several years later. After carrying a Green Card for 20 years, he became a US citizen in 1980.



In 1958, at the age of 14, he graduated from the British equivalent of a US high school, and accepted a scholarship to Gateshead Yeshiva, the foremost orthodox rabbinical university in Europe. A little more than two years later, having completed almost the full four-year curriculum, and a mere six months away from ordination, he came to the conclusion that he was too young to be a Rabbi, left the institution and, as mentioned above, came to the USA.

He returned to school many years later, after a short stint as a Deputy Sheriff in Alachua County, Florida, and completed degree work at the University of Florida for both a BS in Journalism and a BA in Language Arts (for Teacher Certification). He was the managing editor of his college newspaper as well as its editorial writer. Later, he wrote special features for the local (Gainesville) daily newspaper, taught at Buchholz High School and Santa Fe Community College, both in that same city.

During this time WB Shapiro co-authored a text for beginning writers as well as a volume of original poetry. The text was used by more than a dozen community colleges in Florida and across the country. His poetic works are included in recorded and print format in the collection of the UF Graduate Library, and several pieces were commissioned by the US Bicentennial Commission for inclusion in the displays on the 1976 Freedom Train that travelled around the entire country during that celebratory year. He was also a member of the committee that greeted the train when it arrived in Gainesville. Later that same year, the Governor signed a bi-partisan bill designating him a Florida Poet.

Having been there and done that—a restless spirit, as all the men in his family are—WB Shapiro went to work at a radio station in Gainesville where he wrote, produced and recorded commercials and documentaries; several works of which, in both categories, subsequently won state and national awards. In 1978-79 he hosted a talk show on a radio

station in Port Arthur, Texas, about 60 miles south of Houston, subsequently working as a DJ on country music stations in north and south Florida and was program director and on-air personality at a radio station in Golden Meadow, Louisiana, in bayou-country an hour south of New Orleans. Throughout the mid-1970s and into the early part of 1980, while still working in radio, WB Shapiro was also a professional stage actor and director.

In 1982 he returned to law enforcement, joining the St. Augustine, Florida, police department. His career ended in 1996 when, as Senior Homicide and Major Narcotics Investigator, he was seriously injured. It was while living in St. Augustine that WB Shapiro became a Mason. He was initiated, passed and raised in Ashlar Lodge No. 98, where he holds a Life Membership, and where he had entered the progressive line prior to his move to Taos, and where he earned a Three-Degree Proficiency Card from the Grand Lodge of Florida. In 1998 he joined Scottish Rite in the Valley of Jacksonville, Orient of Florida. He is now affiliated with the Valley of Santa Fe, where he served as Prelate for the Lodge of Perfection in 2013. In 2014 he was appointed Master Of Ceremonies of Aztlan Chapter Rose Croix, and elected Orator in that Chapter for 2015.

During the 2012-2013 tenure of Most Worshipful Grand Master William Childers, he served as Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico. He also served, or is serving on the By Laws Revision Committees of the new corporation that manages the Scottish Rite Temple; the Lodge of perfection, Valley of Santa Fe; and Kit Carson Home and Museum.

Currently he is Chairman of the Masonic Publications Committee of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico, and Managing Editor of the New Mexico Freemason. He also holds a seat on the Grand Lodge Long Range Planning Committee; is Chairman of the Membership Committee for the Valley of Santa Fe, Scottish Rite, and an associate editor of the Valley's newspaper; he is in his second-term as Member of the Board of Directors of Kit Carson Home and Museum.

Past Master of Bent Lodge No. 42 (2014), in December of 2014, he was elected a three-year Trustee of that Lodge. WB Shapiro is currently Junior Warden of the Lodge of Research of New Mexico and Marshal of Pajarito Lodge No. 66, Los Alamos, New Mexico, where he is also Chairman of the Education Committee.

These days he is retired—well, sort of—but is still very active as a freelance writer and editor, a side-career of his for more than forty years. He takes great pleasure in being able to travel and meet fellow Masons all over New Mexico and has, at last count, visited about a third of the Blue Lodges in this state.

Order of Business for January 19, 2015 Lodge will open on The 1st Degree in Masonry

1. Sickness and Distress
2. Reading of unapproved minutes.
3. Unfinished business.
4. Reports of Standing Committees.
 - a) Building
(WB Noble)
 - b) Grounds
(WB Bruce Burling)
 - c) Treasurer
(WB Greg Smith)
 - d) Flag
(Bro. Wayne Rutherford)
 - e) Investment
(Bro. Scot Loomis)
 - f) Masonic Education
(WB Scott Thayer)
 - g) Scholarship
(WB Carl Wagner)
 - h) Pancake Breakfast
(Bro. Scot Loomis)
 - i) Publications/Web Site
(WB Dave Cordova)
 - j) Outreach/Public Relations
(Bro. Michael LeMoine)
 - k) Public Relations
(Bro. Michael LeMoine)
 - l) Relief
(WB Noah Shapiro)
5. Presentation of petitions for Degrees, and for Affiliation.
6. Report of Committees on Petitions and balloting thereon.
7. Communications and presentation of bills.
8. Motions and resolutions in writing.
9. Motions from the Floor and miscellaneous business.
10. Closing remarks by WM.

Close Lodge

S:.M:.I:.B:.

Brethren All,

We've all heard the cliché, “the more things change, the more they remain the same.” That little truism is overwhelmingly clear to me, as is the saying, “same stuff, different day.” What I am leading to, is that the work is always there... and will always be there. The work of the lodge involves many facets: fiscal, material, physical and spiritual.

The fiscal responsibility is taken care of with a good budget. The material responsibility is how the members of our lodge interact and help our non-Masonic neighbors and friends. The physical is the manual labor needed to maintain the organization and buildings. The spiritual is perhaps the most important of all, because our ritual must provide for the spiritual well being of our fraternity. Without ritual, Masonry would be like any other well-meaning group that meets once a month to socialize and collect dues to be able to award an annual scholarship. To be a Mason is so very much more. To be a Mason is to live by the code learned through ritual during our Initiation, Passing and Raising. To adhere to the tenets of Faith, Hope and Charity and the four Cardinal Virtues. To live by practicing our Obligations, not because of any perceived penalty, but because we choose to act morally and ethically and to show our brotherly love to one another.

As we make our way through the year, there will be many opportunities to help, aid and assist one another, especially the officers of our Lodge. It is their job to lead, it our job to follow. If everyone steps up and performs to the best of their abilities, Bent Lodge 42 will continue to be the lodge that every other lodge would aspire to emulate.

In closing, let me just say that I am proud to be a member of BL42 and of my association with my Brothers.

S:.M:.I:.B:.

Fraternally,
WB Dave Cordova



The Bent Lodge No. 42

Trestle Board



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5660 NDCBU • Taos, NM 87571