

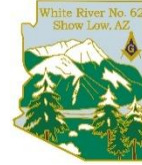
WHITE RIVER LODGE TRESTLE BOARD

February March 2026

Address
P. O. Box 336
Show Low, AZ 85902
Website: whiteriverlodge62.org
email: whiteriverlodge62@gmail.com



Physical Address
741 E. Whipple
Show Low, AZ 85901



From The East

Brethren,

Be it known that our Lodge will be opening its doors to the public on Saturday, March 21st, for a Lodge open house. The particulars of this event shall be further discussed and duly arranged at our stated communication on February 10th. This undertaking is not merely an event, but a labor in harmony with the direction of our Most Worshipful Grand Master, who has called upon all lodges within this jurisdiction to take part in this important endeavor.

As such, your presence, your support, and active participation are earnestly requested. Let this open house stand as a renewal and recommitment to the sacred trust placed upon every Lodge, not merely make members, but to build Masons. It is an opportunity for us to reflect upon our purpose, to labor with intention, and set our Lodge upon a course that strengthens both our fraternity and the communities we serve. Together, may we approach this year with unity, zeal, and fidelity to the principles that bind us as Brothers!

Fraternity,
Santiago Limon
Worshipful Master

From The West

As Masons one of our chief tenets is Brotherhood. I grew up with four Sisters, an absentee Father and always longed for a Brother. Later on, as I was married, I witnessed brotherhood in the community my wife and I first lived in. I saw friends drop everything to help their brother. I saw hunting, fishing and camping trips I was not part of because it was an annual thing among a man and his brothers. I wanted to experience that closeness of brothers. This is just one of the reasons I desired to be a Mason.



Installation of 2026 Officers on December 27,

Remember as Masons we are all brothers. If I may quote a definition of what it means to be a true Masonic Brother. "Masonic brotherhood means a deep bond of mutual support, love, and obligation among men who join Freemasonry, rooted in shared moral principles like brotherly love, relief, and truth, emphasizing self-improvement, community betterment, and a commitment to helping one another through life's challenges, regardless of social status, as equals on a journey of personal growth".

Your Brother,
 Danny Keelin
 Sr. Warden

Masonic Birthdays		
Name	MasonDay	Years
Lawrence Edward Valis	2/11/1982	44
James P. Kasburg	2/7/1995	31
KEVIN BRUCE EOFF	2/22/2003	23
WINSTON RANDALL FOX	3/25/1977	49
Ronald Dean Jones	3/11/1983	43
JAMES HARRY TURNBULL	3/19/1988	38
CHARLES GARRETT WILLIAMS	3/19/1994	32
Thomas Meyer, Jr	3/26/2007	19
Michael Lynn Machamer	3/27/2010	16

From The South

Brothers;

I was installed as Junior Warden for 2026 in December and I am truly honored.

I would like to thank all of the brothers who have stepped up and provided dinners for our stated meetings. We have a whole year of stated meetings ahead of us and I would encourage any of the brothers to pick a month. If you have any special recipes that you would like to share please feel free to do so.

If you can't do all parts of the meal and only want to do the main course, please let me know, and I can assist with the rest. Please remember that if you provide the meal, we do ask that you help clean up.

I would also encourage any brother who has Masonic Education to share, please do at the stated meeting. Please let the secretary know a little bit earlier so it can be put on the agenda.

Thank you all so much for your confidence in me, and I hope to see you all at the lodge soon!!

Fraternally yours;
 WB Richard Prather PM
 Junior Warden.

- Officers
- WM – Santiago Limon
- SW – Danny Keelin
- JW – Richard Prather
- Trea - Gene Stirling Sec – Frank Edens
- SD – Mike Gibbs
- JD – Larry Pedersen
- SS – Fred Bridges
- JS –
- Chap – Robby Stirling
- Mar – Al Warner
- Tyler – Don Anderson

- Trustees
- Mike Gibbs - 2026
- Robby Stirling - 2028
- Larry Pedersen - 2027
- Danny Keelin– 1 Year 2026
- Richard Prather – 1 Year 2026

- Prospect Manager
- Mike Gibes

- Trial Commissioner
- #1 - Jason DiCamillo
- #2 – Frank Jacks
- #3 – Robert Stirling
- #4 – Larry Pedersen
- #5 – Al Warner



Real Masonic leadership isn't about the jewel you wear. It's about the brother you mentor, the ritual you perfect, and the example you set.

Quotes

The following quote is a reason we all should be learning lectures, charges, and ritual in general. To spread our positive consciousness into the cosmos. The more brothers who know the ritual, the greater influence we can have. We need to put it out into the cosmos that we want new brothers and that we will be willing to work with them to eventually put them into leadership functions of the Lodge. Active membership in the lodge can remove the fear of public speaking and refine public speaking abilities. These are important points we need to make at our open house.

“I believe that there is but ONE THINKER in the universe; that my thinking is His thinking, and that every man's thinking is an extension, through God, of every other man's thinking. I therefore think that the greater the exaltation and ecstasy of my thinking, the greater the standards of all man's thinking will be. Each man is thus empowered to uplift all men as each drop of water uplifts the entire ocean.”

~ Walter Russell. 1871 - 1964, *The Man Who Tapped the Secrets of the Universe*

Candidate Team

We need a team to work with candidates to bring them to proficiency in a reasonable timeframe and keep them engaged. The team needs to work with candidates on Tuesday evenings and make sure they are scheduled with their coaches during the week.

We also need to understand why brothers have demitted in recent years. A lot of it has to do with a lack of participation by too many.. We must get the lodge turned around.

The following is a contribution by Mike Gibbs, PM

In a world where “man’s inhumanity to man” lurks on every side, where temperance and justice are mocked, and where a reverence for God is left for emergencies or abandoned completely, we Masons must be shocked by that ancient evil and by the loss of dignity and wisdom.

Our apprenticeship must begin anew. First, we must learn to be true to our real natures, and then to master the art of building for humanity. This is the only way that we can help to lift the darkness of violence and greed or to escape the fears of hate and ignorance. Then, when our work is done, we may lay down the tools of our Craft and stand among the brethren looking up- wards at the new light in the east.

We need not ask if our purpose is real, for the answer to that lies in the imperative vision of a brotherhood devoted to the love of justice and truth. We need not ask if this purpose can be transmitted from brother to brother, for we ourselves are a proof of that. There is but one question that we need to ask ourselves over and over again. That question is as simple as it is challenging. Are we men enough to be Masons?

How long can a Mason afford to be a Mason only in his speech and ritual verbalizations? How long can we afford to put our building aside for the little problems and pleasures of life? Masonry and humanity await our answers and our deeds!

Calendar

White River Lodge Stated Meeting February 10 and March 10, 2026. Dinner at 6 Meeting at 7.

Fellowship Hour on other Tuesday evening at 6. Practice or degree work follows

Open House on March 21. Details will be worked out be February Stated Meeting

Mizpah Chapter Stated Meeting on March 19, Dark in February

Winslow York Rite Stated Meeting on February 3 and March 3 in Holbrook. Openings are in the Council of Cryptic. Masons in Purple Jacket or dark suits.

From Mizpah Chapter

Hello Brothers

Happy New Year.

I am looking forward to this new year. One of my goals for this year is to grow our membership. I could use the Mason's help.

I think it would be a great idea to have some of the Masons' wives become members, and the husbands too.

I would like to plan a potluck with the Masons and the Eastern Star members and get to know everyone.

We can talk to husbands and wives to explain what our organization does and what charities we donate to. I will work with the Master on dates.

Our chapter is dark in January and February and will not have meetings during those two months.

We have our official visit of our Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron on March 20th.

We are very excited about this event.

Thank you

Julann Johnson

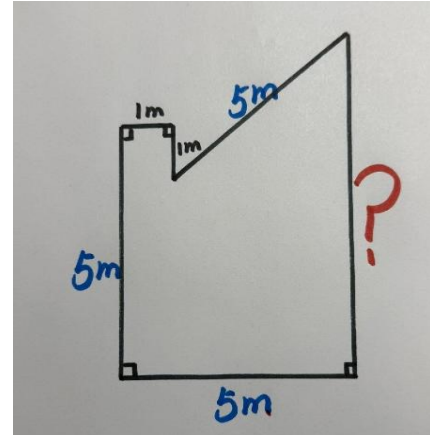
Worthy Matron

Mizpah Chapter #57 Show low AZ

A Refinement of the Ritual in the Late 1790s and the Four Elements

By Frank Edens, PM and Past Grand Commander of Arizona of the Grand Commandery of Arizona

I wrote this article, which was edited by my wife, Julia. It was sent to the Knights Templar Magazine for their consideration for publishing. Hope you enjoyed reading this.



Can you solve it?: Hint remember a 3-4-5 triangle

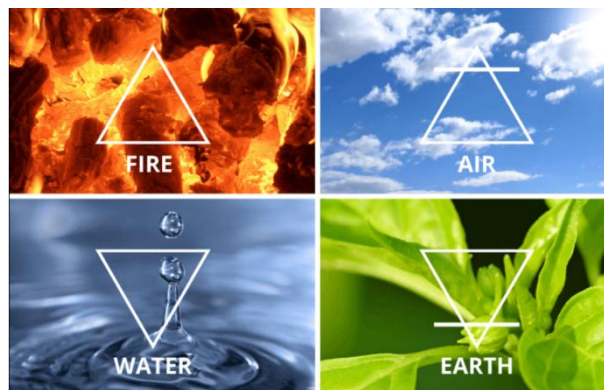
The Masonic Ritual has a long history; its purpose is to provide a framework for further investigation into the truth. Nothing I say is a proposal to change our ritual. It is to serve to encourage further study and investigation. Let us delve into a couple of topics that I find insightful. The first is a short history of our ritual between 1745 and 1797, the second is a discussion about the four elements of earth, air, water, and fire.

The History of the Three Blue Lodge Degrees

By 1745, the framework of the three degrees had been put into place. This had been accomplished by splitting the original first degree into new First and Second Degrees, and the original second degree was formed into a new Third Degree. This was not a very effective ritual; it needed to be improved. In 1769, Wellins Calcutt and William Hutchinson began to create a more acceptable ritual. William Preston joined the two in 1772. Preston was an excellent ritualist. In two years, he rewrote the ritual to create an excellent and beautiful ritual. A problem with the new ritual, for example, the Third Degree Lecture took a half day to recite the twelve parts. It was too long. In 1797, the colonial Thomas Smith Web loved the Preston Ritual and began to rearrange and shorten sections of the Preston Third Degree to fit the American lifestyle of North America. In 1839, the Grand Lodge of Alabama called a convention of Grand Lodges to produce a uniform Masonic Ritual. This ritual went through various revisions until 1845. Today all fifty American states use forms of the Preston/Web Ritual, which are commonly referred to as the first three degrees of the York Rite. Exceptions are the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and a few lodges around New Orleans. The ritual of Pennsylvania is close to the Calcutt and Hutchinson ritual developed before 1772. A few Pennsylvania lodges conduct their work in the Pennsylvania Dutch dialect. Lodges around New Orleans use degrees developed by Albert Pike, known as the Scottish Rite first Three Degrees. Thus, the foundations of the Masonic fraternity was established. Let us do a little research concerning a few details of the ritual to see where it may take us.

The Four Elements

We have read many times that Freemasonry is veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. Some of these allegories and symbols have been obscured in antiquity, the symbolism of the four elements consisting of earth, water, air, and fire. The ancients used these four elements to represent deeper meanings of life. Over the centuries, the ritual has been pruned so that what we are left with are blurbs that had revealed great truths. Within these blurbs, on further research, Masons today may find gems of truths that could have been lost to interpretations.



In the first degree of Scottish Rite and in an optional version of the Arizona ritual, the candidate is presented with trials representing the four elements. In the chamber of reflection, where a candidate experiences the four elements of earth, air, water, and fire, they are exposed to the deeper spiritual meanings of these elements.

WB Ron Blaisdel stated that one such blurb may be found in the last paragraph of the First Degree Lecture, where chalk, charcoal, and clay are discussed. This inclusion is a little awkward and appears to

be misplaced. It may have replaced a discussion about the four elements in previous rituals. Let us speculate on how this could have been. Originally, chalk came from the compressed fossilized remains of tiny marine organisms. The chalk represents water from which it came. Charcoal is made by burning wood under limited air, thus representing fire and air. The clay represents earth.

A Google AI summary stated the following. The four classical elements of Earth, Water, Air, and Fire are fundamental concepts in ancient philosophy and spiritual traditions worldwide. The four elements provide a subjective metaphorical framework. These four elements do not represent chemical elements in a modern sense. They are viewed as expressions of vital energy that reflect aspects of the human inner experience—body, emotions, mind, and spirit. Common expressions we use today can illustrate this: “he is down to earth,” “her emotions run as deep as water,” “she is an airhead,” or “he has a fiery temper.” The Sicilian philosopher Empedocles of Acragas first proposed the idea of Earth, Water, Air, and Fire in the fifth century B.C. These four elements are the signs of the fixed Astrological signs of Taurus (the Bull), Scorpio (the higher symbol is the Eagle, the lower symbol is the Scorpion), Aquarius (the Man), and Leo (the Lion)

Earth, Water, Air, and Fire Properties - Table 1				
	Symbolizes	Signifies	Spiritually	Represents
Earth	Physical Material World	All that is Stable, Grounded, Tangible	Abundance, security, stability, and the ability to stay present in the moment.	Man's Alpha and Omega, The name Adam means earth or ground. Man was formed from Clay to which man must return.
Water	Emotions, intuition, and the subconscious mind	Water is an ancient symbol of purification, representing the act of washing the body.	Signifies adaptability, purification, healing, and the flow of life.	The ability to feel and express emotions authentically. Water has a great connection with creation, birth, and renewal.
Air	Intellect, communication, inspiration, and the invisible yet essential breath	Mental clarity, knowledge, ideas, and a connection to consciousness. It allows for clear thinking and communication of truth.	The Spirit. The Arabic word ruch and the Hebrew word ruach mean both soul and wind.	When the last breath leaves the body, the soul also leaves.
Fire	Powerful, transformative element that represents energy, passion, willpower, and action	The inner spark of vitality and inspiration. Fire is a symbol of transformation and renewal.	The driving force for change, courage, and the purification of negative energy.	Fire represents light, spirit, the sun, radiance, and purification. Fire is used to refine metals and to separate base metals from precious metals.

Notes:	Water and fire are used to purify tools. In Genesis, the flaming sword is used to guard the Garden of Eden. Earth and water molded man using clay
--------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

A fascinating side note is how the four Gospels relate to the four elements, also classed as the fixed signs of the zodiac:

- Matthew – Aquarius the Man or Air
- Luke – Taurus the Bull or Earth
- Mark - Leo the Lion or Fire
- John – Scorpio the Eagle or Water.

	Cardinal	Fixed	Mutable
	initiators	Sustainers	Reformers
Air	Libra	Aquarius	Gemini
Earth	Capricorn	Taurus	Virgo
Fire	Aries	Leo	Sagittarius
Water	Cancer	Scorpio	Pisces

According to Christian tradition, the four evangelists are represented as animals because of two references in the Bible. The first is Ezekiel’s vision in the Old Testament (the King James version). Ezekiel, while a slave in Babylon, saw a vision of God in a chariot being pulled by the above four creatures (Ezekiel 1:10)

The Second referred to Revelation, Chapter 4, verses 6-8: *“In the midst of the throne, and around the throne were four living creatures full of eyes before and behind. The first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like a man, and the fourth was like a flying eagle. The four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within. They have no rest, day and night, saying, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come!”*

The four Gospels provide the foundation of Christianity. Other books of the Bible should be studied along with a few apocryphal books that did not make it into the Bible, such as the Book of Thomas. The First Book of Esdras (also apocryphal) is a foundation for the Order of Red Cross in the York Rite.

Our research has taken us into a discussion about astrology; the books of Isaiah and Matthew say the following:

Isaiah 47:13 “Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from *these things* that shall come upon thee.”

Matthew 1:1-2 “Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is he that is born King of the Jews, for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him?’”

Previous research I had done indicated the star was the planet Jupiter, the wise men were astrologers” ([Lenard](#)).

Let us see what a trained scientist says about astrology, considering some non-conventional scientific research. Richard Hoagland, a 1997 Nobel award winner in astronomy, did research in hyper-dimensions and concluded that there may be between 11 and 26 dimensions in the universe. He also did research in angular momentum of the sun and planets in the solar system by observing that in 1948, when Jupiter and Saturn were 120 degrees apart, the sunspot activity was very high. But in 1951, when Jupiter and Saturn were 180 degrees apart (on opposite sides of the sun), the sunspot activity was significantly less. He theorized that this was due to the angular momentums (a combination of rotational speed and mass of a planet) of the two planets. He also believes the angular momentum of all planets and unseen forces

working through the hyper-dimensions of the universe influence mankind; thus, this explains how astrology works – through forces we cannot detect in the visible world. (Hoagland, pg 122)

I have read about astrology all my life. I never learned how to do astrological charts, which takes years of study and mystical insights that few people possess. Just observing a person's sun sign from the newspaper gives little information into character. Observing if a person has a good understanding of the ritual, the true meaning of life, and the operation of the lodge indicates a true Masonic character.

Planning a Party Example

The cardinal signs (Aries, Cancer, Libra, and Capricorn) are good at coming up with ideas to have a party and determining who to invite. The fixed signs (Aquarius, Taurus, Leo, and Scorpio) are good at buying everything for the party, the sustainers keep the plans going, and the mutable signs (Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, and Pisces) are good at putting the finishing touches on the party or deciding the plans whether plans should be scrapped or changed.

Where Do You Fit in the Lodge?

Are you an initiator, meaning you come up with new ideas?

Are you a sustainer or a doer, meaning that you keep things going by doing such things as giving lectures?

Are you a reformer by putting finishing touches on the degrees, by doing such things as recommending how we do degree work?

Or are you an observer, meaning you don't participate? Some reasons members may be observers include the inability to attend meetings, attending meetings, but having a belief that officers are responsible for everything that happens in the Lodge, or a lack of real interest in the operation of the Lodge or degree work. Most organizations, as with our lodge, have too many observers and few doers.

Conclusion

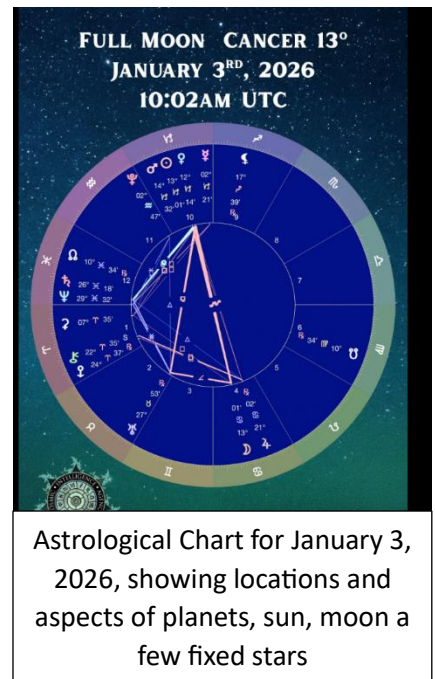
The ritual is written in such a way as to encourage you to do research in the many topics that it touches upon. There is an unlimited number of subjects that the lectures use to guide you in your search for truth. Reading and studying the many topics are very important to Masonic Education. All members of the lodge are encouraged to present articles for the Trestleboard based on their research, inspirations, or observations.

References :

WB Ron Blaisdel, June 16, 2016, The Rituals of American Freemasonry, Internet publication
www.themasonictrowel.com

David Stafford, The Four Masonic Elements, knights Templar Magazine, in a two part series in April and May 2015

Empedocles, First published Thu Sep 26, 2019; substantive revision Wed Sep 25, 2024, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Empedocles (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)
<https://share.google/pHX2fk1rQANK6d6Qp>



Astrological Chart for January 3, 2026, showing locations and aspects of planets, sun, moon and a few fixed stars

[Nick Kampouris](#), May 3, 2025, Why Greek Philosopher Empedocles' Four Elements Theory is Still Relevant, Greek Reporter, <https://greekreporter.com/2025/05/03/greek-philosopher-empedocles-four-elements-theory-relevant/>

Ancient Symbols of Power - The Oxford Astrologer <https://share.google/Ad3EgYAG8kbH1e2n7>

Modalities in Astrology: Is Your Zodiac Sign Cardinal, Fixed, or Mutable? | Almanac.com, <https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.almanac.com%2Fcardinal-fixed-mutable-cardinal-signs&data=05%7C02%7C%7C9fd1abbbe327490f2aaa08de3b1e1a3b%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C639013197634037404%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMmIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIslldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6Akd8vizX3unwnEoPI1ABq2XdCdHgmThJrnylT%2Bt2SE%3D&reserved=0>

Richard C. Hoagland and Mike Bara, 2009, Dark Mission – The Secret History of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Feral House, ISBN: 978-1-932595-48-2

Jaime Paul Lamb. The Influence Of Astrology On The Early Speculative Craft Of Freemasonry, <https://www.jaimepaulamb.com/blog?author=5f8e4f3f7b17fe6fcd5516b1> [Jaime Paul Lamb. The Influence Of Astrology On The Early Speculative Craft Of Freemasonry, https://www.jaimepaulamb.com/blog?author=5f8e4f3f7b17fe6fcd5516b1](https://www.jaimepaulamb.com/blog?author=5f8e4f3f7b17fe6fcd5516b1)

[Lenard](#), Joseph, [January 4, 2017](#), Jesus' Birth – The Star of Bethlehem - When Was Jesus Born?, [Truth in Scripture](#), <https://truthinscripture.net/2017/01/04/jesus-birth-the-star-of-bethlehem/>, , retrieved 3/16/2024

Contents of Trestleboard

Title	Page
From the East - Open House	1
From the West	1
From the South	2
Masonic Birthdays	2
Officer List	2
Quotes - True Masonic Leadership	3
Candidate Team	3
Mike Gibbs Contribution	3
Calendar	4
Mizpah Chapter	4
Ritual History and Four Elements	4