



CATARACT LODGE NO. 2, A.F. & A.M. CONSECRATED 1852

5149 BLOOMINGTON AVE. S., MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55417

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Andrew Frandsen-Hall
Worshipful Master

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This year's Toys for Tots fundraiser was again a great success. Together, the Brethren of Cataract Lodge, along with matching funds from Masonic Charities, raised \$9,600 for this noble charity. On your behalf, we were proud to present our donation to the fund drives of Kare11 TV and the US Marine Corps Reserves on December 2. We can all be proud that in doing so, we have made some child in the metro area a bit more joyful this season. With this year's donation, we have contributed well over \$165,000 over the last 14 years. Pictured here are those brothers who were in attendance when WM Andrew Frandsen Hall presented this year's check on your behalf.



Welcome, Brethren All!

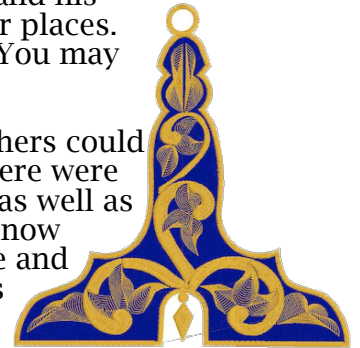
We capped off our 2023 Degree Cycle on December 5 as we raised Br. Alan Cross (center, first row) to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. It was an inspiring ritual and our kudos are heartily given to WM Andrew Hall, who not only led the degree, but had put together a spectacular degree team.

Additionally, the Lodge has already received several inquiries that will hopefully blossom into petitioning candidates for our Spring Cycle.

Greetings From The WEST!

A new year and a fresh start. For so many Lodges throughout the Metro and the State, January marks the beginning of the terms of a new set of officers. The New Master and his Wardens assume their stations as do the new Deacons and Stewards in their places. Not at Cataract. For our officers, it marks the halfway point in their terms. You may wonder why, and the reason for this distinction gives me great pride.

You see, several years back, it was recognized that our more seasoned brothers could not safely attend Lodge during the frigid, snow filled days of December. There were those active members who fled the tundra for warmer climes in the winter as well as those brothers for whom the treacherous winters of Minnesota kept them snow bound at home. That our forbearers' thought it so important to be inclusive and therefore alter the timeline of the balloting calendar...well, frankly it makes me proud.



Fraternally Yours,
Joel Friedman, Senior Warden

Greetings From The SOUTH!

Brothers,

Happy new year! I sincerely hope you were all able to relax and enjoy the holidays with your loved ones.



Many people start the new year with resolutions. Many years ago, I decided that there was too much going on at this time of year for me to focus on something new. I decided why wait? Just go ahead and do it right away. So throughout the year as I find I need to do things differently, I make a resolution to incorporate that into my life right away.

Just because this works for me, doesn't mean it will work for you. You need to find out what works best in your life and in your situation, and make it happen.

As we start the new year, we only have a few activities that are upcoming in the first three months. Our most important one would be the combination of the Heritage Dinner and the Sweetheart Dinner. We will be celebrating those who have been Masons for many years and thank them for their service. More importantly, we will thank our spouses [and significant others] who stand behind us, helping us to fulfill our obligations in the fraternity and strive to be better men as we go through life.

I wish all of you the very best in this new year and hope that you and yours are happy and fulfilled.

Fraternally yours,
Jeff Nielsen, Junior Warden

From the Scottish Rite Double Eagle:

Cataract Lodge #2 has always been well represented at the Minneapolis Valley of the Scottish Rite, and with good reason. The Scottish Rite provides expanded Masonic educational opportunities and plenty of social events. The 2024 Spring Class begins in January but anyone with an interest can still submit a petition. Just contact Lodge Secretary Campbell or myself. For those of you who are already members of the Scottish Rite, the Seventh Degree, *Provost and Judge*, is coming up on January 18th. Many of the cast and directors from this degree are from Cataract Lodge. Please come on down if you can that evening and support your brethren for this important degree.



Fraternally,
Paul Hodnefield
Double Eagle

Cataract's Annual Sweethearts Dinner

When: February 17, 2024 - 5:00 Social Hour, 6:00 Dinner

Where: Minnesota Valley Country Club, 6300 Auto Club Road, Bloomington

Entree Choice: Beef or Walleye (the walleye is universally reviewed as superb at the Minnesota Valley Country Club)

Dinner Cost: tickets are \$35.00 with Cash bar

This year again we will be combining our Sweethearts Dinner with our Annual Heritage Dinner which honors our more senior brothers who have served the Craft faithfully for so many years. This special affair, usually a part of the Fall activities, will again be conducted as a Table Lodge with all the formalities. Brothers passing membership milestones this year (25, 40, 50 and 60 years of membership) are invited to attend with a guest at no charge. These brothers will receive a letter of invitation in mid-January.



Reservations Due To: W. Master Andrew Frandsen Hall or Secretary RWB Doug Campbell by February 10, 2024. Don't delay. Please make your reservations today. With your reservation, please specify your meal choice(s). You can pay the Lodge at the door on your arrival with either cash or check. Mention you plan to come while in Lodge or by email at

CataractLodgeNo.2@gmail.com

Wayfaring Man -Checking in on traveling Brothers

As we have traveled this summer, I have been having difficulty finding stated meetings that matched with our location in the New England states. I had high hopes that I could attend meetings during our trip into the Canadian Maritime Provinces. Sadly, I discovered that many Canadian lodges go dark during the summer months and was not able to make it to a meeting.



On October 10th Worshipful Master Jeff Braun and the brethren welcomed me to Bethel Lodge #319 in Garner Iowa, a small town near Forest City, home of the Winnebago factory. Senior Warden Ted Boomgarden served Subway sandwiches with chips and cookies.

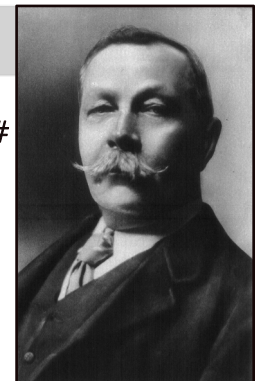
The lodge is in the midst of a large restoration to repair old water damage and refurbish the kitchen and meeting room. It is a small lodge with a core of dedicated brothers who are working on the repairs. I had a very enjoyable evening visiting with these brothers who are working hard for the fraternity.

-Pat Carver

Notable Moments in Masonry: January

On the 26th of this month in 1887, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, noted creator of the beloved Sherlock Holmes, received his 1st degree at Phoenix Lodge # 257 in Southsea, Hampshire. It is said that the famous "consulting detective" was modeled after Doyle's medical professor, Joseph Bell, who repeatedly astounded the young Doyle with his deductive reasoning to arrive at a patient's diagnosis. Symbols of Masonry were often woven into the Sherlockian mysteries.

"There is nothing more deceptive than an obvious fact."



Editor's Note: Have something to say? Feel free to send in any and all articles or announcements to publish in the newsletter. Articles should have "Newsletter" in the subject line and should be sent electronically to CataractLodgeNo.2@gmail.com

**Lodge Meetings every 2nd Tuesday
Fellowship Dinners at 6:30 with
Stated Communication at 7:30**
RSVP for Dinner with Secretary Doug Campbell
CataractLodgeNo.2@gmail.com

JANUARY CALENDAR:

- 3 Officers' Meeting (Zoom)
- 9 Stated Communication
- 20 Grand Lodge One Day to Masonry
- 24 1st Degree School of Instruction
- 31 Metrowest Quarterly Meeting

Upcoming Events

- Feb 2-3 Monitors' Exams
- Feb 8 Minnehaha 165 Spaghetti Sauce Cook Off
- Feb 17 Combined Heritage & Sweethearts Dinner
- Feb 28 2nd Degree School of Instruction
- Mar 10 Return of Daylight Savings Time
- Mar 11 Ramadan begins
- Mar 22 Masonic Seder (tentative)
- Mar 27 3rd Degree School of Instruction
- Mar 31 Easter

Cataract Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master-	Andrew Frandsen-Hall
Senior Warden-	Joel Friedman
Junior Warden-	Jeffrey Nielsen
Senior Deacon-	Scott Wood
Junior Deacon-	Ben Marker
Senior Steward-	Sam Waters
Junior Steward-	Lane Guyot
Secretary-	Doug Campbell
Treasurer-	Dave Kampf
Chaplain-	Robert Selden
Marshal-	Paul Hodnefeld
Tyler-	Mark Tamte
Lodge Education Officer-	Mark Campbell

Officers may be contacted by email
through Cataract Lodge 2 at:
CataractLodgeNo.2@gmail.com

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