



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

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**Worshipful Master**

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**Greetings From The WEST!**

Brothers,

I have started traveling again after the world was shut down because of Covid. In 2019, I flew over 140,000 miles across the US, Europe and the Middle East which included more than 25 trips and over 45 flights. Over these past 4 years, I have taken only 10 trips and 18 flights. I mention this because during the lockdown, I made up my mind to visit lodges in the many places I travel to IF I was ever to travel again.



In the last 4 years I have had the opportunity to attend Stated Communications or Degree Rituals in Seattle, Atlanta, Des Moines and Knoxville. I visited lodge buildings in Grand Rapids (MI), Alaska and the Dominican Republic. Through it all I have learned that although we may do things differently, we are all brothers.

Recently, I was scheduled to travel to Saudi Arabia, and I hoped to attend a lodge meeting in Riyadh, the capital. I have to say I have become better at finding the Square and Compass as I travel. I see it on buildings of all sorts. But in my many visits to the Middle East I have never seen a masonic symbol anywhere.

The relationship between Freemasonry and Arab countries is complex and varies from one country to another, but Freemasonry is officially banned in Saudi Arabia. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, being an Islamic state governed by Shari'ah law, has strict regulations against any organization or practice perceived to be secretive, subversive, or contradictory to Islamic principles. Freemasonry is viewed with suspicion due to its secretive nature, historical associations with Western countries, and the perception that it might conflict with Islamic beliefs and social norms. As a result, Freemasonry is severely restricted if not prohibited. Freemasonry may exist underground, but not without significant risk to its members. Meetings, as a result, are extraordinarily difficult to find.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

**Kindly remember, that this and next month's edition of the Cataract newsletter are the last editions to be printed and mailed to our membership. Thereafter, the newsletter will be available only digitally online or sent through email.**

# Greetings From The WEST!

(Continued from page 1)

Where others might give up, for me, this was a challenge. In a Google search, I found a link to the "Grand Lodge of Saudi Arabia" (see figure). The page significantly lacked content except for the meeting notice. As a result, I thought it very suspicious as Grand Lodges don't normally meet monthly in coffee houses. I remembered the warning of an acquaintance: "For your own personal safety, I really wouldn't seek out lodges in countries where freemasonry is banned..."

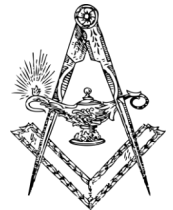


I decided not to go visit the coffee shop that 4th Thursday. I guess we will never know if I would have gotten arrested when I showed up.

Fraternally Yours,  
Jeff Nielsen, Senior Warden

## Chasing After Masonic Light

This coming Stated Communication for September will feature an Educational Presentation by our own Lodge Education Officer, WB Mark Campbell whose talk will focus on Genealogical Research.



### Celestial Lodge

#### **Keith Emmons**

Born 10/25/1937

Entered Apprentice Degree 6/6/1977

Fellowcraft Degree 7/11/1977

Master Mason Degree 8/1/1977

Called to the Celestial Lodge 1/28/2024



#### **Raymond S Frandsen**

Born 5/1/1926

Entered Apprentice Degree 10/27/1964

Fellowcraft Degree 11/17/1964

Master Mason Degree 12/8/1964

Past Master Century Lodge No 338 in 1979

Called to the Celestial Lodge 8/19/2024



#### **Charles V Silvola**

Born 9/7/1926

Entered Apprentice Degree 4/12/1967

Fellowcraft Degree 4/26/1967

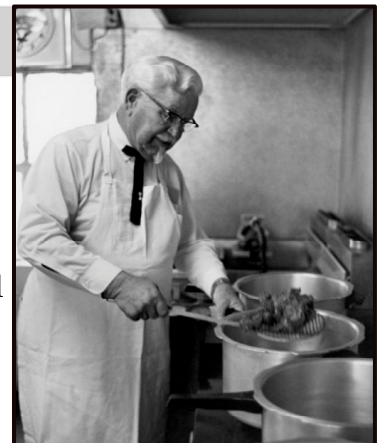
Master Mason Degree 5/17/1967

Called to the Celestial Lodge 5/30/2024



### **Notable Moments in Masonry: September**

On 9 September 1890, Brother Harland D Sanders came into the world. He is often held up as the very model of a persistent entrepreneur who took 62 years to finally achieve success. His secret for his 'Kentucky Fried Chicken' was much more than his famous eleven herbs and spices. His genius was deep frying breaded chicken in a pressure cooker. At the age of 45, he was commissioned a Kentucky Colonel by then governor, Ruby Laffoon. Colonel Sanders was raised in Indiana in 1919, but later affiliated with Hugh Harris Lodge No 938 in Corbin, Kentucky in 1953



*"One has to remember that every failure can be a stepping stone to something better."*

## Celebrating the Historic Cataract Temple:



In gratitude for the hard work that went into this summer's joint Master Mason Ritual at the old Cataract Temple (now the Aveda Institute), Cataract paid a visit to Lake Harriet Lodge for a presentation of artwork commemorating the event. A driving force for this event was brother Tyler Moe Slepica, and in gratitude of his efforts, we presented him with an original Guyot tie, Cataract lapel pin and Meritorious Certificate. On August 11, Grand Lodge officers re-dedicated the cornerstone of the building laid exactly 99 years earlier.



## Twins vs Reds Cataract Lodge Family Outing

Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, plan to join your brethren and "root, root, root for the home team" as our Minnesota Twins play the Cincinnati Reds. This has been an annual tradition for some time now. Besides, what could be better than a summer evening at the ballpark with family and your brothers?

## The Thirteenth Annual Cataract Lodge Chili Cook Off

Who would have thought back in that October so long ago, that WB Conrad Jackson's Chili Cook Off would continue to be such a popular annual event? For thirteen years, minus the one year of Covid, we have eagerly gathered at the Lodge to sample a wide variety of potent and flavorful chilies. We are already in preparation for the October 22 event where once again combatant Masons will compete for bragging rights as to whose concoction most aptly qualifies as the perfect Bowl of Red.

Any Mason from any Lodge may enter, but the chili must have, at a minimum, been stirred by a Mason in order to enter. Once again, the categories will include Best Mild, Best Hot, Best Non-Traditional and Best Overall. Again this year, we plan to have our extremely popular baked potato bar in hopes of remediating the burn in your mouth after tasting one bowl of chili after another. There is no entrance fee and admission is free but donations are accepted.



So mark your calendars for Tuesday night, October 22, beginning at 6:00 PM. We'll even provide the spoons!

**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

**SEPTEMBER CALENDAR:**

- 2 Labor Day
- 4 Officers' Meeting
- 7 Hiram Award to Ron Wagner (Excelsior Lodge)
- 10 Stated Communication
- 13 Brothers' Lunch
- 14 1<sup>st</sup> Degree School of Instruction
- 14 Twins Baseball Outing

**Upcoming Events**

- Oct 2-4 Rosh Hashanah
- Oct 12 Yom Kippur
- Oct 12 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree School of Instruction
- Oct 22 Chili Cook Off
- Oct 30 Metrowest Quarterly Conference
- Nov 16 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree School of Instruction
- Nov 16 Heritage Dinner (Table Lodge)
- Nov 28 Thanksgiving
- Dec 25 Christmans & Hanukkah

**Cataract Lodge Officers**

Worshipful Master-	Joel Friedman
Senior Warden-	Jeffrey Nielsen
Junior Warden-	Scott Wood
Senior Deacon-	
Junior Deacon-	Sam Waters
Senior Steward-	Alan Cross
Junior Steward-	
Secretary-	Doug Campbell
Treasurer-	Dave Kampf
Chaplain-	Robert Selden
Marshal-	Andrew Frandsen-Hall
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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