October 2026

WLN20 Trestle Board

From the East

William Workman - Worshipful Master

Welcome Autumn!

Did you know that while Freemasonry does not have a formal celebration for the Autumnal Equinox, it does have some lodge or region-specific celebrations and reflections? Michaelmas, the Feast Day of St. Michael (September 29), was designated in the original 1723 Masonic Constitutions as one of the four cornerstone dates of the Masonic calendar.

While largely forgotten by modern North American lodges, it is still recognized by some traditional European lodges. Esoterically, Michaelmas is treated as the spiritual marker of autumn, celebrating the triumph of light and willpower over darkness. Many grand lodges and regional bodies host annual "Autumn Days" or harvest festivals.

These are not secret, esoteric rituals but rather public-facing family and charity events. The most famous example is hosted by the Masonic Villages in Pennsylvania, which has held an Autumn Day gathering since 1985 to celebrate fellowship and support local Masonic charities In Masonic symbolism, the sun travels between the north and south, and the equinoxes represent perfect equilibrium, because the autumn equinox features exactly 12 hours of light and 12 hours of darkness.

It is frequently used by Masons as a time to reflect on the principle of "keeping it on the level" and balancing one's passions and actions. There is also a balance between the two Johns: Symbolically, the autumn equinox sits exactly halfway between Freemasonry's two main feast days: the Feast of St. John the Baptist (Summer Solstice, June 24) and the Feast of St. John the

Evangelist (Winter Solstice, December 27). So, since the balance occurs now, let us reflect on the concept of balance and being “on the level”. Black and white. Light and darkness. Joy and sorrow. Knowledge and ignorance. Life and death. Two opposing forces, in conflict, yet something we have to balance every day.

Yin and Yang is a foundational concept in Chinese philosophy that describes how seemingly opposite forces are actually complementary, interconnected, and interdependent. Yin represents the dark, passive, cold, receptive, and feminine principle and is symbolized by the shady side of a hill, water, the moon, and stillness.

Yang represents the bright, active, hot, assertive, and masculine principle. It is symbolized by the sunny side of a hill, fire, the sun, and movement. Neither force can exist without the other; light needs darkness to be defined, and rest needs activity. The familiar yin and yang symbol (or Taijitu) features a small dot of each color inside the opposite half, showing that each force contains the seed of its opposite. Yin and yang are never static. They exist in an endless cycle where an increase in one eventually leads to a decrease and transition into the other (such as day turning into night, or summer into winter.)

This balance personally represents more of the 24-inch gauge in my experience. I think that it encompasses more than just two sides of things: that our lives are much more divided in to more that two parts, which makes balancing so much more difficult and complicated.

There is so much in-between, different shades of black and white, different levels of light and darkness, varied levels of joy and sorrow, diverse levels of knowledge and ignorance, and the liminality of life and death. Ultimately, this returns me to the concept of "the level" in a deeper, more spiritual sense. My journey and the

discoveries along the way, trying to find life’s balance, feel profoundly meaningful, serving as a constant reminder that we all travel the level of time toward "that undiscovered country, from whose bourn no traveler

returns." We are all on that same travel together brothers, so let us make use of the time wisely, live with integrity, treat people fairly, and focus on what truly matters.

Speaking of things that truly matter, in our stated meeting for October we will be balloting on accepting a new member, reflecting on past discussion of the future of Washington Lodge #20, and sharing an oration on Astronomy that has been reported as leaving us "seeing the Stars"

Another important event that truly matters will be Annual Communications at which we will be voting on important matter that we will discuss in our stated meeting, as well as installing a new Grand Lodge, which will include our own Matt Mason as Grand Steward. I encourage you to attend on October 9-11 in San Francisco.

An absolute must event that matter more than that, of course, is the raising of brother Isai Jaimes to the sublime Degree of Master Mason that will take place in Union City at the Siminoff Daylight Lodge #850. The Third Degree ceremony will include the residents of the Masonic Home that can attend as a way to provide brotherly love from our lodge to theirs. This will take place on Saturday, October 17th at noon. Lunch will be served, and the degree will begin at 1:00 PM.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

William "Bill" Workman
Worshipful Master
Washington Lodge No. 20

From the West

Brandon Jenkins - Senior Warden

Happy October, brethren! As you read this, the official date of the start of Autumn has passed, and cooler weather is (hopefully) on the way. Those long-time readers of my Trestle Board articles will remember that I dislike the hot summer weather, so I am very much looking forward to the rainy and gray days ahead.

The arrival of Autumn brings change. The days are growing shorter, the evenings longer, and the golden greens of summer are gradually giving way to the reds, yellows, and browns of fall. Traditionally, Autumn is associated with the harvest - a time when the labor of the preceding months finally yields up its reward.

As an example, allow me to share a story. This year, I personally tried my hand at growing many of my own vegetables, and I was specifically interested in growing my favorite food, potatoes. In my opinion, potatoes are the perfect form of nutrition, and I wanted to see if I could grow them myself. I researched, prepared, planted, and nurtured my plants very carefully. Because soil conditions in Roseville aren't very good, I grew them in grow bags specifically for vegetables, and every day after I returned home from the office, I would go outside, water, and observe the plants as they emerged from their beds and grew towards the light.

After my research, I thought I knew what to expect, but every day brought a new surprise. Are you aware that potato plants have flowers? I was not! Of course, the emergence of flowers is dependent on the potato variety and growing conditions, but seeing little white and purple flowers budding on my potatoes brought even more questions to my experience, the answers for which I was then compelled to search.

On and on this went, until the day came that the plants above the ground began to yellow and wilt; an indication that the hidden tubers were as mature as they would become, and the harvest was approaching. What would the yield be? Although I had done my best to care for them, and all indications from the visible plants showed the growth to be healthy, it was impossible for me to know for sure if my labor had been productive. The fruit of the potato is hidden until the harvest yields it up, at which time it is too late to make changes to the plant. It is in a unique category with this growth; it is a process which requires faith. Faith in the seed, faith in the soil, faith in the water, and faith in the Farmer. We have only the evidence above ground and our faith that, if we have done our part, something worthwhile is taking place where our eyes cannot see.

There is a Masonic lesson in that.

As Masons, much of our labor is also performed with no immediate evidence of the eventual harvest. We work upon ourselves. We encourage a Brother. We teach a candidate. We practice charity. We try to subdue our passions and improve ourselves in Masonry. Often, we have no way of knowing what effect those small labors will ultimately have.

And there is a deeper lesson in our faith in the Great Architect of the Universe. We are laborers who can see only a small portion of the plan. We prepare the ground before us and perform the work we have been given, but much remains hidden from our view. Faith asks us to trust that the Architect sees what we cannot—that there is order and purpose beyond the small portion of the design presently visible to us.

There is also a temptation in life to keep digging into the soil, demanding proof that our efforts are working. But a gardener who continually digs up his potatoes to inspect their progress will do more harm than good. Some things require patience. Some things require us to labor faithfully, tend what has been entrusted to us, and allow growth to occur in its proper season.

Then comes the harvest.

When the soil is finally turned over, what was hidden is brought into the light. Perhaps that is true of our Masonic labors as well. We may never see the full effect of a kind word spoken to a Brother, an example quietly set, a lesson taught, or a hand extended when someone needed it. But that does not mean nothing was growing beneath the surface.

Our responsibility is not always to see the harvest. Sometimes it is simply to prepare the soil, plant good seed, faithfully tend the ground, and trust the Great Architect with what happens beneath it. A farmer may labor faithfully through the spring and summer, but the harvest reveals what has actually grown. Perhaps we might occasionally conduct the same examination within ourselves. What has grown from the seeds we planted earlier this year? Have we become a little more patient? A little more charitable? Have we strengthened a friendship, helped a Brother, learned something new, or corrected some small imperfection in our own character?

There is an important lesson there. Our labor is not intended merely to produce more labor. There must also be a harvest. And occasionally, those who pay attention to the smallest details discover an unexpected reward. The first Brother who finds this sentence and tells me, “The harvest follows the

labor," will receive twenty dollars from your Senior Warden, who, as we know, pays the Craft their wages, should any be due. Perhaps there is a lesson in that as well: the attentive Craftsman sometimes discovers things others pass by.

We should take time to enjoy the fellowship we have built within our Lodge. We should recognize the Brothers who quietly perform the work that keeps our Lodge strong. We should enjoy a good meal together, laugh together, learn together, and appreciate the friendships that Masonry has placed in our lives. We must also learn to have faith that our labor will yield results, even if the harvest benefits another. Perhaps especially if the harvest benefits another.

Soon enough, another year will draw to its close. Before it does, perhaps this season offers us an opportunity to look back over the work we have done and ask a simple question: What will our harvest be?

May we find that the labor of this year has produced something worthwhile. And may we remember to enjoy the nourishment, refreshment, fellowship, and joy that accompany a life well lived among Brothers.

PS – I harvested 23 pounds of potatoes, all from six seeds. My faith was rewarded.

From the South

Nicholas Johnston - Junior Warden

Greetings Brethren, Welcome to October!

It is such a wonderful time in Sacramento, as the temperatures fall (no pun intended) and some of our favorite foods and flavors come back into season. Last month, we looked at the laying of the U.S. Capitol cornerstone in September 1793. October marks a similar milestone: on October 13, 1792, almost a year earlier, the cornerstone of the White House was laid.

The site selection was done by none other than our namesake Wor. George Washington, and the architect for the building was another Past Master named James Hoban. The construction took eight years, and the first residents were President John Adams and his wife, Abigail. They moved into the building in November of 1800.

Below is a short three-minute video put out by the White House Historical Association regarding the cornerstone:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0N0kD3DBjs

Tragically, the cornerstone was later lost during the War of 1812, when the British attacked and burned the White House and US Capitol. The same Wor. Hoban mentioned above helped with the reconstruction in the 1820s.

On a completely different topic, I was inspired this last month to write a portion of this column on the etymology of the name Deacon. The word comes from the Greek word diakonos (διάκονος), meaning servant, attendant, minister, or messenger.

In classical Greek, a diakonos was simply a servant or go-between, often one who waited on tables or ran errands. Early Christians adopted the word for people who performed service roles in the community, as in Philippians 1:1,

where "bishops and deacons" are addressed. Here we as Masons know them as the Junior and Senior Deacons, who carry messages and orders as directed and required for the pillar officers to whom they report.

Certainly an appropriate use of the term for our Officers. In closing, I would like to please remind everyone to RSVP for our upcoming Ladies Night on November 7th. We are looking forward to seeing you there and having a great time.

Astronomy

Christopher Hamilton - Chaplain

The universe the Great Architect has built is vast and seemingly infinite. It stretches out in distances not measured in miles, but rather light-years, the distance a wavelength of light travels in a year. One light-year is 5.88 trillion miles long, yet our solar system is 1.6 light-years in diameter, and our Milky Way galaxy is 100,000 light-years in diameter.

Our closest neighbor, the Andromeda Galaxy, is approximately 2.5 million light years away. The magnitude of scale humbles our human experience and at times may appear to discourage our personal endeavors by impressing upon them a sense of futility and smallness.

However, while referring to Earth as a “pale blue dot,” the esteemed astronomer **Carl Sagan** had this to say:

> **Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar," every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there--on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.**
>
> **The Earth is a very small stage in a vast cosmic arena. Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors so that, in glory and triumph, they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot. Think of the endless cruelties visited by the inhabitants of one corner of this pixel on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner, how frequent**

their misunderstandings, how eager they are to kill one another, how fervent their hatreds.

Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the Universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.

The Earth is the only world known so far to harbor life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate. Visit, yes. Settle, not yet. Like it or not, for the moment the Earth is where we make our stand.

It has been said that astronomy is a humbling and character-building experience. There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world. To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known. (Carl Sagan, Pale Blue Dot, 1994)

I cannot emphasize enough the message Professor Sagan ended with: “our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we’ve ever known.”

Our great planet Earth is a single pew in the corner of an infinite cathedral, an endless temple erected by the Great Architect of the Universe. It is our responsibility to maintain that pew, our beloved Mother Earth, and worship together in harmony to preserve order not just here on Earth, but in the Celestial Lodge infinitely
surrounding us.

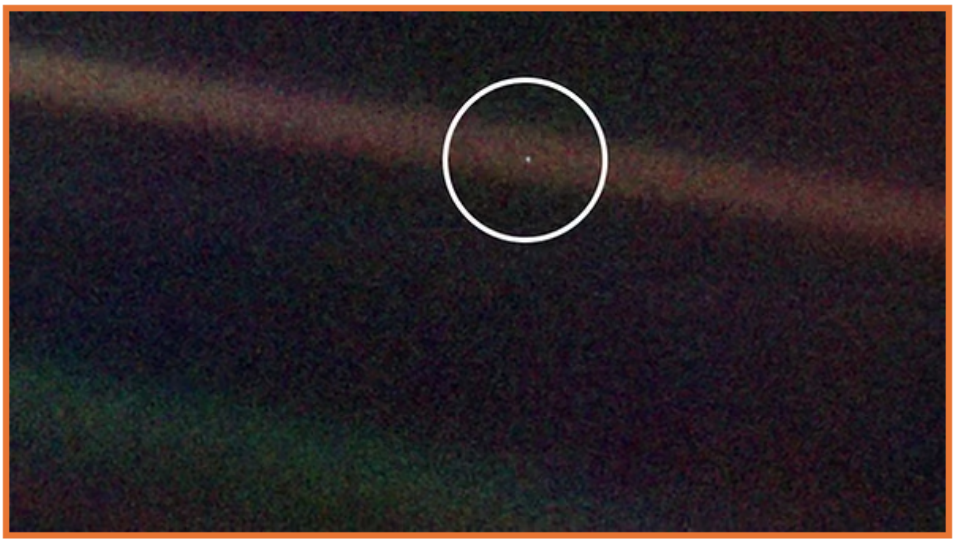

Image taken by Voyager 1 on 14 February 1990. As the spacecraft was departing for the fringes of the solar system, it turned it around for one last look at its home planet. Voyager 1 was about billion miles away when it captured this portrait of our world. Caught in the center of scattered light rays (a result of taking the picture so close to the Sun), Earth appears as a tiny point of light, a crescent only 0.12 pixel in size.

Washington Lodge No. 20 F. & A. M.

Mission Statement

To practice and promote a way of life that binds like-minded men in a worldwide brotherhood that transcends all religious, ethnic, cultural, social and educational differences.

Through Masonic principles and tradition, and by the outward expression of these through its fellowship and compassion, **Washington Lodge No.20 Free & Accepted Masons** provides ways in which to serve God, family, country, neighbors, and self in an environment that contributes to the enrichment and betterment of its members, mankind, and its communities.

Freemasonry is

Kindness in the home,
Honesty in business,
Courtesy in society,
Fairness in work,
Pity and concern for the unfortunate,
Resistance toward evil,
Help for the weak,
Forgiveness for the penitent,
Love for one another and,
Above all, reverence and love for God.
Freemasonry is many things but
Most of all:
Freemasonry is a way of life.

The Tiler's Word

P	A	S	H	L	A	R
A						S
S	S	O	M	H	E	R
B	W	D	B	T	O	C
U	I	S	R	O	M	P
I						A
L	D	E	R	S	S	S

Your Answers:

Find every hidden word
Six words are hidden in the grid.

Trace adjacent letters
Connect letters horizontally or vertically but never diagonally.
Words bend around the blue walls.

Use every tile exactly once
Words can never share a tile.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

- **01 Thursday 6:00 PM**
  - **Stated Meeting Dinner**
  - Banquet Room at 1123 J Street 95814
- **01 Thursday 7:30 PM**
  - **Monthly Stated Meeting**
  - LR1 at 1123 J Street 95814
- **08 Thursday 6:30 PM**
  - **Third Degree Practice**
  - LR1 at 1123 J Street 95814
- **09-11 Weekend**
  - **177th Annual Communication (Website)**
  - 1111 California Street SF 94108
- **14 Wednesday 7:00 PM**
  - **OSI (Officers School of Instruction)**
  - LR3 at 1123 J Street 95814
- **15 Thursday**
  - **DARK**
  - **(Constitutional Observance Night at Natoma 64)**
- **17 Saturday Time 12:00 PM**
  - **Third Degree - Brother Isaí Jaimes**
  - Masonic Home in Union City, CA
- **22 Thursday 6:30 PM**
  - **First Degree Practice**
  - LR1 at 1123 J Street 95814
- **29 Thursday 6:30 PM**
  - **First Degree - Mr. David Crow**
  - LR1 at 1123 J Street 95814

BIRTHDAYS

- 03 **Russell Tomas (Past Master)**
- 03 **Martin Zimmerman** (Master Mason)
- 09 **Jonathan Bray** (Entered Apprentice)
- 13 **John Otten** (Master Mason)
- 13 **Nicholas Grossman** (Master Mason)
- 15 **Christopher Boothe** (Master Mason)
- 26 **Jack Cornelius, Jr.** (Entered Apprentice)
- 28 **J. Scott Goode (Past Master)**
- 28 **Douglas Arrington** (Master Mason)

MASTER MASON ANNIVERSARIES

- 08 **James Lenau** (28 Years)
- 10 **Norman Helsel** (24 Years)
- 13 **Kevin Hall (Senior Steward)** (4 Years)
- 17 **Eric Van Houten** (7 Years)
- 19 **Rodrigo Bitar** (9 Years)
- 21 **Dwight Bradish** (27 Years)
- 23 **Robert Cameron** (23 Years)
- 24 **Paul Evans** (58 Years)
- 25 **David Minke** (14 Years)
- 26 **Mark Christie** (26 Years)
- 28 **Richard Entrican** (50 Years) **Golden Veteran**
- 28 **Richard Redmond** (33 Years)
- 29 **Donte Cuellar** (11 Years)

Washington Lodge No. 20 F. & A. M
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Worshipful Master

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Senior Warden

Nicholas Johnston
Junior Warden

Mauro Lara (PM)
Treasurer

Francisco Marques (PM)
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Christopher Hamilton
Chaplain

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Junior Deacon

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Carlos Brusel-Casals
Junior Steward

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Tiler

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Washington Lodge No. 20
Free & Accepted Masons

1123 J Street 95814

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