

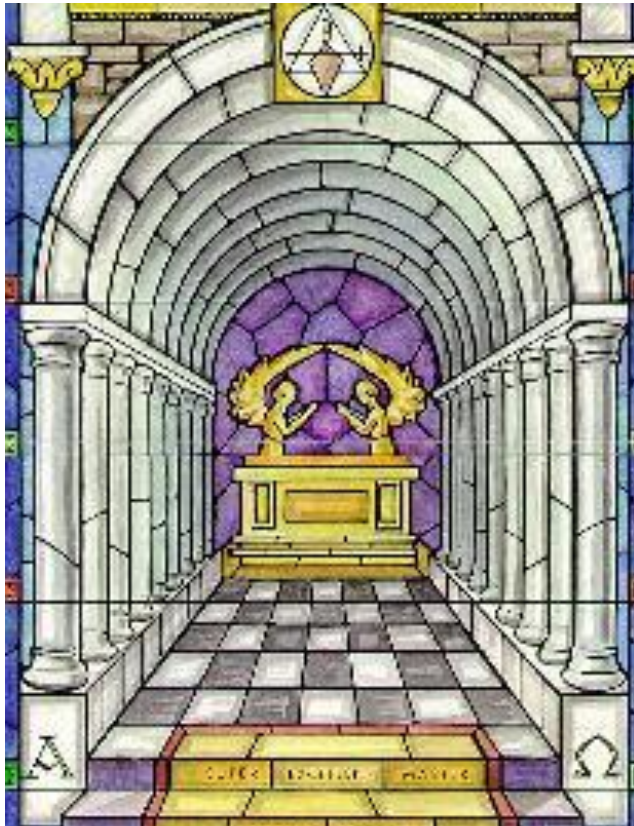
TALES FROM THE CRYPT

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND COUNCIL OF
CRYPTIC MASONS OF COLORADO – INSTITUTED DECEMBER 6,
1894

FEBRUARY, 2024

Greetings, Companions -

We are honored to present to you our publication, "*Tales from the Crypt*". We hope that you will read it, enjoy it and take time to contribute.



*Help us
make the
Tales
interesting*

We want this newsletter to be of value to our Companions. We plan to share information useful to Cryptic Masons throughout the state. We also will include photos and writeups on past events as well as information and plans for upcoming events. We will include educational content, hopefully in a readable and useful format. Most importantly, we will feature information, announcements and photos that you provide. We want this to be your publication. Something that each of us looks forward to receiving and that hopefully will spark interest in Master Masons throughout the state to become part of the York Rite.

Most Illustrious Grand Master's Corner



Greetings from the Crypt!

It is with deep sorrow that I report the passing of Most Illustrious Past Grand Master Roger Stene. Roger laid down his working tools, answered the summons of the Grand Warden of Heaven and went from his labor here on earth to everlasting refreshment in the paradise of God - late in the evening on Christmas Eve. Roger was a fantastic Mason and ritualist who had touched the hearts and lives of many Colorado Masons, myself included. I considered him a true friend and mentor. Roger was one who would step in at the last moment and fill a major ritual role because someone was not available or was sick. Roger was a member of Jefferson Council #24 (Golden) and served as the Most Illustrious Grand Master in 2002 – 2003. An order has been issued to all Colorado Councils to drape their charters for 30 days.

One of the things that Roger always stressed to me was to urge the younger Companions to learn the ritual in order to succeed the older Companions that have been filling many of the major ritual roles for several years. Fortunately, my predecessor, MIPGM Lyle Wilkes has set up a program to do this very thing - the C2IT (Cryptic College Instructional Training) program. The Illustrious Deputy Master of each council is the C2IT representative for his Council. I'm encouraging each Council to actively participate in this program, make it part of their Masonic Education, and further Roger's desire for the younger Companions to pick up the major roles in the Cryptic Masonic ritual work. The entire program can be viewed on our Grand Council website <https://www.coloradocryptic.com>. Once in the website, point to *More* and click on **C2It Program**. Note that it will take some time to load if you click on this link. You can sign up to participate in the program on the website as well.

We are beginning to make arrangements for Official Visits of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons. If your Council hasn't scheduled an OV yet, please contact Clinton Keithline clintonkeithline@gmail.com and work with him on scheduling.

In order to promote Masonic Education within all the Councils, I'm pushing for every Council to get involved with the Cryptic Masonry Education Course by Robert G. Davis. It is available from <https://robertgdavis.net/product/cryptic-masonry-education-course/> for \$20 a copy and well worth it. I will be discussing it at each Official Visit. One question that I'll be asking at the OV's is: How many secret vaults were there? Tell me about them. Get the course now and learn the answers.

It may seem a long way off right now, but the Great Plains Rendezvous is being held on June 22nd this year in Sterling CO and the Colorado Grand Council is hosting. Participating states include Wyoming, Kansas and Colorado. Mark your calendar and please plan to attend. It is very interesting to see the ritual work of other states which can be a little different than we are used too. Any Council who has a candidate can have him take all the Capitular degrees at this event. More information and application

forms will be made available at a future time. We are working on lodging discounts, but I have no information on that yet.

**With gratitude and brotherly love,
Bruce E. Lawrence MIGM**

Right Illustrious Grand Deputy Master' Message

The Importance of the Cherubim in Cryptic Masonry

During a full opening and closing of Council, we twice form the Cherubim. It's done first as all Companions are assembled about the altar in a manner similar to that in the degree work, then again as we each give the due guards and signs of the Royal Master in unison with the Thrice Illustrious Master.

During the Royal Master degree, the Cherubim is formed by all Companions before the Conductor of the Council escorts the candidate into the Council and circumambulates with him about the Lodge room. Each circumambulation is accompanied by a verse from 1 Kings, with the Cherubim described.

“And he set the Cherubim within the inner-house, and they stretched forth the wings of the Cherubim, so that the wing of one touched the one wall, and the wing of the other Cherub touched the other wall, and their wings touched one another in the midst of the house.”

During the historical lecture, the Cherubim is mentioned again as adorning the ends of the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant.

So why is it that what appears to be an insignificant detail be brought up twice during the opening and twice again during the closing?

The lesson of the Cherubim harkens back to the Dionysian mysteries of the 6th century, where they are described as being guardians of the stars and heavens, and bestowers of knowledge. Cherubim were placed to guard the entrance to the Garden of Eden and to prevent Adam and Eve from re-entering the Garden after their fall from grace [Genesis 3:24]. They sit at the throne of God as protectors, but also as messengers of God. They are associated with wisdom and knowledge, and in their role as intermediaries between the spiritual and physical realm provide spiritual seekers a means to deepen their connection with God.

So as each of us form the Cherubim in Council, we are acknowledging ourselves as guardians of the Word. In this sign alone resides a summary of all the lessons of Cryptic Masonry!

Lee Miller, Right Illustrious Grand Deputy Master

Most Excellent Grand High Priest's Message

One of my favorite aspects about Cryptic Masonry is the portrayal of Ahishar in the Select Master Degree and what it reminds us to be weary of. Ahishar is a mason whose values and focus have been corrupted by material matters. He has lost sight of the importance of the trust confided in him. Ahishar being entrusted with a great duty whose prerequisites are loyalty and steadfastness, compares his life to that of a mongrel dog. He views his life and duty as that of a castaway, unimportant, and boring. He is focused not on faithfully completing his task, but on idleness and the worldly pleasures he may be missing. He no longer values duty for duty's sake but asks of reward and is not satisfied with patience. We can assume that at one time Ahishar did not behave this way, but was a loyal and steadfast brother, he would not have been chosen for such an important task otherwise.

Ahishar forgot the honor and dignity of the position into which he was appointed once the true work began. Titles and honors are simply words, the true value is in the dedication to the work you have been entrusted with. The daily monotony should not outweigh the importance of faithfully executing the duty you are charged with. By his falter another could have suffered severely. It may not be glamorous or exciting but it is still an integral part of the plans. Masonry is work, though it is not always the most glamorous or exciting work on a daily basis it is still important. We are taught to value duty for duty's sake, and be true to trusts confided in us, and this short section reminds us to be weary of the traps even the most dedicated brother is susceptible to from time to time.

Craig Fabec, MEGHP



Most Illustrious Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Colorado 2022-23 Officers

L-R – Don Shearer, Bruce Lawrence, Grover Sardeson, Lyle Wiles, Robert Tresize, Lee Miller, Clinton (Rusty) Keithline, Rick Benish, Ralph Newby, John Francis, Craig Fabec, Danny Tomlinson, Mike Brewer

Most Illustrious Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Colorado

2023-24 Officers – Contact Info

Officer	Grand Companion	Phone	Email	District Lecturer
MIGM	Bruce Lawrence	303-906-9265	Bruce.e.lawrence@gmail.com	Council 1
RIDGM	Lee Miller	303-961-6455	jlmwrite@gmail.com	Councils 8, 24, 27

RIGPCW	Clinton Keithline	303-257-8380	K_autotop@msn.com	N/A
RIGT	Thomas Thompson	720-422-0608	tom@denverconsistory.org	N/A
RIGR	Grover Sardeson	720-884-7259	groversard@aol.com	N/A
ILGL	Rick Benish	970-554-0250	rcbenish@gmail.com	N/A
ILGC	Joe Kier	303-919-6768	joekier@earthlink.net	N/A
ILGCOG	Craig Fabec	719-568-2690	Cj.fabec@hotmail.com	Councils 2,5,6
ILGCOC	Mike Brewer	303-961-2718	Mike.brewer@allurdata.com	N/A
ILGM	Danny Tomlinson	303-638-6509	dtomlinson@msn.com	Councils 11, 13, 20
ILGSTEW	John Francis	720-350-0635	jwfbama@msn.com	Councils 7, 19, 21
ILGH	Donald Nichols	303-877-9651	Don5cents@yahoo.com	N/A
ILGSENT	Gregory Harris	720-204-0850	Gregharris1413@gmail.com	N/A
ILGMUS	Robert Tresize	970-827-9134	N/A	Councils 3, 10, 16

Note: Please send updates and corrections to the Council information for 2023-24 below to dtomlinson@msn.com

COUNCILS 2022-2023

<p>Denver Council No. 1 Meets: 1614 Welton St. Denver 4th Monday each Month 7:30 PM Except June, July, August, December Dan Rivers Thrice ILL. Master Todd Warburton III Deputy Master</p>	<p>Rocky Mountain Council No. 2 Meets: 132 E Main St. Trinidad 2nd Tuesday each Month 7:30 PM Except January, February Larry Childs Thrice Illustrious Master Russ Sharpe ILL Deputy Master</p>
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Keith Anderson III. P.C. of Work Grover L. Sardeson Recorder	Reuben Vigil III P.C. of Work Allen C. Nicol Recorder
Durango Council No. 3 Meets: 304 E. 1st St. Cortez 81321 1ST Wednesday each Month 7:30 PM R. Bruce Koons Thrice III Master Peter Dumont III. Deputy Master Ellis Miller III. P.C. of Work David Wilson Recorder	Pueblo Council No. 6 Meets: 126 Broadway Pueblo 3rd Tuesday Nov., Feb., May, June 7:30 PM Tom Scheulen Thrice Illustrious Master Keith Benbow Illustrious Deputy Master Bill Goodman III. P.C. of the Work Ralph Newby Recorder
Hiram Council No. 7 Meets: 701 Baseline Rd. Lafayette Alternate 3rd Wednesday each Mont 7:30 PM Darren Klinefelter Thrice III. Master Ty Colemere III. Deputy Master Ken Matens III. P.C. of Work Patrick Dey Recorder	Zabud Council No. 8 Meets: 1150 Panorama Dr. Colorado Springs 2nd Thursday each Month 7:30 PM Except July and August Joe Surek Thrice III. Master Ray Dunn III. Deputy Master Diego Rodriguez III. P.C. of the Work David Reitan Recorder
Telluride Council No. 10 Meets: 178 Hotchkiss Ave., Hotchkiss 1st Wednesday each Month 7:30 PM Except July, August, September Michael Briscoe Thrice III. Master M. Scott Wilson III. Deputy Master Jeff Bush III. P.C. of Work Jeff Cyriacks Recorder	Tyrian Council No. 11 Meets: Georgetown & Central City & Idaho Springs. Published at mastermason.com/Tyrian- Council- 11/index.html Danny Tomlinson Thrice III. Master Tom Dailey II. Deputy Master Ashley Buss III P.C. of the Work Stephen P. Davis Recorder

<p>Alpha Council No. 13 Meets: 619 Harrison Ave. Leadville 2nd Monday Each Month 7:30 PM Except July and August Lee G. Anderson Thrice III. Master Joe Edwards III. Deputy Master Edward C. Shober III. P.C. of Work Robert C. Trezise Recorder</p>	<p>Grand Junction Council No, 16 Meets: 2400 Consistory Ct. Grand Junction 2nd Monday each Month 7:30 PM Michael S. Briscoe Thrice III. Master Greg Foster III. Deputy Master Chad Rilling III. P.C. of Work Jeffery G. Bush Recorder</p>
<p>Sterling Council No. 19 Meets: 198 Springdale Rd. Sterling 4th Tuesday. Each Month 7:30PM Charles R. Hicks Thrice III. Master Merlin Wright III. Deputy Master Cleat Young III. P.C. of the Work Harry A Peterson Recorder</p>	<p>Salida Council No. 20 Meet: 140 W 3rd St. Salida 3rd Tuesday each Month 7:30 PM Dwight Wilson Thrice III. Master Dave McCann III. Deputy Master Bailey Velasquez III. P.C. of Work Ronald Garrett Recorder</p>
<p>Larimer County Council No. 21 Meets: 225 W. Oak St. Fort Collins 3rd Tuesday each Month 7:30 PM Except June, July and August Timothy Sanks Thrice III. Master Ian Greenwood III. Deputy Master Greg Todd III. P.C. of Work David Vaughan Recorder</p>	<p>Jefferson Council No. 24 Meets: 400 10th St Golden 2nd Thursday, Dec. Jan. Feb. 7:30 PM Miquel Galvez-Estevez Thrice III. Master Tim Lambert III. Deputy Master Peter Finnie III. P. C. of Work Lee Miller Recorder</p>
<p>Eastlake Council No. 27 Meets: 1625 Florence St. Aurora 1st Wednesday each Month 8:00 PM Ed Sisk Thrice III. Master Don Nichols III. Deputy Master Diego Rodriguez III. C. P. of Work John Francis Recorder</p>	

We have attached a few photos from the recent Grand Lodge Communication in Grand Junction that you might enjoy. It was a great weekend of fellowship and brotherly love with MIGM Bruce and several of the officers representing the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons. How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.















We apologize that there was no *Tales from the Crypt* last month. No excuses, just life getting in the way and a very busy month. We hope you enjoy this issue.

Please send any articles, photographs or announcements of upcoming events to me at dtomlinson@msn.com

We are truly blessed, Brothers and Companions – Be well and thank you!

Bruce Lawrence

Most Illustrious Grand Master

And

Danny Tomlinson

Illustrious Grand Marshall and Editor