

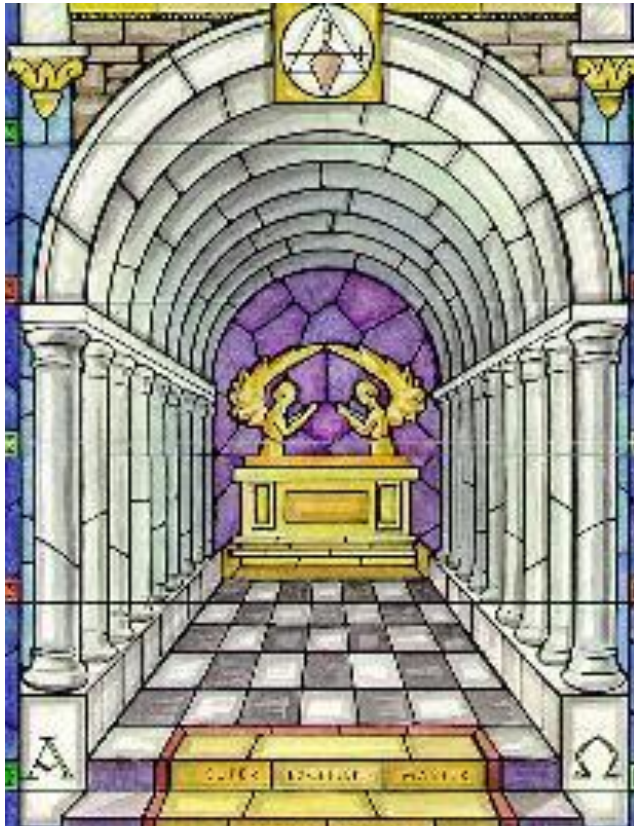
TALES FROM THE CRYPT

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

MARCH, 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!

This last month I had the honor of attending the Grand York Rite Sessions for the state of Hawaii as the MIGM of Colorado. I want to thank them for their hospitality and in making me feel the Aloha spirit.

A dinner for the Companions and their ladies was held the Friday night before the Grand Sessions at Tiki's Grill & Bar in Waikiki that gave me an opportunity to meet with old friends and make new ones. I owe a lot of thanks to Seth Connell, their Grand Recorder, and my old friend Gerhart Walch.

The organization of the Hawaiian Grand Lines is quite different than that in Colorado. They only have 200+ York Rite Masons across all the islands which reduce their pool of men to serve in the Grand lines. As a result, a companion will generally be in all three Grand Lines. They are stair-stepped so that the outgoing ME High Priest will become the MI Grand Master, and the outgoing MIGM will become the RE Grand Commander. They started the business meeting at 10:00AM and finished it for all three bodies by lunch. The afternoon was presentations and installation and we were out of there by 4:00PM. What made it special was that the installing officer for the Grand Chapter officers was the General Grand High Priest, MEC Teko A. Foley, and for the Grand Council officers was the **Most Puissant General Grand Master, William "Bill" G. Snyder. We are attempting to have both of these Companions at the Colorado Grand York Rite Sessions in September.**

On a different note, I'm still encouraging all the Colorado Councils to do Masonic Education around the Cryptic Masonry Education Course sponsored by the General Grand Council Cryptic Masons International. Order through <https://robertgdavis.net/product/cryptic-masonry-education-course/> at \$20 a copy. Money well spent. One question I put to everyone, for which the answers are in the course; How many secret vaults were there?



Honolulu Masonic Lodge – left is the MW Grand Master: Dustin T. Verity

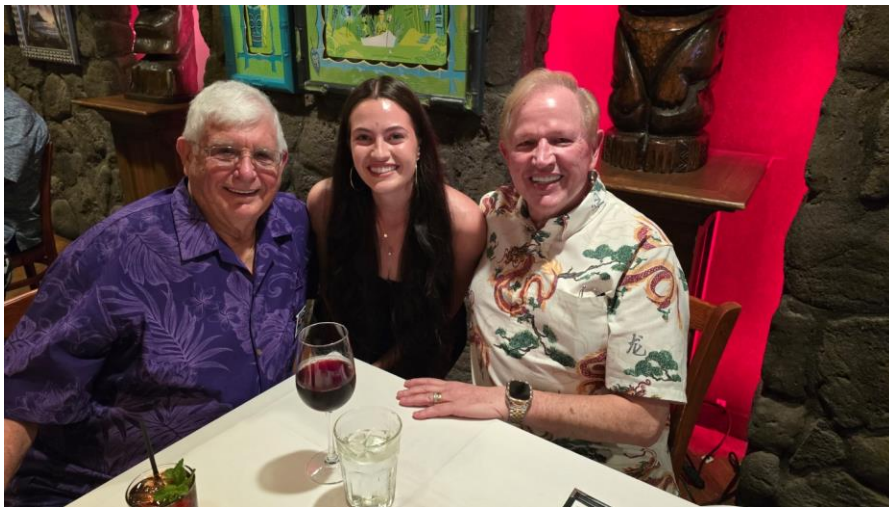


Honolulu Masonic Temple Lodge room





Left -MIGM Bruce Lawrence with **General Grand High Priest, MEC Teko Foley**
Right - MIGM Bruce Lawrence and **Most Puissant General Grand Master, William “Bill” G. Snyder.**



MIGM Bruce Lawrence, his granddaughter Kealohanuiokalani, and Gerhart Walch, Friday dinner

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

Right Illustrious Grand Deputy Master' Message

In my previous column, I discussed the significance of forming the cherubim during our ritual. We learned that the cherubim sat at the throne of God as protectors, and even further in antiquity served as guardians of the heavens and stars. Cherubim sit on each end of the mercy seat with their wings spread to protect the seat.

But what form did cherubim take?

If pressed, many of us would probably describe a childlike angel of sorts, with a beatific face and white or golden wings as depicted in the classical paintings by Angelico, Botticelli, Vernet, and Thayer.

Not so. Ezekial 10:14 [KJV] and Revelation 4:7 tells us that *“And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.”* Similarly in Revelation 4:7 [KJV] describes them *“And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.”*

The four faces as described in Revelation should resonate for every Royal Arch Mason. During the opening, the EHP asks the Captain of the Host to what the four veils allude. The answer is *“To the four principal tribes of Israel, which bore their banners in the wilderness, Judah, Ephraim, Reuben, and Dan, whose emblems were the lion, the ox, the man, and the eagle.”* Shortly thereafter, the EHP then asks the Captain of the Host what the banners emblematically teach. The answer returned is *“That when engaged in the pursuit of truth, the great object of Masonic study, we should have ‘the courage of the lion, the patience of the ox, the intelligence of man, and the swiftness of the eagle’ ”.*

There is other significance of the faces. The animals associated with the Christian tetramorph originate in the Babylonian symbols of the four fixed signs of the zodiac: the ox representing Taurus; the lion representing Leo; the eagle representing Scorpio; the man or angel representing Aquarius. Throughout church history, the most common interpretation is that the lion represents Mark, the calf Luke, the man Matthew, and the eagle John.

But the important lesson that should be derived from the four faces of the cherubim should be derived from a different interpretation. In Genesis 49, Jacob called for his sons to gather around him and speaks to each of them of future events. He calls Judah his “lion’s cub”. The lion represents royalty, and symbolizes Jesus as the prophesied Messiah.

The ox has long been recognized as a symbol of strength, yet one that will humbly submit to authority. This is the symbol of Joseph’s son Ephraim who was elevated to the third most powerful position in a great empire, but who humbly submitted himself to God’s will.

Man, unsurprisingly, represents humanity and how we connect to God. Jesus was described as the “Son of Man” in that he was born of mankind. His humanity is what God expects to see in us.

The eagle is a symbol of God’s divine nature and glory. The ancients were in awe of the eagle, who lived in remote, inaccessible, high mountains seen as the meeting point between Earth and Heaven.

Each of the four faces of the cherubim portrays different facets of God’s character. Each face speaks to how God possesses each one. Instead of having separate roles, they unite to become one in God. Thus, the cherubim become a reflection of their Creator.

- Lee Miller, Right Illustrious Grand Deputy Master

Upcoming Official Visits

Companions – the Most Illustrious Grand Master and several of the Grand Council Officers will be making Official Visits in the coming month. All Cryptic Masons are invited to attend any of these official visits and we hope to see you there. The planned visits are as follows:

- Tuesday, March 19, 2024 – 6 pm at Pueblo Masonic Temple
 - Rocky Mountain Council #2
 - Pueblo Council #6
 - Zabud Council #8
 - Salida Council #20
- Tuesday, March 26 – 6 pm at Sterling Masonic Temple
 - Sterling Council #19

Dinner will be served at each of these visits, with Council opening after dinner. No ladies' entertainment for either.

Rusty Keithline, MIGPCW



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>	

WHAT IS THE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF THE YORK RITE DEGREES?

- I. **Entered Apprentice** – A few years before the death of Hiram Abiff
- II. **Fellowcraft** – A couple of years before the death of Hiram
- III. **Royal Master (First Section)** – Just prior to the death of Hiram
- IV. **Select Master** – Just prior to the death of Hiram
- V. **Master Mason** – At the death of Hiram
- VI. **Royal Master (Second Section)** – Just after the death of Hiram
- VII. **Mark Master** – Just before the completion of the Temple
- VIII. **Most Excellent Master** – Shortly after the death of Hiram
- IX. **Past Master** – Sometime after the death of Hiram
- X. **Super Excellent Master** – Beginning at the destruction of King Solomon's Temple
- XI. **Red Cross** – During the time of Prince Zerubbabel and the building of the second Temple
- XII. **Royal Arch** – At the building of the second Temple
- XIII. **Order of Malta** – Approximately 1,000 years after the birth of Christ
- XIV. **Order of the Temple** – Approximately 1118 A.D.

Henry Wilson Coil, in his excellent Masonic encyclopedia published in 1961, Posited that the Cryptic Degrees of the York Rite are “one of the smallest but one of the most important and certainly one of the most curious of all the rites.” Both the Royal Master and the Select Master Degrees are of the type know as French *Ecoissais* Degrees. There are numerous degrees under the same, or a similar name, but they all have one particular in common – they detail the method adopted for the preservation of the true Word.

In the higher grades of Masonry, these are often labeled the Ninth Arch, Secret Vault, or Sacred Vault Degrees, and carry the name “Cryptic”, as derived from the Greek *crupe* or the Latin *crypta*, meaning to “hide” or “conceal” or “secret”. Thus, the central theme of these degrees all revolve around a vault, cave, or place of underground concealment.

All Cryptic degrees are centered on stories involving a vault or crypt wherein certain treasures were hidden beneath King Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem for very specific purposes.

The degree of Royal Master, as well as the others in the Council, is only conferred on those who have passed through the mystic and impressive ceremonies of the Holy Royal Arch. The degree is the eighth degree of the American Rite, and the first of the cryptic degrees conferred in a Council of Royal and Select Masters. The council chamber, or place of meeting, represents the private apartment of Solomon, King of Israel, wherein he conferred with his two colleagues; Hiram, King of Tyre and Hiram Abif, while the temple was being erected. Hiram Abif represents the Principal Conductor of the Work in the first section of the degree. After his death, Adoniram assumes this role. However, in the first section, the Conductor of the Council represents Adoniram. It should be noted that a Council of Royal Masters is not opened unless a degree is to be conferred.

As printed in the Cryptic Masonry Education Course, A Modern Monitor

By Robert G. Davis, Masonic Scholar and Author

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! Have a wonderful Christmas holiday.

Bruce Lawrence

Most Illustrious Grand Master

And

Danny Tomlinson

Illustrious Grand Marshall and Editor



The Knights Templar Association of Colorado

Presents the 99th Annual

Oldest Consecutive Presentation of

Easter Sunrise Service in Colorado

Sunday, March 31, 2024

At 6:30 A.M.

Doors Open At 5:30 A.M.

Denver Consistory

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

1370 Grant Street

Denver, Colorado

Rev. Dr. A. J. Bush, Pastor

Free Parking available

The Consistory Garage Open 4:45 am & Street

Breakfast will be available for purchase online at www.coloradokta.org

Any questions may be directed to 303-596-3008 or PennJR@comcast.net

