



A N O K A M A S O N I C L O D G E # 3 0 A . F . & A . M .

Address: 1908 3rd Ave. Anoka, MN, 55303 Phone: (763) 421-3357

Greetings from the East!

February is a very busy month at Anoka #30 as we start out the first day of the month with our February Stated Meeting.

Due to January's snowstorm, we postponed the Lodge of Sorrow, so we rescheduled it for the February Stated Meeting. We will be celebrating the lives of our Brethren who have entered the Celestial Lodge above in 2022 as WB Greg Vokovan closes our Lodge of Sorrow for 2022 and opens our Lodge of Sorrow for 2023. WB Todd Mayer will also be providing some education with his presentation on "The Celestial Lodge."

Bro. Jay Dworsky will also continue with part two of a presentation he started in December about spreading brotherly love and affection within our brotherhood and our lodge as well as nurturing that fraternal bond which unites us. I am excited to hear the sequel!

We have three new Masons to welcome to Anoka!

Chris Meehl who went through the One Day to Masonry and attained the sublime degree of a Master Mason on the 21st of January.

Nick Zahorovsky was initiated at our Anoka EA degree on January 18th and

Jeff King who was initiated as an EA on January 24th, as a courtesy at Nelson Lodge. Thanks to those who came out to support our new brothers.

Congratulations to all of you. Welcome to Anoka #30! Please take the time to welcome them to our Masonic family when you see them at the lodge!

Our annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on February 18th from 4-7pm with Bro. Brent Merritt preparing his delectable meat sauce and bringing the flavors of Sicily to our dining room once again. We will need some help in the kitchen, so please reach out if you are able to help with this event benefiting our lodge. Please spread the word to your neighbors!

Finally, I am pleased to announce that we have a 100th Anniversary gold coin that was minted for the 100th anniversary of our current building and with the purpose of raising some money for some of the projects we need to complete this year on our lodge building. The cost of the coin is \$20. Check with one of the lodge officers or Secretary to get yours. Thank you to our own Bro. Alex Westerso for your work on the design! They turned out really great! Get yours before they run out!

See you at Lodge.



Fraternally,

Daryl Warmack

Master Anoka #30

Greetings from the West



It has been an incredible January, which saw your 3 principal officers attending the Metrowest Lodge of Instruction at Wayzata Lodge. We also welcomed Brother Nickolay into our fraternity at the EA degree held at Anoka, Brother and also Brother Jeffrey who was initiated as a courtesy at Nelson Lodge. It's great to see the experiences coming back to normal with Schools of Instruction showing the numbers we saw years ago and our pipeline of candidates also showing an increase. Know that your officers are here for you and if you have any plans or ideas that you think could better our Lodge or ideas for a particular event, please feel free to attend the officer meetings which happen on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Also, if you are interested in the ritual work we have a degree practice immediately following that meeting so feel free to hang out and study the ritual with us. Here's to an even busier February for Anoka and all of its bodies.

Jeremy Hill
Senior Warden

Salutations from the South!

Greetings Brothers,

As I write this first article, two things come to mind immediately: 1) I am pushing Peg's patience by being the last one to submit and need to do better, 2) I am uncomfortable in writing for others to read. Nothing fills me with dread more than a writing assignment, especially for a group of peers, mentors and Masonic "heavy hitters". I find I sit and ponder for hours on what the topic should be, what is the actual purpose of the article, etc., without every settling on what I feel is a sound solution. So, the snap decision is to write a little on the St. Johns.

As all things Masonic, the origins of why both St. Johns are patrons of Freemasonry is shrouded in mystery. It is known that the two saints were already the Patrons Saints of Freemasonry at the formation of the Grand Lodge of England on St John the Baptist's day, June 24, 1717. One thought is that they were selected due to Speculative Mason's journey to seek "light" or understanding and knowledge of himself so that he can improve not only his own moral and social self, but also contribute to improving others around him as well. Since both days that celebrate the St. Johns are solstices, i.e., the summer solstice being St. John the Baptist's and the Winter Solstice being St. John the Evangelist's, it made sense to adopt these saints to watch over all Masons seeking "light".

A different thought is that the duality of the two saints made them perfect for adoption by Speculative Masons. St. John the Baptist being seen with a strict and rigid moral code represented the way a Speculative Mason should conduct himself mentally and physically with others. The Speculative Mason was expected to be constantly looking for ways to advance his intellectual knowledge to think of ideas to solve the social ills of the day as well as improve his physical body to contribute to the labor needed to implement those ideas.



St. John the Evangelist being seen with a more philosophical and esoteric code represented the way a Speculative Mason should conduct himself emotionally with others. The Speculative Mason was expected to treat all people with love, loyalty, and friendship, helping not only a fellow Masonic brother in need but also his fellow citizen. Working under the guidance of the two saints would thus create a more well-rounded human being capable of bringing positive change to those around him.

Regardless of the reasons for their adoption, the St. Johns continue to be strong examples of how the modern Speculative Mason should act with the world around him.

In Brotherly Love and Friendship **James Surratt, Junior Warden.**

Let's Meet the 2023 Officers

Aaron Brendel, Senior Deacon

As I am sure many of you also do, I often am asked one of two questions; 1) When did you become a Mason? or 2) Why did you join?

Both of those answers are very much related. I petitioned the moment I was able and joined when I was 18 years old! I joined my Home Lodge, Equity #131 in Janesville, Iowa because I had mentors and adult leaders who I respected and looked up to who were members of that Lodge. Those Masons were my DeMolay advisors, and they were men of outstanding character, giving hearts, and embodied all of what our craft is supposed to be.

The interesting thing, looking back, is that none of those men volunteered with DeMolay because they were hoping to eventually gain new Masons. They didn't believe DeMolay was a "Jr. Mason" membership funnel. They volunteered with DeMolay because they believed in the core concept of Masonry of building a better world, and they did it by modeling Masonic principles and character to the young men so that they would later be men of character themselves. If those young men later joined Masonry, great...if not, the mission was still accomplished.

If we as Masons are role models, mentors and involved in the lives of young people; if we show them what it means to be a Mason; and most importantly, if we show them we care about them, the future world will be made better. And who knows, maybe they too will want to be a part of the Craft as I did 30 years ago.



Darren Swenson, Junior Deacon



Hello, my name is Darren Swenson. I am your Junior Deacon for this year. I joined Anoka lodge in 2015. Anoka was my choice for Masonry and Lodge because of the love and brotherhood that we share here. I am the Prophet Monarch for Selim Grotto this year. The Grotto is a fun brotherhood of Masons and Families that like to do things together as a group. I also am the Double Eagle for the Scottish Rite at Anoka. If you have any questions about either group let me know.

Upcoming Anoka Lodge Events:

- Wednesday, February 1st – Coffee
9:00 am
- Wednesday, February 1st – Lodge of Sorrow
Dinner 6:00 pm
Meeting 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, February 8th - Officers/Trustees Meeting
6:00 pm
FC Practice 7:00 pm
Past Masters Committee 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, February 15th - Coffee
9:00 am
- Wednesday, February 15th - Fellowcraft Degree
Dinner 6:00 pm
Degree 7:00 pm
- Saturday, February 18th - Spaghetti Dinner
4:00 – 7:00 pm



Stewards Corner

February Menu

February 1st – Fettuccine Alfredo
with Breadsticks

February 15th - TBD

Come enjoy good food and
fellowship!

Jake Shoulak, Sr. Steward

Joe Shoulak, Jr. Steward



Coffee Clutch

Come join us on the 1st and 3rd
Wednesdays at 9:00.



If you or someone you know in our Masonic Family needs support, please contact Dave at (763) 755-2431 or Gary at (612) 598-8682.

Greetings Brothers and Friends,

The pits are cold right now but planning for the 2023 BBQ season has begun. More information to follow next month.

**From the Pit,
Todd Mayer
Bones Brothers
President**



Greetings Anoka Brethren,

I have an update to our quest to regain the BFG. It appears another Lodge beat us to the punch in January and claimed the BFG from Chippewa 275. The good news is that we are still on for a 3-hour drive to claim it, as Nashwauk Lodge #331 is now the current home of the Anoka BFG. I have the phone numbers for two of that Lodge's members and plan on calling the last week of January to see if we can attend their next Stated. A quick Google search shows they meet the 3rd Tuesday at 7 pm. I hope to have more info at our February stated.



**In Brotherly Friendship,
James O. Surrat**

Sisters, Brothers, and Friends of Martha Chapter,

Sisters and Brothers,

Wow, winter sure came in with a blast! So much snow already and we still have March to go! The one nice thing that I have noticed is that the days are getting longer!



February 2 Meeting- "Grilling/Chilling on the Beach"

We finally made it to California, the land of milk and honey! We will be hearing about some of the sites to see on the road and then celebrating at the Santa Monica Pier – the end (or beginning) of Route 66!

February 4 – "Winterfest"

We will be selling concessions at Winterfest again this year. We will be serving from 11:00am – 1:00pm. If you would like to come and help, contact Peg Oliver. There are lots of things for the family to do, so bring them out to enjoy the Minnesota winter and have something warm and delicious to eat!

February 16 Meeting- "Broken Chain"

The second meeting in February we will be remembering those members who have passed away this last year with a short memorial service. We will also be hearing from the budget committee and trustees as to where they recommend our fundraising proceeds should be donated.

We will again be hosting the Minnesota Grand Representatives Association Luncheon and Annual Meeting on Sunday February 26th. This is a great time to meet those who have been honored with a Grand Representative appointment. This year we have 3, John Antl – Texas, Greg Vokovan – Michigan, and Curt Speller – New Brunswick. Safe travels to your Grand Jurisdictions and enjoy your time with your counterparts!!

Julia Tollgaard, WM

Greg Vokovan, WP





Greetings from Bethel #48

Hello everyone! I hope the new year has been treating you well. Our last meeting of Alyssa's term was January 2nd when we retired our capes and crowns. We, as a Bethel, have had a pretty exciting month since we were installed on January 8th. We installed Molly M. as Honored Queen, Carrie G. as Senior Princess, and Kate A. as Junior Princess. 8 days later, we had our first meeting as our new positions! Our Honored Queen has made it a goal to have fun events every Saturday, so if you are interested, make sure you contact us at bg48@mnjd.org! Bring your daughters, grandkids, sisters, friends, and anyone else you think would be interested in Job's Daughters! Our closest one is sledding on Feb. 4th! Molly has a lot of exciting plans for February, so make sure to keep in touch if you want to

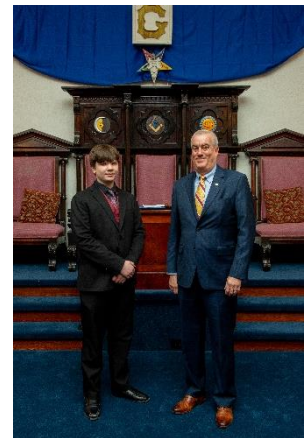
know more. We hope that you all have a good wrap-up to the end of January and that you stay happy and healthy.

Sincerely,

**Carrie Gillilan,
Senior Princess**

Greetings from Anoka DeMolay,

In January, Anoka DeMolay had their Officer Installation. Avery Rippel was installed as Master Councilor, Zachary Agustin was installed as Junior Deacon, Michael Karnatz was installed as Marshal, and Kaidyn Troy as Chaplain. We look forward to an amazing year with our new Officers. We were honored to have Grand Master Tony Krall join us for this amazing celebration!



In February, we will be going to Highlander Games in Coon Rapids for a board game night. Feel free to join us! As a reminder, we have our stated meetings on the second Tuesday at 7:00pm at Anoka Lodge!

**Check us out on our website.
anoka@mndemolay.org**

**Come one, Come all
And
Enjoy!!!**



Hello from the Minneapolis Scottish Rite,

Degree classes are in full swing.

February 2nd - 12th and 13th Degrees

February 9th - 14th Degree

February 16th - 15th and 16th Degrees

February 23rd - 17th and 18th Degrees.

March 2nd is Anoka 30's Adoptive Degree. We have ALL Anoka members in this degree.

If you are a Scottish Rite member, come out and support your brothers! See myself or Terrance if you have any questions.

Thank You

Darren Swenson
Double Eagle for Anoka 30



Greetings from Shekinah #52!



The 2023 Officers of Shekinah #52



It is a new year with a new charter for Shekinah #52 Royal Arch Masons. When the Royal Arch chapter at Anoka Lodge was reestablished in 2011, the Minnesota Grand Chapter required a new name and a new number, hence Anoka-Shekinah #104 was born. For the last eleven years, it has been the desire of the Companions to return to their original name and number. The Companions were thrilled when they were informed that they would receive a new charter with their original name and number at the York Rite Grand Session in 2022. After spending some time getting framed and ready for presentation, the new charter was processed into the lodge at the chapter installation on January 15, 2023 and is now proudly hanging in the lodge.

The officers and the Companions of Shekinah #52 are ready and excited for a new year. The One Day to Royal Arch is on Saturday, February 25th for anyone who is interested in joining. We would like to thank our outgoing High Priest David Birkman for his dedication and leadership throughout the past year and especially thank our Companions who worked to restore our original name.

Ty Schmidt
Excellent High Priest

From Zabud Council #10.....



Greetings Anoka Masonic Family from the Officers of Zabud Council No.10, Cryptic Masons of Minnesota.

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month following Shekinah Chapter No.52 U.D., at approximately 8PM.

Greetings from the Cryptic Council,

Cryptic Masonry or as some may call it "The Purple House", completes the Hiram legend. In the York Rite system of Freemasonry, we are taken back to the time before the completion of the first temple of King Solomon. Here we learn about the various companions of the craft who, in the second degree of symbolic masonry, labored within and without the temple, but especially one individual by the name of Adoniram. Adoniram who later becomes a very important character in the ninth arch or Select Master's Degree asks the age-old questions "What if?" and "When?". From these two simple questions much of the storyline of the first two degrees of Royal Master and Select Master are derived, more about Adoniram later. This year I will explore these fascinating topics and more as I continue to illuminate the brotherhood to value the beauty and simplicity of the Royal and Select Master Degree. The secret of the vault is yet to be discovered by many and I challenge the Masonic Brotherhood to explore their search for more light in the York Rite. The One Day to the Royal Arch and Cryptic Council is this February, find a petition and join us.

**Illustrious Master David Birkman
Zabud Council No. 10**

**Anoka Lodge #30 A.F. & A.M.
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