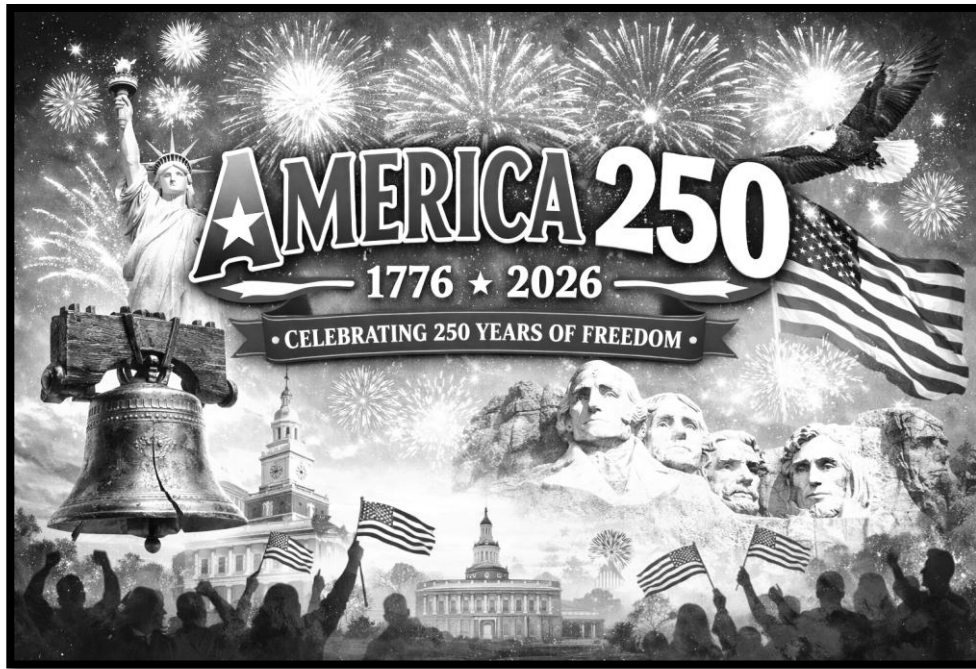


Happy 250th Birthday, America!!

P LUMBLINE

Hobbs Masonic Lodge #63 AF & AM



From the East:

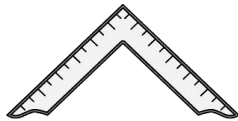
Hello Brethren,

Reflecting on this year, Hobbs Lodge 63 has been quite active.

We began 2026 with several Widows Luncheons. Seven ladies attended in January, five attended the Valentine luncheon in February, and seven widows joined us in March, along with Brethren and their families who came to show support.

Attendance declined in the following months, with only three ladies attending in April and one widow attending each of the next two luncheons. Although these gatherings offered a warm and welcoming setting, the Widows Luncheon will be canceled due to limited participation.

On the third Saturday of each month, I host a Masonic breakfast and invite all members, along with their spouses, families, widows, and members of the Order of the Eastern Star. **A Masonic Family event.** These potluck gatherings, generously supported by our Masonic families, provide a meaningful time for fellowship and camaraderie.



Because the 149th Annual Communication of Grand Lodge was held in Santa Fe in March, that month's breakfast was moved to April 18th. May's breakfast was well attended, while June's was canceled due to other events in Lincoln and Roswell, New Mexico.

Brethren, once again, a brother of our adoption, a companion of our choice, has been called to that spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens. Brother Charles Beadley passed to that Grand Lodge above on February 11, 2026. Please remember Pamela Beasley and family in your thoughts and prayers.

With sincere joy and pride, we congratulate Brother Romel and Brother Marquez on receiving their

Master Mason's Degree. This meaningful achievement reflects their dedication, perseverance, and commitment to personal growth and lifelong learning. Brother Austin Musgrave stepped up and conferred the first section, and RWB Eddie Lynch took the part as King Solomon in the second section. What a great night.

Brother Romel shared that his desire to join Freemasonry was inspired by his deep respect for the Institution, his pursuit of greater knowledge, and his heartfelt wish to serve others. These qualities reflect the spirit of Masonry and provide a strong foundation as he begins this important journey among the brethren.

The 149th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of New Mexico was a success. Voting delegates included Grand Lodge officers, Past Grand Masters, Past Elective Grand Lodge Officers, lodge Masters and Wardens, and those holding proxies. Hobbs Lodge was well represented, with all stationed officers in attendance.

Brother Austin Musgrave, Senior Warden, and I arrived Thursday afternoon and attended the Masonic Charity Foundation meeting. I was honored to nominate RWB Glenn Connolley for the MCF Board of Directors; he was elected by the lodge master's and later selected as Treasurer. Congratulations to RWB Glenn on this appointment.

That evening, we enjoyed the Grand Master's Reception in the Scottish Rite Temple courtyard, with Mariachi music, food, refreshments, and fellowship. After remarks from MWB Robin Justice, we retired for the night before Friday's 8:00 a.m. session.

Friday opened publicly in the Exhibition Hall with Grand Officers in tuxedos, a Flag Presentation, and the Star-Spangled Banner performed by the Grand Musician. MWB Robin Justice welcomed everyone, followed by introductions of Masonic leaders, representatives, and Past Grand Masters.

After the public opening, formal proceedings began with reports, introductions, and the Grand Master's address, which was referred to committee. Lunch followed in the Scottish Rite Dining Hall.

Work continued with additional reports and the election and installation of Grand Officers for 2026–2027:

- **Kevin Leo Fitzwater**, Grand Master
- **Alexander Michael Cosby**, Senior Grand Warden
- **James Ernest Bungard, PM**, Junior Grand Warden
- **Wade D. Villanueva**, Grand Treasurer
- **Leonard Elliot Roughgarden**, Grand Secretary

The Grand Master's Banquet and Awards Ceremony was held that evening. The next day, votes were taken on the Grand Master's Recommendations and Resolutions before the 149th Annual Communication was formally closed. The 150th Annual Communication is scheduled for March 19–20, 2027, in Albuquerque.

During the subsequent Hobbs Lodge 63 meeting, Brother Austin Musgrave, Senior Warden, presented a comprehensive report on Grand Lodge activities. The evening's main event was the celebration of RWB Eddie Lynch's 98th birthday, who noted that he is now preparing for his 99th milestone.

Sadly, on April 19th, we lost Masonic Widow Avis Kellum, the widow of 32nd Degree Mason WB Fred Kellum. Our loss was Heaven's gain. Thank you to all who offered their responses and support.

Thank you to everyone for your help this year.

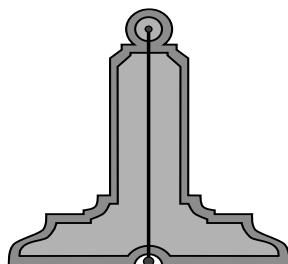
WM. Isaac Huskey

From the West:

Dear Brothers,

As the summer season begins, offering a welcome opportunity to slow down and enjoy vacations and family gatherings, we are reminded that our Masonic obligations and principles do not take a vacation.

The tenets of our fraternity—Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth—should remain evident in our daily lives year-round.



Summer often places our character in the public eye. Whether we are traveling, spending time with neighbors, or attending community events, we carry the reputation of Masonry with us. The lessons taught within the lodge are meant to guide our conduct in every aspect of life, defined by courtesy, honesty, patience, and kindness.

This season also provides unique opportunities to practice relief and charity. Many families face increased hardships during these months, and a Mason should remain attentive to the needs of others. Relief often comes through small acts of compassion: checking on an elderly neighbor during extreme heat, assisting a friend with a project, or supporting local charities.

Furthermore, summer gatherings like picnics and lodge barbecues strengthen the bonds between brothers and our families. These moments remind us that Masonry is as much about building genuine friendships as it is about ritual and meetings.

Finally, I encourage you to use this slower pace for personal reflection. Consider how faithfully you are living according to our principles and if you are setting a positive example for others. Masonry teaches us that the work of self-improvement is never complete.

As we enjoy the blessings of the season, let us remember that being a Mason is a daily commitment to live honorably and serve willingly. By practicing our tenets throughout the summer, we continue to strengthen both ourselves and our fraternity.

SW. Austin Musgrave

From the South:

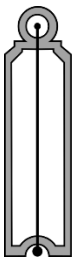
Fellowship, Reflection, and the Path Forward

Brethren,

As we move into the warmth of the second quarter of 2026, I find myself reflecting on the deep bonds of fellowship that define our ancient Craft. It was truly a highlight of the year to travel to Santa Fe recently for the Grand Lodge of New Mexico's Annual Communication. Accompanied by our Worshipful Master and Senior Warden, I found the experience of meeting with Brethren from every corner of our state to be both inspiring and rejuvenating.

The weekend was equally special for our families. Liz and her daughter, Elida, had a wonderful time connecting with the women of the jurisdiction and participating in the various activities organized for them. It serves as a beautiful reminder that while our work happens within the Lodge, the support and community of our loved ones are the foundation upon which we build.

On a more personal note, I wish to extend my sincere apologies for my absence from our stated meetings and events over the past three months. Life often presents us with seasons that demand our full attention elsewhere. March was largely consumed by professional obligations and work functions that required my



presence. During April and May, I chose to step away from the area to focus on personal growth and self-improvement—a period of "working on the rough ashlar" of my own character in a more private setting.

This time away provided me with a renewed perspective on the Masonic virtue of Temperance.

In our ritual, we are taught that Temperance is that due restraint upon our affections and passions which renders the body tame and governable, freeing the mind from the allurements of vice. However, Temperance is more than just moderation in diet or drink; it is the discipline of balance. It is the wisdom to know when to work, when to rest, and when to seek the silence necessary for the soul to hear itself. By practicing Temperance, we ensure that no single aspect of our lives—be it work, ambition, or even our struggles—overwhelms the harmony of the whole.

I am eager to return to the labors of Hobbs Lodge and to see each of you again. Thank you for your continued brotherhood and understanding.

Fraternally,

JW. Michael Walker

Interesting Facts American Revolution Edition:

- Before he was appointed head of the Continental Army, Washington had never commanded a large army in the field.
- Colonists signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. However, the Continental Congress declared its independence two days earlier, on July 2
- Over 230,000 Americans served in the Continental Army during the war.

Upcoming Events:

July 18th – Table Lodge, “a special, highly traditional meeting centered around a formal ritualistic banquet. Unlike standard lodge business meetings, a Table Lodge is focused on fellowship, historical celebration, and strict ceremonial etiquette—usually held in the Entered Apprentice degree so all Masons can participate.”

July 31st through August 8th – Lea County Fair
“The 90th Annual Lea County Fair & PRCA Rodeo

September 12th – Past Master Dinner “a fantastic way to honor the ‘living archives’ of your lodge, bring out older or less active members, and enjoy strong fellowship”

Lost Hero: The Mason Who Backed the Revolution



By Walter J. Klein, 33°

Photo: Haym Salomon, sketch from the National Archives, Advanced Research Catalog ID ID: 532941 / Local ID: 148-GW-1124

There is not a word about him in Mackey's or Coil's Masonic encyclopedias. No lodges are named after him. And yet he has been a Masonic and national hero

since the earliest days of America's revolutionary movement.

No one has ever doubted his heroic contributions to the Revolution. But the Masonic fraternity has, for 235 years, somehow missed honoring him as the brave financier of the Revolution while he was affiliated with Maryland Lodge No. 2, Ancient York Rite.

Who is this Mason who served his nation in its most fragile and endangered years? Brother Haym Salomon.

Born in Lissa, Poland, in 1740 and of Portuguese descent, he left his homeland after its partition in 1772. Salomon's family was highly respected with many learned people. He enjoyed the friendship of Gen. Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Gen. Casimir Pulaski, two other Polish-born American patriots.

He settled in New York where he met and married Rachel Franks, daughter of Moses B. Franks of London whose brother Jacob Franks was a lieutenant colonel on General Washington's staff. Rachel was the sister of Colonel Isaac Franks, judge of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Moses and Jacob Franks were sons of Adam Franks of Germany, a friend of King George of Hanover, who loaned that monarch the most valuable jewels in his coronation crown. Jacob Franks was the British king's sole agent for the Northern Colonies at New York and his son David was the king's agent for Pennsylvania. One would think that with such comfort and security in the new world Hyam Salomon would swear allegiance to the British crown.

He did not.

Salomon bravely joined the American cause, a decision which led to his financial destruction. He was arrested and imprisoned as a spy soon after the occupation of New York by the British in 1776. Salomon was closely confined for a long period of time in the prison known as Provost which stood on the spot later occupied by the New York Hall of Records in City Hall Park. There

Salomon and his fellow prisoners laid down every night to sleep, their bones aching on hard oak planks instead of a bed. They were so tightly wedged as a solid mass of bodies that they could turn right or left only on command.

Salomon knew English, Polish, German, Russian, Spanish, and Italian. Hessian General Leopold Philip von Heister heard of that and appointed him to the commissariat department of the British forces. There he rendered much service to American and French prisoners and helped many to escape. He created dissention among the Hessian officers, prompting several to resign from the service.

In 1778 Salomon was taken by British General Sir Henry Clinton on charges that he had received orders from General Washington to burn fleets and destroy warehouses, "which he had attempted to execute to their great damage and injury." He was then put back in prison, tortured, and condemned to hang.

But on August 11 he bribed his jailer and escaped to Philadelphia, possibly with the help of his close friend General Alexander McDougall, commander of the American army of New York. Two weeks later he petitioned the Continental Congress to permit him to work for the cause. Congress did not accept Salomon's offer, but it turned out that rejection worked to the benefit of the young republic and to Salomon as well. He established himself in business, becoming one of the greatest financiers of his adopted city. He was entrusted with the negotiation of all the war subsidies of France and Holland solely on his personal integrity. Several European financial houses trusted and did business through him.

When Robert Morris became America's superintendent of finance, he had 75 transactions with Salomon between August 1781 and April 1784.

In his 1911 book, *Haym Salomon, The Financier of the Revolution*, the Reverend Madison C. Peters wrote,

Salomon's matchless enterprise, eminent respectability, remarkable intelligence, irreproachable integrity, his delicate sense of mercantile honor, his unbounded

benevolence for all mankind, and, above all, his undying hatred of English tyranny, soon led to his recognition by the leading men of his time, and the uncompromising, implacable foe to British dominion was brought into intimate relationships with the Revolutionary patriots.

Rev. Peters also wrote, "Not only did Salomon advance large sums to the Government for which he received no return, but the

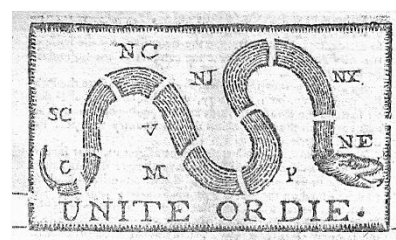
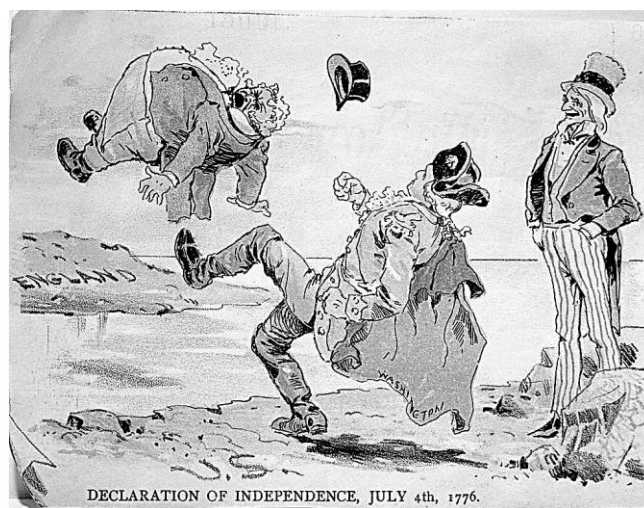
services of James Madison, Edmund Randolph, Generals Mifflin, St. Clair and others were retained in the cause through his bounty." In a 1791 letter Madison wrote, "The kindness of our friend in Front Street [Bro. Salomon] is a fund that will preserve me from extreme necessities, but I never resort to it without great mortification as he obstinately refuses all recompense. To necessitous delegates he gratuitously spares from his private stock." Henry Wheaton said, "Judge Wilson, so distinguished for his labors in the Convention that framed the Federal Constitution, would have retired from public service had he not been sustained by the timely aid of Haym Salomon, as delicately as it was generously administered."

The secret support of Charles III of Spain for the American cause was said to have been due to Salomon's efforts. Indeed, Bro. Salomon was friends with all foreign powers in sympathy with the American Revolution at one time or another. James Madison, twice President of the United States, considered the most learned and patriotic member of the Revolutionary Congress, said of Salomon, "When any member was in need, all that was necessary was to call upon Salomon."

Was this remarkable man ultimately rewarded for all gave and gave up? Sadly no. Bro. Haym Salomon died January 6, 1785, at the age of 45. He was bankrupt and left his wife and four children penniless. He was recognized posthumously with a US commemorative stamp hailing him as a "Financial Hero," and by a statue of him and Robert Morris, the financiers of the revolution, with George Washington.

His obituary in Philadelphia's *Independent Gazetteer* is a tribute to the esteem in which he was held by all.

Thursday, last, expired, after a lingering illness, Mr. Haym Solomon, an eminent broker of this city, was a native of Poland, and of the Hebrew nation. He was remarkable for his skill and integrity in his profession, and for his generous and humane deportment. His remains were yesterday deposited in the burial ground of the synagogue of this city.



***Cartoons from
the American
Revolution***