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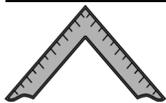
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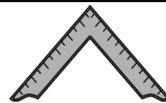
VOLUME 142

December 2023

NUMBER 11



From The East



Mission Impossible?

Freemasonry, like all other large organizations, is plagued with the same obstacles and problems which can lead to any dis-functional operation.

Mix multiple generations, nationalities, backgrounds, personalities and motivations into one group and there will be conflicts and confrontations. Any one of the variations listed can be a cause of tension, but, stir in Type A and Type B personalities with

three different age groups, and backgrounds that range from blue collar workers to those who may be from a privileged class, and human frailties (like motivational factors which do not necessarily align with the stated values of an organization) and tempers will inevitably flare.

The organizers of Free and Accepted Masons undoubtedly recognized the challenges of organizing these varied groups into a cohesive unit and instituted a strict set of guidelines, rules, and cultural norms. Our basic tenets: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth; acting upon the Square; learning to subdue our desires and keep our passions within due bounds; forsaking any ulterior motives regarding becoming a Mason; and affirming these goals by swearing to God that we uphold our oaths and obligations, are designed to assure that we act in a Masonic manner and that the Peace of Harmony of the Lodge is not disturbed.

If I had to list a single facet of Free Masonry that has contributed to my journey toward becoming a better man (which I was admonished to start showing the world the night I was raised), it would be the ever-present mantra in my head about subduing my desires and keeping my passions within due bounds.

We will never all sit around the campfire and sing kumbaya in perfect harmony, but since we entered into the fraternity of our own free will and accord, let us strive to achieve the level of Brotherhood to which we all publicly ascribe. Let us put aside age, background, personality differences and motives which might illustrate bad behavior.

There are two attitudes or behaviors which should NEVER be associated with Masons, pompous and sanctimonious, both of which are usually followed by "ass". Rather than me relating the definition these words, look up the definitions and their synonyms and then make a concerted effort to avoid ever behaving in such a manner.

Let all of us pay heed to exactly what we came here to do and demonstrate to the world that Masonic behavior is the gold standard for all large organizations.

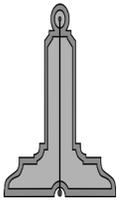
December Calendar

Mon Dec 4	Reservations for dinner due Noon	
Wed Dec 6	Stated Meeting Dinner	6:00 pm
	Stated Meeting	7:00 pm
Sat Dec 9	Installation of Officers	2:00 pm
Dec 9-25	Winterhaven Parking	5:00 pm
Wed Dec 27	Officer Practice	7:00 pm
Wed Jan 3	Stated Meeting	7:00 pm

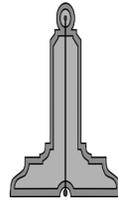
Please refer to the Worshipful Master's weekly email for the latest updates as the details of the events are not yet fully known when this edition is sent out.

Sam Greer

Worshipful Master (PM-elect)



From The West



“Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished.”

-Lao Tzu

Hello from the West! It is my hope that Thanksgiving treated you well. The quote above is something we forget far too often. We are taught to rush most things we do and eventually come to a point where we find we may have missed a step or lesson. Patience is key in all things. It's easier said than done more often than not. It's important, at the very least, that we give grace to one another as we never know what anyone else is going through. Every person wants to do their best in most things they do. Some are just quicker at being the “best” than others and some reach their level of the “best” and it does not match others idea of what the “best” is. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Specifically, the idea of perfection is a matter of personal opinion.

As many are aware we had our elections last month. I was bombarded with congratulations WM elect and people asking me about “my year”. I am appreciative of the sentiment as I know it is positive. In my opinion next year isn't “my year”. It is OUR year. An opportunity to allow and encourage the younger men in our lodge to be involved and grow. I know many of the brethren support us in this endeavor and I'm thankful for that. As we get situated and practice our parts I ask for grace as there may be some speed bumps.

That being said, our future looks bright and I am very excited to watch these brothers grow. Congratulations to all elected and appointed officers!

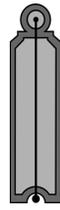
Coming up we have Winterhaven parking which is an important fundraiser for the lodge. We now have a Santa suit and should have some fire wood left in one of the storage rooms. Last year we found that just having a fire and sitting at it encouraged a lot of people to park with us. Please join us out at parking and enjoy some fellowship with your brethren.

I encourage you every one of you to come out to a degree once the year gets started. Sit on the sidelines and be a part of one of the most memorable moments in a young masons career. Be that smiling face a brother sees in his darkest hour. Be that friendly voice on the other end of the phone when a brother needs it most.

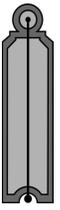
Time is fleeting and each of us is only given so much. It's not too late to do the things today you said you'd do yesterday or tell those you love how much you care.

Fraternally,

Trevor Janzillo, Worshipful Master-elect



From The South



Thank you to all those who elected me Senior Warden for 2024. I will do my best to live up to your expectations. Together we will have a great year.

In Masonic voting, members should approach the process with a deep sense of responsibility and adherence to the principles of the fraternity. Each member's vote is a symbolic expression of their commitment to the values of Freemasonry and the welfare of the lodge. It is crucial to uphold the Masonic ideals of equality, justice, and brotherhood during this process.

Members should cast their votes thoughtfully, considering the greater good of the lodge and its members. Transparency and open communication are vital, ensuring that all eligible members have the opportunity to express their opinions. In the spirit of Masonic teachings, individuals should set aside personal biases and vote in alignment with the principles of virtue and morality.

Moreover, Masonic voting requires a commitment to harmony and unity within the lodge. Members should engage in respectful discourse, fostering an environment where differing opinions can be expressed without discord. The process should reflect the Masonic emphasis on building strong bonds among brethren.

Candidates or proposals under consideration should be evaluated based on their alignment with Masonic values, the betterment of the lodge, and the advancement of its members. It is incumbent upon Masons to be well-informed about the issues at hand, ensuring an enlightened decision-making process.

Bo Paxton, Senior Warden-elect

From the Junior Warden-elect

I would like to thank all the brothers who elected me to serve as Junior Warden for 2024. I look forward to sitting in a new chair and working with our newly elected Senior Warden and Worshipful Master.

Brothers Dan Febrer and Austin Pena will continue providing the lodge our wonderful meals. They have told me they could use some additional help preparing the stated meeting dinners. If your schedule permits and you are interested, please let me know. Also, if you have any recommendations on the menus, please advise.

Thank you all and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Darryl Weaver, Junior Warden-elect



From The Secretary



"The work of the individual still remains the spark that moves mankind ahead."

Igor I. Sikorsky

Being the month of December, I am in the process of closing out another masonic year. I want to thank the brethren for once again electing me as your secretary. I will do my best to serve the lodge and its members. I really enjoy what I am doing.

As of this writing we have 93 members who still need to pay their dues. We are well ahead of where we have been the last couple of years. If I have received your dues payment, your card is at least in the mail (or on my desk if you are a regular attendee at lodge). I usually get dues cards out the same day I receive the payment. The new dues cards a slate blue in color. So, if you card is still light green (last year's) please send in your dues. For those of you who are Perpetual Members, feel free to make a donation to offset the per capita payment we need to make on all the perpetual members. We pay per capita on our regular dues payers and perpetual members, but not Senior Life or Regulation 19. As a reminder, dues are due December 31st.

In the process of sending out dues cards and notices I have had quite a few returned as non-deliverable. If you move, please let me know either by phone or email (tl4s0@outlook.com). If you activated your account in Grand View, you can make your own updates. The system will notify me when contact info is updated.

The new security gate across the front of the building is finally up. I have to admit, it does look quite nice (for a gate) as it is painted a sand color. I have received many favorable comments about its appearance. We put the gate across the entry way to stop some of the "locals" from camping out on the benches, leaving their trash (and other things) behind, and to increase the security of the lodge. During the summer we had two of the concrete benches broken and someone also stole the doorbell. (Don't ask me why).

Lastly, Winterhaven parking runs Dec 9-25th. This is our main lodge fundraiser and is free money. We just stand out there and collect it. There is a sign up sheet on my office door and shifts run from about 5pm to 10 pm-ish.

As this is the December issue, I want to wish all my brethren the peace, love, and joy that goes with the season.

Did I say, I really enjoy what I am doing?

Paul A. Simpson, PM, Secretary

DECEMBER MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

NAME	DAY	YEARS
DAVID ARTHUR BERNE	3	49
RICHARD GERALD HALL	5	49
RAFAEL LEIDY-ESCABI	5	31
JOHN FRANKLIN THOMPSON	6	28
BENJAMIN ANDREW HARNET	8	19
RALIUS VICTOR ERICKSON	9	31
JOHN LEE KALTENHAUSER	9	17
CHARLES ALLEN ROSIER	10	34
RONALD LEE RICHEY	11	49
JACK ROLAND STATLER	11	61
SCOTT ALLEN CLICK	21	40
CLYDE RAYMOND SNOW	22	13
ROGER PAUL SCHNEIDER	28	21

Mention it is your masonic birthday month and get a free meal at that month's stated meeting.

Our Sick and Distressed Brothers

Brethren, please keep the following ailing brethren in your prayers. If you would like to send a card, please contact the secretary for their address.

Rich Hall, James Moore, Ralph Francis

If you know of any brothers who are sick or in distress please let the Senior Warden or the Secretary know.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

NAME	DAY
GABRIEL CLASS	1
JACK CARSON ANDRES, SR	5
JAMES DONALD WADLEY	7
WILLIAM EDWIN AHEARN	8
JUSTUS MATTHEW SMITH	10
GERALD LEE FRANCIS	12
RICHARD ALLEN CLICK	13
EROC DONOVAN MADDEN	19
LYLE STANLEY WILCOX	22
DAVID WAYNE REID	25
GREGORY HAMMONDS	26
JEFFREY DANIEL SWANGO	27
THEODORE ROSS VIEU	27
RICHARD GERALD HALL	29
ROBERT WILLIAM HESLIP	29
RICHARD EUGEN TOLER	29
GALE EDWARD PETERSON	30
TRAVIS ALVIS KISNER	31
JERRY EDDVILLE WHITE	31

Feel free to drop these brothers a card on their earthly birthday.

A Hero's Quest

In antiquity the highest form of art was an author's ability to modernize an ancient tale in a modern context. Freemasonry sets its initiates on a journey reminiscent of the classic hero's quest, a narrative as ancient as the oldest of tales. This journey mirrors a profound adventure through initiation, challenges, and ultimate transformation, much like Odysseus leaving Ithaca or the magical entry into Hogwarts by Harry. Joseph Campbell, a scholar of mythology, coined the term "the hero's journey" to describe a common narrative structure found in myths and stories across cultures. According to Campbell, this universal monomyth follows a pattern of departure, initiation, and return. The hero begins in the ordinary world, facing challenges and trials, undergoing profound transformation through initiation, and eventually returns to the ordinary world, forever changed, empowered, and better able to assist others with the gift of their wisdom.

In the Masonic journey, the symbols and tools become trusty companions, whispering secrets of the universe to the initiate. As Masons progress through the degrees, from Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and to Master Mason, they embark on their own hero's quest. Challenges and symbolic lessons unfold, akin to the trials faced by legendary heroes. The hero's journey in Freemasonry is not just a personal exploration but a contribution to a legacy of shared wisdom and everlasting transformation.

Justus Smith

Ed. Note—For more information, read The Hero Has a Thousand Faces by Joseph Campbell

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Gaslight Theatre

Once again, we will be making another pilgrimage to the far east side of Tucson (Kolb Rd) to the Gaslight Theatre. **Save the date—Friday, April 19th at 8:30 pm.** Tickets will be \$22 for adults and \$17 for children. We have reserved 40 seats in our "usual" area. As we get closer to the date, we will have more information. Reservations can be made to the secretary.

JIM SMITH

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SAHUARO HIGH TWELVE #523
Meets every Thursday 8:00AM
Old Times Kafe 1485 W. Prince Rd.



FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL

Meditation on the Origins of Freemasonry

By Bro. Andrew M Bergman

On the day that I became an Entered Apprentice, the words "From Time Immemorial" epitomized the timelessness of Our Ancient Craft. Then I turned to research, and encountered a host of theories, each, in varying degrees, at odds with one another, as to the origins of Freemasonry. Some told me that The Craft dated from the time of the building of Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem. Others, asserting that this was only symbolic, were convinced that Masonry dated from the building of the great Cathedrals and fortresses of medieval Europe. Another, which traced Our Craft to the time of the Pharaohs of Egypt, backed itself up with convincing evidence.

Ultimately, it was up to me to decide to which school or schools of thought I should wholly or partially subscribe. Exploring this conundrum within a mystery surrounded by an enigma, I started to question the relevance of knowing the exact point in history where Freemasonry emerged, standing distinct from the Profane.

No-doubt, scholars far more erudite than I have come to this point, and had similar thoughts on the matter, but for me, because I reached this conclusion for myself, it will always be far more real than anything I could read in any book.

When I was made and Entered Apprentice, I was asked: "Where were you first prepared to become a Freemason?" I was faced with a classic "chicken and egg" dilemma: Do men endeavor to be good, brotherly or upstanding because they are Freemasons, or do men become Freemasons because they endeavor to be good, brotherly and upstanding?

While there are compelling arguments to support the former, I tend to be more inclined to the latter. A diamond is born of Nature, not made by man, and however crudely or skillfully cut remains, and always was, a diamond.

I doubt that any amount of symbolism, ritual, reli-

gion, philosophical teaching or plain moral guidance will make a confirmedly selfish reprobate a suitable candidate for Freemasonry. Some seed will always fall among thorns, and there are, alas, those who will never see the Light, however brightly it may be shone in their eyes. Freemasonry shows us the door, and opens it, but we must enter of our own free will and accord.

When I was made and Entered Apprentice, I was asked: "Where were you first prepared to become a Freemason?" The answer: "In my Heart," suddenly took on a far more profound meaning than I had ever given it.

On the day, way back in that proverbial "time immemorial", some man, however primitive, considered that conflict and hate simply did not make as much sense as harmony and brotherly love, and decided to live his life accordingly. I believe that it was on that day that Our Ancient Craft was born, and that in his heart, that man was the first Freemason.

Who that man was, where that man was and how that man came to that conclusion is supremely irrelevant.

Ed Note—This was in the my archives of masonic writings. I had corresponded with Bro Bergman many times when we were both members of the old masonic group on Prodigy (if you remember that platform, you are old like me). I imagine by now Bro Bergman has made it to the celestial lodge above. I feel his words from back then still apply today.

ADVERTISING IN TUCSON 4 NEWSLETTER

Would you like to get your business out to your Masonic Brothers? If so, consider taking out an ad in the Tucson Lodge 4 Newsletter. It is published monthly and gets sent out all over the State. You will also be helping your Lodge continue to provide its members and friends with current articles and information. A 1/8 page (business card) is only \$75.00, a 1/4 page ad is \$150.00, a 1/2 page ad is \$300.00 and a full page ad is \$600.00. If interested please contact the Lodge secretary and we will set you up. Thanks for your support.

TUCSON LODGE MASONIC FAMILY SCHEDULES

Saguaro Chapter #48 OES, Second & Fourth Mondays	7:00PM
Olana Temple #131, Daughters of the Nile, Third Monday.....	6:00PM
Oasis Court #75, Ladies Oriental Shrine, First Monday	6:00PM
Daughters of Scotia, Second Friday.....	7:00 PM
DeMolay - Arizona Chapter, First Sundays.....	For info Contact Arizona.Chair@AzDeMolay.org
Bethel #25, Job's Daughters	For info Contact Laureen at bethel25azjdi@gmail.com
Assembly #2, Rainbow Girls	For info Contact Paul Simpson at psimpson130@gmail.com

For use of the Lodge Building contact the Lodge Secretary at tl4so@outlook.com

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