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FROM THE EAST

“Freemasonry is not for everyone, nor should it try to be.” — Andrew Hammer

Hello from the East,

Guarding the West Gate is one of the most important responsibilities we have, and I’m not sure we talk about it enough.

For years, we heard that our numbers were shrinking. Lodges were losing members, sometimes steadily, sometimes quickly. Whether that number was three percent or something else, the message was clear: we were getting smaller. And I believe that led many lodges, consciously or not, to become more lenient in who we allowed in. The focus slowly shifted from who we admit to how many we admit.

The problem is, numbers are not the goal. They never were. And when numbers become the goal, quality almost always suffers.

Recently, we’ve seen more Masonic trials than we had in many years prior. That should make us pause and ask why. In my opinion, part of the answer lies at the West Gate.

Freemasonry is not just a social organization. It is a place that asks a man to look inward. It holds up a mirror and, in its own way, asks: Here you are. Are you willing to improve what you see?

That process requires honesty. It requires humility. And at times, it requires vulnerability.

We often say that the lodge is a place where a man can let his guard down. That is a powerful thing. But it also creates a responsibility. Because if we admit a man who is not truly good, or not striving to be, that vulnerability can be misused. And when that happens, it doesn’t just affect one brother, it affects the entire lodge.

The question, then, is what we mean by a “good man.”

None of us are perfect. Every one of us has made mistakes. If a man were judged only by his worst moment, few of us would stand. So perfection cannot be the standard.

But there are lines that are clear. A man who does not handle his responsibilities, who lacks basic integrity, or who harms others without remorse, is not ready for what we offer.

Beyond that, I believe the real question is simpler, and harder: Is he willing to become better?

We often say that we take good men and make them better. But the truth is, no lodge can make a man better. We can provide tools. We can provide guidance. But the work is his.

If a man comes to Freemasonry believing he has nothing to improve, then he will reject everything it offers. And if he rejects the work, then what exactly has he joined?

So perhaps the issue has not been that we admitted too many men. Perhaps it is that we admitted men who had no desire to change.

(cont page 3, col 2)

FROM THE WEST

Brethren,

The Square, the Level, and the Plumb are so central to our ritual that their mere omnipresence makes them invisible or forgettable. I'll be the first to admit that, while I stand in the West to assist the Worshipful Master, that doesn't make me immune to that kind of ritual blindness. The jewels are right there in the room every time we meet, but most nights I don't notice them. It actually takes the final question about how we meet and act for me to reach down, lift the Level slightly up and see those tools for what they really are.

We know that the Square, the Level, and the Plumb are construction tools, but for us, they represent the floor and foundation of our moral life. They're the tools we are taught to use to measure our own conduct. However, if we are to be totally honest, we frequently ignore the internal labor at hand simply due to the fact that the daily distractions that we encounter in life have a tendency of getting in the way.

This inward labor is a common thread running through nearly every faith tradition. I don't think the difference with the Craft is in the end goal. The fact is, we got tools and not a map. Traditions will often guide a man into an arranged path or some form of doctrine to embrace. However, Masonry does not deliver a roadmap, and it does not place a ceiling. How high we build is up to us. Instead, it equips us with the instruments to construct that level floor on which we can stand tall and perform the work for ourselves.

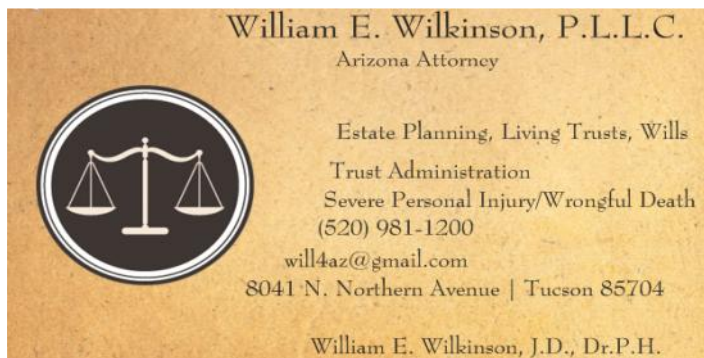
This is where the tools actually meet the stone. We talk in our ritual about changing the Rough Ashlar into a Perfect Ashlar, but most of us have probably heard a different way of looking at it. What if we actually start with a Perfect Ashlar? What if that perfection is already in us, put there from the start? It might be a pattern, or even just some inward measurement. That roughness we see in ourselves may not even be who we really are. It is simply the silt of social shortcuts, intellectual laziness, and ego we've covered ourselves in just to survive in this world. Seen this way, creating perfection is not our job. Our job is to uncover it. We need to rub off the grit that collects on us until we return back to what was there before. We use the Square, the Level, and the Plumb as the gauges to ensure our stone is indeed true enough to sit flat on its base. You simply cannot put a level floor down when the stone is still obstructed by its own jagged edges.

We need to wake up each and every day recognizing that we, in fact, know very little. That realization is really the most difficult part of the work, if we are being honest, but that's what it takes to lift up the gavel with any real intent. It is the labor each man must undertake: whittle down the ego until the stone beneath is ready for placement.

I look forward to our May meeting and the fellowship beforehand. And if nothing else, I hope the next time you glance at the Square, the Level, or the Plumb, you see them for what they really are. They're the tools we need to make sure the foundation beneath us is actually true, level, and upright.

Fraternally,

Moe Momayez - The Senior Warden



OUR SICK AND DISTRESSED BROTHERS

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

Ron Hill, Earl Starr, Earl Shambo, Gene Wickey, Mary Yandell (Wes' wife) and Catheryn Simpson (ankle surgery)

If you know of any brothers or family members who are sick or in distress please let the Senior Warden or the Secretary know. If you would like to send a card, please contact the secretary for the appropriate address.



FROM THE SOUTH

Seasons of Change

If you've stepped outside lately, you've probably noticed that Arizona has, once again, politely declined to acknowledge spring and moved straight into summer. One day it's pleasant, the next day you're wondering if your car door handle is legally classified as a branding iron.

But whether the change is subtle or abrupt, the seasons always move forward. And if you've been around the Lodge long enough, you start to notice that our lives move in seasons too.

There are seasons of energy—when we can be at every meeting, help with every degree, and still have enough left in the tank to stay late and solve all the world's problems over coffee. These are the seasons when we build, lead, and carry the work forward.

There are also seasons of responsibility—careers demanding more, families needing more, life simply getting fuller. In those seasons, maybe we're not here as often, but when we are, we bring experience, perspective, and a steady hand that only comes with time.

And yes, there are quieter seasons too. Seasons where just making it to Lodge is the contribution. Where presence matters more than participation. Where a kind word, a handshake, or simply occupying a seat in the room is part of what keeps the Lodge alive.

The beauty of Masonry—and of our Lodge—is that it has room for all of these seasons.

Not every Brother is meant to do the same work at the same time. Some are planting, some are tending, and some are simply ensuring that what has been built endures. None of those roles are lesser. All of them are necessary.

If you find yourself in a season where you can give more, give freely. If you're in a season where you can only give a little, know that it still matters. And if you're in a season where you're not sure what you can give—start by showing up. That alone carries more weight than you might think.

The seasons will change again. They always do.

And when they do, the Lodge will still be here—ready for whatever you're able to bring next.

Logan Gaither
Junior Warden

MAY CALENDAR

Mon May 4	Dinner Reservations Due	Noon
Wed May 6	Stated Meeting	7:00 pm
Wed May 13	Master Mason Degree	6:30 pm
Wed May 20	Degree/Practice	7:00 pm
Fri May 22	Cigar Night (Anthony's)	7:00 pm
Wed May 27	Degree/Practice	7:00 pm
Wed Jun 3	Stated Meeting	7:00 pm
Jun 4-6	Annual Communication (Tucson)	

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.

(From page 1)

Guarding the West Gate is not about exclusion for its own sake. It is about preservation. It is about protecting the environment we all rely on, one built on trust, growth, and mutual respect.

If we get that right, the numbers will take care of themselves.

If we get it wrong, nothing else we do will matter.

May this month again be a time of fellowship and shared growth. May we attend our gatherings with open hearts, ready to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood. Let our lodge be a testament to the transformative power of Masonry, where harmony prevails, and the light of wisdom shines bright.

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.

Your brother, *Jrevor Janzillo*

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.



MASONIC MUSINGS ON MORTALITY

Worshipful Brother Sir Alexander Fleming: A Legacy in Science and Freemasonry

WB Sir Alexander Fleming (1881–1955) stands as a shining example of how Masonic principles can inspire and guide groundbreaking achievements. A Scottish doctor, microbiologist, and Nobel laureate, Fleming is celebrated for his discovery of penicillin—an advancement that forever changed the face of medicine. As a dedicated Freemason, he was initiated into London's Sancta Maria Lodge No. 2682 in 1909 and later served as Master in 1924 and Misericordia Lodge No. 3286. He was also appointed to high senior rank in the United Grand Lodge of England. His journey exemplifies the intersection of intellectual curiosity, humility, and service to humanity. Notice he was born the year Tucson Lodge #4 was chartered.

Freemasonry and the Pursuit of Light

Freemasons are united by a shared commitment to seek light and meaning through service, knowledge, and brotherhood. From the earliest days, brethren have sought to unravel the mysteries of the universe, pushing boundaries in science, philosophy, and society. Sir Alexander Fleming's life and work illustrate these values in action—his scientific breakthroughs emerged from a relentless pursuit of truth and a willingness to serve the greater good.

Fleming's Journey: Curiosity, Courage, Service, Serendipity, and Eternal Gratitude

Born in rural Scotland, Alexander Fleming's humble beginnings shaped his character and his approach to science. Fleming's laboratory was often filled with cultures of bacteria, which he studied meticulously. In 1928, a fortuitous event occurred: a mold fungus began to grow in one of his petri dishes, and he noticed that bacterial growth was inhibited in its vicinity. This observation led him to identify penicillin, a substance that would become the world's first effective antibiotic. Among microorganisms, life is a constant battle for survival – a concept that fascinated WB Sir Dr. Alexander Fleming.

Fleming's openness to unexpected discoveries is captured in his own words: *"The unprepared mind cannot see the outstretched hand of opportunity."* His readiness to embrace the unforeseen reflects both the Masonic spirit of enlightenment and the scientific method of inquiry and adaptation.

Transformative Impact on Medicine

- **Medical Impact:** In 1922, Fleming discovered the enzyme lysozyme, which offered early insights into natural antibacterial agents. His September 28, 1928, discovery of penicillin launched the antibiotic revolution, saving countless lives and revolutionizing the treatment of bacterial infections.

WB Sir Fleming's humility and service-minded approach inspired generations of physicians and scientists. He demonstrated that breakthroughs often come from seeing what others overlook and from dedicating one's talents to the welfare of humanity.

Freemasonry's Enduring Influence

As Master of his Lodge, Sir Alexander Fleming embodied the Masonic virtues of brotherhood, integrity, and lifelong learning. His achievements remind brethren that service to others, intellectual curiosity, and humility are central to both Masonic tradition and the advancement of society. Brothers like Fleming show that the quest for light can illuminate not only our own paths but also bring healing and hope to the world.

Aligning the Life of Sir Alexander Fleming With Masonic Virtues: The life and work of Sir Alexander Fleming provide a clear and compelling illustration of the cardinal virtues taught in Freemasonry. Through his conduct, service, and discoveries, Fleming exemplified how a Mason may live uprightly, labor faithfully, and leave behind a legacy that benefits all mankind.

Temperance in Masonry teaches moderation in passions, habits, and ambitions. Fleming's scientific career reflects this virtue through his **humble, methodical approach to research**. He neither sought notoriety nor rushed to claim significance prematurely. Instead, he exercised intellectual restraint—observing patiently and allowing evidence to guide him. His observation that *"the unprepared mind cannot see the outstretched hand of opportunity"* underscores a disciplined mindset rooted in balance and preparedness rather than impulsive ambition. Even after discovering penicillin, Fleming remained cautious in proclaiming its medical value, recognizing both its promise and limitations. This restraint reflects temperance not only of character, but of intellect.

Fleming's life demonstrates fortitude through service during hardship. His military service as a captain in the Army Medical Corps during World War I exposed him to the devastating effects of infection and inadequate antiseptics. Rather than withdrawing from the difficulty of these realities, he continued his pursuit of antibacterial solutions both during and after the war.

(cont p 5)

(from page 4)

His perseverance extended beyond wartime. Fleming devoted decades to bacteriological research, authoring numerous scientific papers and advancing methods that required sustained effort and patience rather than immediate reward. This steady endurance reflects the Masonic virtue of fortitude—standing firm in purpose even when recognition is distant or uncertain.

Prudence guides a Mason to act with careful judgment, foresight, and discernment. Fleming's discovery of penicillin is often described as accidental, but the document makes clear that **prudence transformed observation into discovery**. He noticed mold contaminating a bacterial culture and discerned its significance rather than dismissing it as laboratory error.

Moreover, Fleming's broader research focused on antibacterial substances that were effective **without harming animal tissues**, demonstrating ethical foresight and responsibility in scientific advancement. His prudence ensured that his work served life rather than risking unnecessary harm—an embodiment of practical wisdom applied in service to humanity.

Justice in Masonry calls for fairness, integrity, and service beyond self-interest. Fleming's contributions exemplify justice through their **universal benefit**. Penicillin was not developed for personal gain, political power, or selective use—it became a foundation of modern medicine, saving countless lives regardless of nationality, class, or creed.

Relief in Freemasonry is charitable action in its highest form—not merely almsgiving, but meaningful contribution. Fleming's discovery of penicillin represents relief on a global scale, transforming medical treatment and providing enduring benefit to humanity.

As a Freemason, Fleming shared in the fraternity's values of mutual support, intellectual curiosity, and service to others. His work as an educator, researcher, and mentor—serving as Professor, Rector of the University of Edinburgh, and leader within scientific societies—reflects a life dedicated not only to discovery, but to the advancement of others.

Truth lies at the heart of Freemasonry, and Fleming's devotion to scientific inquiry reflects this principle. He pursued truth through observation, experimentation, and honest reporting, publishing original descriptions of lysozyme and penicillin grounded in evidence rather than speculation. His intellectual integrity—and willingness to follow truth wherever it led—mirrors the Masonic pursuit of light through reason and study.

WB Sir Dr. Alexander Fleming offers young Freemasons a clear blueprint for a meaningful life: begin with humility, cultivate the mind, serve faithfully, and allow usefulness—not ego—to guide one's actions. His example shows that by contributing steadily from a youthful age, giving back without expectation of reward, and remaining committed to truth and service, a man may one day look back upon his life and see not only a life well lived, but a legacy that continues to serve mankind.

Conclusion

WB Sir Dr. Alexander Fleming offers young Freemasons a clear blueprint for a meaningful life: begin with humility, cultivate the mind, serve faithfully, and allow usefulness—not ego—to guide one's actions. His example shows that by contributing steadily from an early age, giving back without expectation of reward, and remaining committed to truth and Masonic service, a man may one day look back upon his life and see not only a life well lived, but a professional, personal, public, and private legacy that continues infinitely into the future to serve mankind. As Freemasons, may we all continue to seek light, embrace opportunity, and shape a better future for humanity.

William Wilkinson, JD, DrPH, Esq., Past Master, Trustee, Wolcott Foundation

STATED MEETING DINNER

Dinner for the stated meeting will consist of chips and salsa followed by chicken tacos with rice and refried beans. Dessert will be tres leches cake. Price is \$15 and will be prepared by our sisters and brothers of Saguaro Chapter #48 OES. If paying by check, please make them out to **Saguaro #48 OES**.

As a reminder, *reservations are due by noon on Monday, May 4*, and can be made to the secretary. If you make a reservation, please honor it as we do have to pay for no-shows (if we can't fill them).

CALL FOR ARTICLES

Your editor team tries to present items about lodge activities, community events, and other articles to provoke thought and discussion. We enjoy putting together each issue, however, at times we run out of material. If any brother is interested in submitting articles, poetry, or other items to be published, please submit them to us either by written or via e-mail. Articles must be of interest to our brethren and families and be publishable under the Arizona Masonic Code (we will take care of that aspect). Again, if you are interested or want to see a short article about a Masonic subject, please let us know. Oh, and the more articles we receive, the less ramblings from the Secretary you will have to deal with. :-)

FROM THE GRAND LODGE

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION:

The Grand Lodge Annual Communication will be held at the Doubletree Hotel on S. Alvernon Way here in Tucson from June 4th through the 6th. Most of the business will be handled on the 5th and 6th. You can register on line via the Grand Lodge website—<https://azmasons.org/annual-communication>. Contact information for the hotel is also listed on the website. Here are the cut-off dates—

Hotel Registration— **June 1**

Meals and Ladies Luncheon—**May 21**

Registration—**June 1**

For the officers of the lodge, certain expenses are covered under our by-laws. There are different registration fees depending on whether you are a voting or non-voting attendee.

LEGISLATION:

We have received the proposed legislation to be presented at the annual communication in June. We read the synopses at the April stated meeting. If there is enough interest, we can set up an evening to discuss the legislation. For those you may be wondering, the only requirement in the AMC is we read the synopses at the stated meeting after we receive them. We will be sending out any other additional legislation we may receive. For those who have lost their copy, the secretary can resend the information to you. The secretary will also be sending out the proposed Grand Lodge budget. Good news, the submitted budget does NOT show an increase in per capita. We have 20 plus pieces of new legislation plus carry-over legislation from last year.

Grand Lodge will be implementing electronic voting at this year's annual communication. To take advantage of this, all voting delegates (pedestal officers and PMs to keep it simple) will need to have a device that can access the internet. This will streamline the vote process and shorten the time it takes to cast and count ballots. Might even shorten the period of remarks by some of our visitors.

For those who have never attended an annual communication, you are missing out. Besides the usual legislation and other pomp and circumstance it is the chance to have fellowship with brothers who haven't seen in years as well as to form friendships with brothers from other lodges.

On a side note, we will be looking for assistance in moving lodge furniture on Thursday before the start of Grand Lodge and at the end of the session on Saturday. Tucson 4 is providing the officer chairs, pedestals, and altar for the annual communication. Hopefully, this will allow MWB Leigh to feel he is really home.

MAY MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>YEARS</u>
MICHAEL EUGENE NORVELLE	3	10
ANTHONY COVIELLO-BLINN	9	12
ARIF EMRE ERKOCA	10	22
ELMER IVAN ACUNA	13	11
BRUCE DANIEL PYLES	16	14
AUSTIN RILEY PENA	17	3
LUIS IGNACIO AGUIRRE, Jr	18	15
ANDREW JOSEPH GUZMAN	20	9
DESMOND LEWIS HOOEY	20	63
JOHN EDWARD THOMPSON	22	41
PETER GOLDEN WILLIAMSON	23	65
PETER SCOTT CERAVOLO	24	3
JOHN PHILLIPS MATTHEWS, Jr	26	64
DONALD ALAN KOLBE	27	61
RANDY PAUL PRINTZ	29	35
NICHOLAS JOHN POSUNIAK	30	11

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DAY</u>
RONALD LEE RICHEY	5
HOWARD MARC STEINBERG	5
RICHARD DWAYNE VAUGHN	5
SCOTT ALLEN CLICK	8
RICHARD COLLIN RASBERRY	9
URIEL SOLANO	9
ALLEN KENT PHILLIPS	10
KENT ALLEN VANDERKOLK	11
THEODORE HARRISON FAHS	14
RANDY PAUL PRINTZ	14
AUSTIN RILEY PENA	16
KENNETH CHARLES WILLIAMS	21
PHILIP LEE SPAULDING	25
RONALD STANLEY HILL	27
WALTER HOWARD FRITZ	28

Please see the secretary for their address in the event you want to send a card.

MASONIC RING

There is no known ruling on how a Masonic ring should be worn. How you wear your Masonic ring is your business and no one else's. However it is recommended that you wear your Masonic ring with pleasure to yourself and honor to the fraternity.



FROM THE SECRETARY



“A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.”

Joseph Campbell

Growing up we all had heroes. Whether it was an athlete, like Ted Williams, Carl Yastremski, or a TV star or other hero like Superman, Batman, or even Shazam. As we grew older, we learned that all heroes didn't wear capes. Joseph Campbell wrote an excellent book, *The Hero Has a Thousand Faces*, which I read many years ago (and need to reread it). He presented the idea of the journey of a hero. The “hero” leaves the ordinary world, ventures into a realm of trials, receives wisdom or power, and then returns transformed. George Lucas was a “follower” of Campbell and we can see his influence throughout the Star Wars series.

My first hero was my father. While I was never able to sit in lodge with him, he passed away before I became a mason, he taught me many things in regard to the craft. I was told he was a brilliant ritualist and knew the whys and wherefores of the code. He loved to play the devil's advocate on an issues, especially those dealing with the lodge. I've lost track of the number of discussions I listened to regarding lodge leadership and other events. Now you know where I get that from. He was the Master of his lodge, Baalis Sanford, in Massachusetts in 1962-1964. He was the Chapter Advisor of my DeMolay Chapter and taught me almost everything I needed to know at that time. When I became Master of Tucson 4, my mother sent me his bible and PM apron. When I find that special event, I will wear his apron in the lodge.

My other “hero” was WB Ron Allen. Ron was my mentor when I was coming up the line. He installed me both times I was Master and told my wife, Catheryn, the real meaning behind the Letter G. His words to her was “gone”. Over the years we had many discussions about many things, both inside and outside of the lodge. My ritualistic hero was WB Allen Bailey. Bro AB was my ritual study partner. He was also my Senior Warden my second year. I found out he was an aficionado of good scotch. We shared this at several annual communications.

With this in mind, I ask everyone, who is your Masonic hero? It does not need to be a PM or learned brother, just one brother who has helped you and served as a role model on your masonic journey.

We have started the process of replacing the carpeting in the lodge room. The plan is to replace the carpet on the main floor as well as the hallway area. The two flooring companies we have talked to agree we don't need to replace the carpeting at the three pedestal stations as well as those on the second row of chairs. The center of the lodge floor will have the checkered floor and

tessellated border. The plan is to evaluate the bids and do the work during the last part of July.

I am in the process of cleaning out the office. I have a lot of “stuff” that has been dumped and I am trying to make room and reorganize. From time to time, I get a lot of masonic jewelry that the families of deceased brothers who have dropped it off. I usually put them in a bowl in the office open to anyone who wants or can use them.

We are still looking at replacing/fixing the ice machine. Currently, our machine is down as it needs a new circuit board. The question comes down, do we 1) fix it and press on, 2) buy a new machine, or 3) lease a new machine. There are pros and cons for each option and our trustees are working on it.

We are also having issues finding dishwashing detergent for the lodge dishwasher. Our former supply agent is no longer in business. To put things into perspective, we bought this machine at least 10 years before we moved into our current building.

As masons we are to assist our widows. We have one of our widows here in Tucson that needs some assistance in cleaning out her garage/workshop area. We are planning on having a work day at her house and WB Sam Greer will be bringing this event up at the May stated meeting. She has a lot of tools and other stuff which has the potential to go to good homes.

Dues—I hate to sound like a broken record. To date, we have 22 brothers who have yet to pay their dues. This behind where we have been in past years. I have sent out reminder letters with a return envelope. This is the last friendly mailing I will send out. We have sent reminders out in every trestle board and in the weekly emails. The next mailing will be a notice of pending suspension for non-payment of dues. I hate sending these out for many reasons. If any brother wants to help contact this brothers, please contact me. If you haven't paid your dues, please do so. If you need help with your dues, please talk to the Master or Secretary. All requests will be kept in strictest confidence. An addition for payment this year is Zelle. If you have Zelle set up with your bank, all you need to do is go to your banking app, and enter in either the lodge phone number— **(520) 323-2821** or email— **tl4treas@outlook.com**. If neither of these methods work for you, you can always send your payment to my personal account using my cel phone number. I will then transfer the amount to the lodge account. (and I won't even ask for a handling fee). The amount will be **\$129** via Zelle. I also have a QR code available in the office. If paying by PayPal the amount is **\$135** so we can cover the fees.

See you in lodge—Paul A. Simpson, PM



MEMORIAL DAY

“As most of us know, Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day) is a federal holiday in the U.S. and has become the unofficial beginning of summer activities. It was originally intended to honor and mourn those U. S. military personnel who died while serving in the armed forces. From 1868 to 1970 it was observed on May 30th. In 1971 it was moved to the last Monday of May.

The first observance of Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868 and the holiday was proclaimed by Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic to honor the Union soldiers killed in the Civil War. Before this, there were many local observances to recognize the “honored dead.” Many cities and states have made the claim to be the first to observe it.

Official recognition as a holiday spread among the states beginning with New York in 1873. By 1890, every Union state had adopted it. While every Union state adopted it, the intent of the day was also embraced by the South. It started in Warrenton, VA honoring the first soldier killed in the Civil War. On May 1, 1865 in Charleston, SC the recently freed Black population held a parade of over 10,000 people to honor 257 dead Union soldiers. The date of April 26 was chosen as it was the day that Generals Johnston and Sherman signed the surrender agreement in 1865.

The holiday was observed in Atlanta, Augusta, Macon, Columbus and elsewhere in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. The day often involved parades and decorating the graves of fallen soldiers.

The world war turned it into a day of remembrance for all members of the U.S. Military who fought and died in service. On May 26, 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed a presidential proclamation naming Waterloo, NY as the “official” birthplace of the holiday. Even though the proclamation was made, scholars have questioned the legitimacy of the claim. In 1971, Congress standardized the holiday as “Memorial Day” and changed the observance to the last Monday in May. Some feel that changing the holiday to make a 3-day weekend has undermined the true meaning of the day.

There are two other days to celebrate those who have served or have served in the U. S. military. Armed Forces Day (the third Saturday in May) is an unofficial holiday honoring those currently serving in the armed forces. Veterans Day (November 11) is the federal holiday honoring those who have served.

GASLIGHT THEATRE

Last month 36 brothers, friends, and families had another great trip to the Gaslight Theatre. We watched 009 subdue the evil doers of C.R.I.M.E. We cheered the heroes, booed the villains, and groaned at the bad jokes. For those who believe it didn't happen unless there were pictures, well, we have pictures. In spite of his scowl MWB Craig and MWB Steve had a great time



We will be making our fall pilgrimage on Friday, September 25th for the 8:30 show. This time we will be seeing an all-new show—Hocus Pocused! Or Witch, Please! Expect outrageous villains, heroic Hijinx, and plenty of musical mayhem as the witches return with a wink and a cackle. It's family-friendly fun where the laughs are loud, the magic is silly, and the only thing truly frightening, is missing it!

We have 40 seats in our usual area and the secretary is already taking reservations. Tickets will be \$26 for adults and \$22 for children under 12.



“DIVESTED OF METALS: A LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO THE CRAFT”

Before a candidate is permitted to proceed into the Lodge, he is divested of all metals. This is not done as a mere formality, but as a profound lesson at the very threshold of his Masonic journey. It teaches that wealth, status, and worldly distinctions hold no value within the sacred space of the Craft. Each man enters upon the same level neither elevated by riches nor diminished by poverty but measured instead by the content of his character.

This act of divestment reminds us that the true work of a Mason is not found in the accumulation of material possessions, but in the cultivation of virtue. A heart burdened by pride, vanity, or selfish desire cannot fully receive the lessons of the Craft, nor contribute to the building of a spiritual Temple.

Moreover, it prepares us to understand one of our most sacred obligations: to aid and assist a distressed Brother. In this duty, we are called to give not from excess alone, but from a sincere spirit of compassion and relief. It is through these acts that we demonstrate the true wealth of a Mason not in coin or treasure, but in charity, integrity, and brotherly love.

Thus, we come to see that we are indeed rich, though not in the material sense. Our riches are found in our principles, our actions, and our unwavering commitment to one another. In divesting ourselves of metals, we begin the lifelong labor of divesting ourselves of all that does not endure, and in its place, building a legacy of righteousness and Light.

This lesson does not end within the walls of the Lodge. It is meant to accompany us into our daily lives, shaping how we think, act, and serve. The principles we are taught must be lived, not merely recited. We are called to carry ourselves with humility, to act with integrity when no one is watching, and to extend relief and kindness wherever it is needed.

Above all, we are bound by a solemn commitment to our Brothers. No matter the circumstance, it is our duty to serve, to honor, and to uphold the tenets of Freemasonry. This requires accountability not only to ourselves, but to each other. We must hold one another to the highest standard, offering guidance, support, and correction when needed, always in the spirit of brotherly love.

In this way, the act of being divested of metals becomes more than a moment in ceremony; it becomes a lifelong charge. A charge to live with purpose, to stand firm in our obligations, and to prove through our actions that our true wealth lies in our character, our service, and our unwavering fidelity to the Craft and to one another.

SMIB

Logan Lake (FC) Tucson Lodge #4 F&AM

THE ACACIA

An interesting and important symbol in Freemasonry. Botanically, it is the 'acacia vera of Tournefort', and the 'mimosa nilotiva of Linnaeus.' It grew abundantly in the vicinity of Jerusalem, where it is still to be found and is familiar in its modern use as the tree from which the gum arabic of commerce is derived.

The acacia, which in Scripture, is always called "SHITTAH" and in the plural "SHITTIM", was esteemed a sacred wood among the Hebrews. Of it Moses was ordered to make the tabernacle, the ark of the covenant, the table for the shewbread, and the rest of the sacred furniture. Isaiah, in recounting the promises of God's mercy to the Israelites on their return from the captivity, tells them that, among other things, he will plant it the wilderness, for their relief and refreshment, the cedar, the acacia, the fir and other trees. The first thing, then, that we notice in this symbol of the acacia, is that it had been always consecrated from among the other trees of the forest by the sacred purposes to which it was devoted. By the Jew, the tree from whose wood the sanctuary of the tabernacle and the holy ark had been constructed would ever be viewed as more sacred than ordinary trees. The early Masons, therefore, very naturally appropriated this hallowed plant to the equally sacred purpose of a symbol, which was to teach an important divine truth in all ages to come.

Bro. E. R. Johnson (1924)

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	For info Contact Arizona.Chair@AzDeMolay.org
Bethel #25, Job's Daughters	For info Contact Michelle 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

2026 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master.....Trevor Tanzillo (Isela)
 Senior WardenMoe Momayez (Caroline)
 Junior Warden.....Logan Gaither (Shelby)
 Treasurer.....Jon Schmidt, PM (Shari).
 Deputy Treasurer.....Ronald Hill, PM (Linda)
 SecretaryPaul Simpson, PM (Catheryn)
 Secretary EmeritusBob Conrad, PGM (Jackie)
 Senior DeaconSam Greer, PM (Paddy) , PM
 Junior DeaconAnthony Coviello-Blinn
 Senior StewardP Scott Ceravolo
 Junior Steward.....Rafael Leidy-Escabi
 MarshalJose Gonzalez
 Chaplain
 TylerMark Goldrich (Pro-tem)
 Trustee 2026Samuel Greer (Paddy)
 Trustee 2026Rafael Leidy-Escabi
 Trustee 2026.....Gabriel Class (Rosa)
 Trustee 2027.....William Wilkinson, PM (Laurie)
 Trustee 2027Hannes Meyer (Joyce)
 Website EditorJohn Prokop (Sharlot)
 Widow's AssistancePaul Simpson, PM (Catheryn)
 Newsletter EditorsCatheryn & Paul Simpson



CURRENT RESIDENT OR



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