



## TUCSON LODGE #4 F. & A. M.

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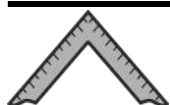
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### FROM THE EAST



*"Waste no more time arguing what a good man should be.  
Be one"*

*Marcus Aurelius*

Hello from the East,

This year, the Grand Master has asked us to reflect on a simple but powerful idea: Freemasonry, a way of life. But what does that mean beyond the slogans and lapel pins?

To me, it means that Masonry isn't just something we attend. It's something we live. It's not a monthly meeting or a degree night. It's the quiet, steady decision to keep showing up, not just for lodge, but for each other.

A way of life doesn't stop when the meeting closes. It follows us into our homes, our jobs, and our communities. It's how we carry ourselves when no one's watching. It's how we speak to the waiter, how we treat our family, how we handle stress and conflict. It's the quiet voice in our head that asks, "Is this upright? Is this just?"

Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth aren't just the words we recite, they are the path we walk. Love means choosing patience, listening when it would be easier to judge, and helping when it's inconvenient. Relief means offering time, not just money, and standing beside a brother when the weight of life feels too heavy. And Truth? Truth is what we owe ourselves. The courage to admit when we've fallen short. The strength to try again.

Freemasonry isn't built on titles or likes on a post. It's built on the presence of good men who keep showing up, week after week, year after year. It grows when older brethren take the time to sit with the new, to share, to guide, to connect. That's when the ritual becomes real. That's when the light begins to shine.

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 **Trevor Tanzillo**

### August Calendar

Wed Aug 6	NO STATED MEETING	
	FC Practice	7:00 pm
Mon Aug 11	FC Degree	7:00 pm
Aug 15-17	Leadership Conf (Mesa)	
Fri Aug 29	Cigar Night (Anthony's)	7:00 pm
Mon Sep 1	Reservations For Stated Meeting	NOON
Wed Sep 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.*

## FROM THE WEST

### Ritual Work

Our British Brothers will tell us that we (Americans) do not speak proper English. Well, certainly not Oxford English. I must agree that in some cases, we absolutely slaughter the English language. Consider buying something on sale “2 for \$5.00”. What we hear verbally is “2 fer 5”, or we may ask for some information, but the term heard is, “I ax you for that info”. Then there is the person who may be conserving breath by not saying the whole word... “That meal was delish”, apparently saying the entire word “delicious” was far too strenuous. I will even attempt to address current slang, but I am surprised that “acronymize” not yet a separate language, lol, brb, syl, and if I capitalize the letters, for example “LMAO”, then I am shouting.

Ritual work, whether proficiencies, lectures or pedestal chair responses are precise, not subject to change or slang, and are specifically couched in terms and verse that is not informal or conversational English. Why does Masonry adhere to what some would refer to as an antiquated language form?

Free Masonry has a long and proud history (312+ years and counting), and our Rituals and Ceremonies are serious, solemn and meaningful. Every sentence and paragraph in the obligations is carefully structured to convey a solemn statement that is significant and rife with serious meaning. The obligations are not to be taken lightly, so responses like, “Yeah, I think I could do that” are not acceptable. The amount of effort put in to memorize a lecture word for word, or complete a proficiency verbatim is time consuming and taxing; however, exercising the brain is similar to exercising your muscles. Your mind and memory begin to expand and suddenly other mental tasks become easier. When a proficiency or lecture is flawlessly executed, it is impressive, and makes a much more significant impact on the candidate and illustrates the commitment that Masons make to one another.

There are instances where tradition and ritual are boring and tiresome. Masonic Traditions and Rituals are calculated to convey meaningful and serious lessons and concepts, and as an added bonus, we are preserving entire sections of the English language

Sam Greer, PM, Senior Warden

## FROM THE SOUTH

The nature of my professional work as a mining engineer and academic has led me to recently travel in paths that embody the principles of our craft. This summer I toured several mines with international and domestic participants in our executive mining program, starting with an underground gold mine in Nevada. The attention to detail to mine ore from the earth’s bowels is a powerful reminder of the unerring laws of nature and a symbol of the importance of walking uprightly.

We then traveled back to Arizona and visited two world-class open-pit copper mines. In the 115-degree desert sun, this leg of the trip taught us an important lesson about constant vigilance. On one particularly brutal day, a participant in the program got sick. We had reminded everyone to stay hydrated while exploring the quarries. I think he may have been too forgetful. By the third day his condition worsened. Complaining he didn’t feel well, short of breath and sweating profusely, we rushed him to urgent care. Fortunately he was sent to the hospital and recovered 24 hours later.

The incident made me stop and think what it really means to be Junior Warden. It also made me ponder what it really means to be a leader in this profession, especially to really have the charge of looking out for my group. And in the lodge, the Junior Warden stands in the South, to ensure peace, order and harmony, especially during refreshment.

Refreshment must not turn into intemperance or excess. As the sun beat down on us that day, the importance of moderation became obvious. One man’s failure to temper his activity with the simple act of drinking water resulted in a distressing condition that affected not just him but soon disrupted the harmony of the group and required our immediate attention.

The Junior Warden’s jewel is a plumb used to determine if he upholds a just and upright moral life. My role that day was to restore balance to the group, a duty similar to that of the Junior Warden. This journey to the bottom of the pit was a powerful reminder; whether we are in a quarry at High Twelve or in the lodge with our brothers, vigilance, temperance, relief and sincere care for one another are essential to true harmony.

Speaking of relief, I am happy to report that starting with the September stated dinner and for the remainder of the year, our meals will be graciously prepared by the ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star. We are very grateful to have their partnership and support of our lodge. I strongly encourage the attendance of any and all brothers for an evening of excellent food and fellowship, and also to show our heartfelt appreciation for their generous work.

Moe Momayez, Junior Warden



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William E. Wilkinson, J.D., Dr.P.H.

## MW LEIGH JARVIS CREIGHTON

### MWGM 2025-2026

For brethren who may not know, MW Leigh is the 12th Grand Master to come out of Tucson Lodge #4. He affiliated with our lodge in 2005 after being raised in Wadsworth Lodge #417 in New York. He served as WM of Tucson 4 in 2015. He was appointed as Senior Grand Steward by MW Greg Vasquez in 2019 and worked his way up the grand line. In his spare time, he has served the community as a court appointed special advocate (CASA) with the Pima County Juvenile Court and a member of the Pima County Foster Review Board.

WB Leigh retired from the US Army as a Lt Col last serving as the Professor of Military Science at the U of AZ. After his retirement he served as a teacher at the 7th and 8th grade levels in the Amphitheater School District. He holds a Masters in Business Administration from Boston University, and an M. ED from Northern Arizona University. He is the proud father of three adult children and three absolutely wonderful grandchildren. Most importantly, having been born in Greenfield, MA, he is an avid Boston Red Sox fan.

### GASLIGHT THEATRE

*"Will the chorus girl Christine rise to the occasion after Diva Soprano, Carlotta, storms off the stage during dress rehearsal? Who will be seated in the mysterious Box #5 ...where programs disappear and ghoulish laughter echoes? Join the Gaslight artistes as they transform the stage back to post-Revolution Paris to revive The Phantom Of The Opera – a love story of musical inspiration and hidden longing, along with a palate-pleasing portion of goofy song and dance!"*

We are going back to the Gaslight on **Friday, September 19th** for Phantom of the Opera. This is for the **8:30 pm** show. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for children under 12. We have 30 reservations still available in our usual area. To make a reservation, please contact the secretary.

On a side note, we were looking another trip in the spring to see 009 (you can guess who that is about)

### Our Sick and Distressed Brothers

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

*Ralph Francis, Ron Hill, Earl Starr, Donald Stevenson (shoulder surgery), Earl Shambo, Catheryn Simpson (ankle surgery) and Mary Yandell (Wes' wife)*

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

### AUGUST MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

NAME	DAY	YEARS
JAN JULIUS HALVAX	1	7
JAMES EDWARD MOORE	1	13
JOAQUIN ACUNA MUNOZ	14	12
EDDIE MARREL TAYLOR	15	17
STEPHEN JOHN PATRICK	20	28
LUCAS KIRKWOOD THORNE	20	11
PAUL ALAN SIMPSON	21	39
TREVOR JAMES TANZILLO	21	6
RICHARD JAMES GONIA, Jr	24	20
DONALD HUNTON PHELPS	27	28
<b>RALPH ROSCOE FRANCIS</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>51</b>
JON ROMAN HAHN	28	46
TODD MATTHEW CANALE	29	7
JAMES PAYTON ROLLINS	30	19

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

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

NAME	DAY
JAMES HENRI BLANKENSHIP	1
JOHN FRANK PROKOP	2
STEPHEN MATTHEW MURRILLO	3
LARRY DEAN SPAULDING	3
RICHARD ROBERT SMITH	4
ROBERT DEWAYNE CRAWFORD	5
BENJAMIN ANDREW HARTNETT	9
DONALD HUNTON PHELPS	9
RAYMOND JUSTIN PHILIPS	10
MICHAEL JOSEPH IRVINE	11
<b>PETER GOLDEN WILLIAMSON</b>	<b>12</b>
BOWMAN DEWAYNE PAXTON	13
MARTIN THOMAS JONES	14
DARRYL LESTER WEAVER	18
CLARK WATSON MUNGER	19
AKASH SHARAD TAGGARSE	19
WILLIAM RAY WHITE	19
TRAVIS ROSS HUNGERFORD	20
ARTHUR RONALD ADAIR	21
GREGORY STEPHAN PFISTER	22
KIRK KEVIN KLOSOWSKY	24
LUCAS KIRKWOOD THORNE	27
FRANK JAY PROKOP	29

*If you see one of these brothers, wish them a Happy Birthday, or better yet, send a card or email!*

**SAHUARO HIGH TWELVE #523**  
**Meets every Thursday 8:00AM**  
**IHOP—Oracle and Limberlost**



# MASONIC MUSINGS ON MORTALITY

## Old Age Is Coming To You – Swift

Old age is coming to you, my Brother, dark shadowed on the swift wings of time.

Thinking about how to imagine looking back on my life in the future when near death, forced me to consider what was important to do in life then and going forward to consider looking at backwards in my past imagined future.

The Very Reverend Jonathan Swift (born 30 November 1667 – died 19 October 1745) was an Irish author, satirist, minister, lawyer, and Anglican cleric in Dublin, Ireland. Swift became an absolute expert in satiric deadpan, ironic style of writing essays and books. Today satire is sometimes referred to as “*Swiftian*.” Swift was active in Irish, Scottish, and English politics, where his savagely satirical articles, essays, and prolific other writings mocking English customs, and Anglican politics, flourished across those nations then and now internationally across the globe.

Swift, a Freemason, became the dean of the St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Dublin, Ireland. He was called, “Dean Swift” everywhere even when he travelled abroad. His epic satirical piece, *Gulliver’s Travels*, was the most printed Irish writer authored book public and private libraries and bookstores worldwide since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Today all school age children have read or heard read Swift’s famous fictional, satirical book, *Gulliver’s Travels*. He is rightfully considered one of the foremost prose satirists in the history of English literature. “Dean” Swift influenced major satirical authors over centuries -- like John Ruskin, and George Orwell, who wrote *1984*.

I suggest you seriously consider reading Brother Jonathan Swift’s terrific books.

Regarding old age in our own times, do any of you really want to live forever anyway? Think about it. If someone asks you, “How’s life?” Many of us answer, “Better than the alternative.” Or if you live to work, you might give the same answer if someone asks, “How’s work?” Is it really better than the alternative?

Published during 1726, Swift wrote in a first-person narrative spoken through the mouth about events seen through the eyes of a fictional surgeon and sea captain, Lemuel Gulliver, about an imaginary group of small people who were six inches tall, born at random, who did not die so they lived forever, in *Gulliver’s Travels*.

Gulliver thought, how wonderful, wow, how great it would be to live forever, to be immortal, how lucky these people were!

But then he found out that they do not die and still suffer ills of old age – lost sight, hearing, senility, but they do not die. They continued to age normally and suffered with eternal and worsening old age.

Finally, Lemuel Gulliver discovered when the Lilliputians from the island of Lilliput reach the young, old age of 80, their government renders them declared legally dead, and unable to own property or to continue to work. They live forever, but sadly as unproductive wards of charity, they become horribly depressed, and effectively invisible.

The Lilliputians small physical size mimicked their small-mindedness. Their indulgence in ridiculous customs and petty debating also showed limited emotional capability. Such implications cast satirical rings around their lives.

Reflect again on whether you might actually want to be able to live forever.

Will Wilkinson, PM, Esq.





## FROM THE SECRETARY



*"A traveler I am, and a navigator, and everyday I discover a new region within my soul" Khalil Gibran*

In our travels through life, we discover things about ourselves we never realized. As most of you may know, my wife had ankle surgery back in April. She had a second surgery on the same ankle two weeks ago to correct a problem with it. She will not be able to put full weight on it for at least six weeks. As a result, I am now her primary day-to-day caregiver. Luckily, she can maneuver her wheel chair around most of the house and can do most things on her own. She still needs help in several other areas. I can now add caregiver to my skill sets. Granted, at time it is a challenge, but then, 44 years ago this coming September, I made the promise to love, honor, and cherish her, through sickness and health for all eternity and I fully intend to keep the promise I lovingly made. And for those of you who are wondering, her wheel chair fits in the "clown car".

Back in June we listened to a report on the legislation that was passed at the Annual Communication. A couple of these have a direct impact on our membership. First, Per Capita was increased. What this increase means is our dues will go from \$122 to \$129 for 2026. Our dues are \$84 plus Grand Lodge Per Capita and fees. The second item is we are moving to electronic dues cards starting in 2026. For those of you with smart phones, I will be sending out instructions on how to set up the virtual dues cards. It is a very simple and straight forward process. For this brothers who do not have smart cards, paper dues cards will be available on a case by case basis. They will look like our traditional cards, but not on the same card stock. While you may be able to print our a dues card, it will still need the lodge seal on it.

Speaking of dues, I still have 6 brothers who have yet to pay their 2025 dues. I sent out the required notification of pending suspension for non-payment of dues. I have also sent out emails to them with a copy of the letter. If you are reading this and have not paid your 2025 dues by the September stated meeting, you will be suspended. If you need help, it is not too late to ask for it.

This summer, the WM has had a session of masonic education at each one of our degree practices. One the subjects discussed dealt with regular and irregular lodges

and clandestine lodges. We are looking at hosting a school of instruction on this subject. In a nutshell, if you are planning on visiting a lodge in your travels, talk to me first, well in advance of your travels. I have the resources to verify if the lodge is recognized by the Grand Lodge and also what other identification requirements are needed. While this is not as critical when visiting in the states, a lot of foreign jurisdictions have additional requirements. For example, some lodges require a clearance letter and letter of recommendation from the Grand Lodge. At the verify least, if you have a smart phone, download and register the Amity app. Once you are verified, and I am the one who does it for our lodge, you will be able to find out if we at least recognize the lodge you may visit. I am working with Bro Rick on an article and presentation on visiting lodges.

With everything going on, I am still trying to keep office hours. Most of the time I am there on Monday and Thursday mornings (2nd and 4th Mondays is afternoons) plus Wednesday afternoons and evenings. I can also set up appointments. I am always open to phone calls and emails and can handle most questions that way as I am usually working on something for the lodge on an almost daily basis.

See you in lodge,

Paul A. Simpson, PM, Secretary

JIM STITH

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### 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**

## 2025 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master.....Trevor Tanzillo (Isela)  
 Senior Warden .....Sam Greer (Paddy)  
 Junior Warden.....Moe Momayez (Caroline)  
 Treasurer.....Ronald Hill, PM (Linda)  
 Deputy Treasurer.....Jon Schmidt, PM (Shari).  
 Secretary .....Paul Simpson, PM (Catheryn)  
 Secretary Emeritus .....Bob Conrad, PGM (Jackie)  
 Senior Deacon .....Kirk Klosowsky  
 Junior Deacon .....Logan Gaither (Shelby)  
 Senior Steward .....William Predgo (Cheryl)  
 Junior Steward.....TBA  
 Marshal .....Anthony Coviello-Blinn  
 Chaplain .....Rafael Leidy-Escabi  
 Tyler .....P Scott Ceravolo  
 Musician.....Randall Dighton, PM (Linda)  
 Ritual Advisor .....TBD  
 Trustee 2025 .....Hannes Meyer, PM (Joyce)  
 Trustee 2025 .....Rafael Leidy-Escabi  
 Trustee 2025.....Gabriel Class (Rosa)  
 Trustee 2026.....Logan Gaither (Shelby)  
 Trustee 2027 .....William Wilkinson, PM (Laurie)  
 Website Editor .....John Prokop (Sharlot)  
 Widow's Assistance .....Paul Simpson, PM (Catheryn)



**SPEAK WITH  
HONESTY**

**THINK WITH  
SINCERITY**

**ACT WITH  
INTEGRITY**

**CURRENT RESIDENT OR**



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