

FAITH HOPE CHARITY

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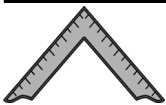
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From The East



Brethren,

There are a lot of things many of us just don't know. We learn many new things from the time of our first encounter with initiation into the oldest and largest fraternity on this planet. For example, we learn the difference between a rough and an adjusted stone in Ashlar Masonry. We learn that it is objectively a quarried rock to everyone else, then in Masonry we learn how it can be used as a metaphor to describe how good a man now and can become a better man later. Before being initiated as an Entered Apprenticed we didn't know what we didn't know concerning that precept. Since this is common knowledge to most of us and available to the public to read about on the internet I don't feel this notion is revealing a closely-guarded secret.

Recently, scholars and researchers started to study this idea and they developed a new, scientific term for the topic in psychology and behavioral science—hypocognition. (*Hypocognition: Making sense of the world beyond one's conceptual reach*. (2018) *Review of General Psychology*, 22(1), 25–35.) It is a bigger concept than just not knowing certain facts. It deals with large areas of knowledge as well as information learned within certain cultures where concepts may not exist to be able to translate into other cognitive domains or other different cultures. Here are two examples, first modernly, “[i]n financial dealings, almost two thirds of Americans are hypocognitive of compound interest, unaware of how much saving money can benefit them and how quickly debt can crush them.” Second historically, in 1806, entrepreneur Frederic Tudor sailed to the island of Martinique with a precious cargo of ice he harvested from frozen Massachusetts Rivers. He expected to make a tidy profit selling the still frozen ice to tropical customers. There was only one problem (with hypocognition): the islanders had never seen ice. They had never experienced a cold drink, never tasted a pint of ice cream. Refrigeration was not a celebrated innovation, but an unknown concept. In their eyes, Tudor's cargo had no value. His sizable investment melted away unappreciated, unmissed and unsold in the Caribbean heat.

Masonry opens its participating members' eyes throughout their lifetimes. One of the many things I have come to appreciate more this year while studying and practicing our ritual work and then delivering a part in the conferral of a Masonic degree is that it must feel just like it would to be acting a theatrical part in a community or little theater group play. I never knew that feeling before, how much fun it is to perform and what a great learning tool it can be for the actors and audience. I was blissfully experiencing hypocognition on this concept before doing it and learning more through personal experience. As Master this year I have learned more new things.

Continued on pg 2

December 2018 Calendar

Dec 1st	Fellowship Breakfast 7am GL Christmas Party, Chandler 6pm
Dec 2nd	DeMolay Meeting 6pm
Dec 5th	Stated Meeting Dinner 6pm Stated Meeting 7pm
Dec 6th	Thursday Crew 7am
Dec 8th	Installation of 2019 Officers 3pm
Dec 12th	Degree or Practice 7pm
Dec 13th	Thursday Crew 7am
Dec 16th	DeMolay Meeting 6pm
Dec 19th	Holiday Dinner 6pm
Dec 20th	Thursday Crew 7am
Dec 25th	Merry Christmas!!
Dec 27th	Thursday Crew 7am
Dec 29th	Deadwood Lunch @ Lavernas 11:30 am

"From the East" continued...

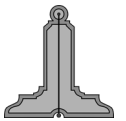
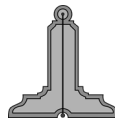
Thank you for allowing me the opportunity, privilege and pleasure to serve as Master of Tucson Lodge #4 this year. I learned so many things about this lodge, its connection to the Grand Lodge of Masons in Arizona, how difficult yet rewarding it is to administrate the lodge and about myself. I took and take the confidence you placed in me to care for you and your lodge as seriously as possible. I focused on our year-long theme of *unity* with fervor. "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133 King James Version) As I leave the position this month on December 8th let me sincerely thank you again for the honor to serve our lodge and let me challenge each reader to recognize and diminish your own hypocognition by enjoying and growing steadily toward becoming a better man or woman through your participation in Masonry. The *culture* of our Masonic family means living life with a purpose to work daily toward becoming a better person personally, socially and spiritually.

-Fraternally,

William Wilkinson, Worshipful Master



From The West



I am humbled by the trust put in me by the brethren to elect me Master for the year 2018. Thank you. I will do all in my power to make this a meaningful year for everyone. I have stood at this transition before and I recovered an article that I wrote a while ago. As it holds true today as it did then, I decided to share it:

Are we ready yet? This sounds like the kids in the car asking "Are we there yet".

Life is a journey and so is Freemasonry. We talk about traveling from East to West and we are referring to a progressive moral science. These journeys have all in common that they have a beginning and an end. The life journey begins with birth and ends when we depart from this earth. The Masonic journey begins with our first obligation and being raised as a Master Mason. It ends... wait, when does it end? Well it ends just as the life journey, when we at last meet with our creator.

Along the journey there are many mile stones and steps to take. In our life journey we talk about childhood, adolescence and mature personality.

Our Masonic journey does not end with the third degree when we are a Master Mason. No, that is just the beginning of the journey. When more light is added and we are climbing the ladder of the fraternity there are many steps to take. It is a journey with many transitions.

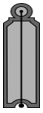
I am finding myself just at such a transitional step. My decision is to be able to take on more responsibility and to be available to move on one step. Decisions like this are not easy. Trying to think ahead makes me often unsure if I am actually cut out for the next step. But like as in all other complex decisions in life, it can be overwhelming to try to imagine and comprehend the future. I have to tell myself that no one can see the future. At any given situation we can only see the present and we can remember the past. Any thought about the future can merely be assumption. It depends on what I assume to be overwhelmed or encouraged.

At this threshold I am telling myself not to assume too much. But one basic assumption stays alive for me and I hope to be assuming the right thing. I am assuming that I won't have to go the way alone. I am not a Lone Ranger type. I like togetherness, teamwork, brotherhood.

I like to go with all of you the next steps of my Masonic path. We will learn and grow together and at some point in the future we will look back with 20/20 hindsight and realize that it was well worth it. "Well done good and faithful servant".

Ready for the next step? I am.

Hannes Meyer, Junior Warden



From The South



Father Christmas, or Santa Claus, or St Nicholas has elements of pre-Christian myths and legends, which developed through the Middle Ages by being built into the great Christian story of God's wonderful gift to the world.

By the eighteenth and nineteenth century these details were formalized into the character that we still have today: his stylized uniform, his way of working, his ritual activities and sayings. This all sounds very Masonic.

The pre-Christian legends of Solomon's Temple, the pyramids, Pythagoras, and so on were developed through the Middle Ages by the great Christian cathedral builders, then formalized in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries into the uniform, the work, and the rituals that we use today.

St Nicholas was actually a 4th century Turkish bishop who had originally been a rich nobleman. One of the stories about him was that he had helped a poor man who could not afford to pay for weddings for his 3 daughters.

St Nicholas climbed onto the roof and threw a handful of gold coins down the chimney and these coins fell into the girls' stockings that had been hung up by the fire to dry. The girls were then able to marry well and lived happily ever after.

He has been considered the patron saint of poor children ever since. The legend became very popular in Europe, especially the Netherlands where it was mixed with elements from the pagan Yule or mid-winter festivals. St Nick became Santa Claus, who would arrive on December 6th (St Nicholas' Day) mounted on a white horse and visit children to enquire about their behavior the previous year. Good children would be rewarded, and bad ones punished. The night before, children would leave a pair of the shoes or clogs out, filled with hay and carrots for the horse. In the morning these would be found, filled with sweets or small presents.

These traditions were taken to America by Dutch settlers, but it was the famous poem by Professor Clement Clark Moore which begins "'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house..." which settled most of the details into the Santa figure we know today.

Many of these details (such as the reindeer, and their names, the flying sledge, coming down the chimney) were first brought together in this poem, but Professor Moore took them from old traditions from as far afield as Finland and Siberia and they have stuck and become a single story. You can see how similar this is to the creation of our ritual and ceremonies.

While these also certainly include many elements that are ancient folklore, they were put together quite deliberately by identifiable people, with a specific aim: to create an impression in the minds of the Brethren taking part. Like the Santa legend, the details may be fictional, they may come from many different sources, and they may even be inconsistent with each other. That does not matter.

It is the impression that all of them create as an entirety that is important. Would you deny all the good that the Santa story achieves, all the happiness it creates, just because it is a story? Of course not. And this is the real linking of Father Christmas and Freemasonry.

Why do we have Christmas and why do we have Father Christmas? We celebrate religious beliefs about the birth of goodness, and hope for the future; we reaffirm the belief that people are basically good and can develop into loving, caring, helpful, supporting friends to each other.

We look to a New Year where things can be better. We do this at this season whether we are celebrating the Christian Nativity, or the Jewish Hanukkah with its lights and gifts and story of peace, or the Hindu Diwali with its festival of lights and gifts of sweets and toys, or even if we hold no formal religion except the pleasure of seeing a child's face transfixed with wonder and delight. And why are we Freemasons? Because we believe that there are important things like goodness and hope for the future, and that men can develop into loving, caring, helpful, supporting Brethren to their families and each other.

We not only look to a future where things can be better, but we see it as our role, as Free and Accepted, or Symbolic, Masons, to help to build that future.

So, I feel I can safely say that Father Christmas is a Freemason. Not only does he show so many of the signs and tokens of being one, but he brings us a message that we, as Freemasons, can heed for the whole year.

Peace on earth, good will towards men!

Merry Christmas.

Richard Vaughn

Junior Warden and Mason of the Year, 2018



From The Secretary



First I want to thank the brethren for electing me Secretary for another year. I will do my best to live up to your expectations.

Dues are trickling in. For those who have already paid, thank you. As a reminder 2019 dues are \$118 (\$122 if you use PayPal) and are due by December 31, 2018. I have sent out dues cards to all who have already paid or are Senior Life or Perpetual members. If you are in this group and have not received your card, please let me know. If you regularly attend lodge, I will hold your card and give it to you then.

I am using the trestle board to send out the initial dues notices. By doing it this way, there is a significant cost savings both in postage and in the cost of the mailers.

Here's to another great year.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Paul Simpson, PM

DEADWOOD LUNCH

Past Masters and friends gather on the last Saturday
of every month for fellowship at:

LAVERNA'S COFFEE SHOP
STARTING TIME 11:30 A.M.

DECEMBER 29TH



Altan Kol Grotto M.O.V.P.E.R.

(Your Masonic playground)

Meetings 2nd Thursday - {Dark July & August}

3959 E Mabel Street, Tucson, AZ

Stop in and say hello - Wives are welcome

6pm Pot Luck - & 7pm meeting

Ken Lewis, Secretary (520) 349-0709

DECEMBER MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

NAME	DAY	YEARS
BERNE, DAVID ARTHUR	3	44
HALL, RICHARD GERALD	5	44
LEIDY-ESCABI, RAFAEL	5	26
LOBAUGH, JOHN JOSEPH	5	28
THOMPSON II, JOHN FRANKLIN	6	23
HARTNETT, BENJAMIN ANDREW	8	14
ERICKSON, RALPH VICTOR	9	26
KALTENHAUSER, JOHN LEE "JACK"	9	12
ROSIER, CHARLES ALLEN	10	28
RICHEY, RONALD LEE	11	44
STATLER, JACK ROLAND	11	65
CLICK, SCOTT ALLEN	21	35
SNOW, CLYDE RAYMOND	22	8
SCHNEIDER, ROGER PAUL	28	16

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR BDAY CARD IN FOR
COMPLIMENTARY STATED MEETING DINNER!

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IN MEMORIAM

Eugene Peter Young

Born 5/15/24 Raised 5/13/47 Death 10/17/18

WM 1965

JIM STITH

SavOn
FLOWERS

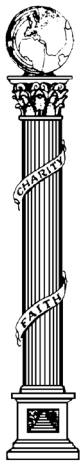
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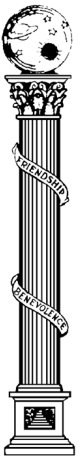


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William E. Wilkinson, J.D., Dr.P.H.
Lawyer

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TUCSON LODGE MASONIC FAMILY SCHEDULES

Arizona Chapter #2, OES, First Tuesday.....	7:30PM
Saguaro Chapter #48 OES, Second & Fourth Mondays	7:00PM
Olana Temple #131, Daughters of the Nile, Third Monday.....	7:00PM
Oasis Court #75, Ladies Oriental Shrine, First Monday	7:00PM
Demolay - Arizona Chapter, First and Third Sunday	6:00PM
Bethel #25, Job's Daughters, First & Third Saturdays	10:00AM
Assembly #2, Rainbow Girls, Second & Fourth Tuesdays	7:00PM

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