



**TUCSON LODGE #4, F. & A. M.
3590 N Country Club Road
Tucson, Arizona 85716**

LODGE PHONE: 323-2821 EMAIL: tl4so@hotmail.com
<http://TucsonLodge4.homestead.com>

*Meets every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. * Stated Meeting, First Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.*

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FROM THE EAST



One of the purposes of a Masonic lodge is that it is a social organization dedicated to fellowship. We are very fortunate to have an endless line of applicants for the degrees and we do excellent degree work, which we will continue to do. But we also have a social part of Masonry that sometimes becomes subordinate to the goal of making good men better. One of my goals for this year is to promote those social aspects.

We have been very successful in conducting the monthly Fellowship Breakfast on the 1st Saturday of the month. In fact, last month's breakfast saw more than 90 excellent breakfasts served. (Many thanks to the cooks and helpers!) The lodge officers and others have been on two Official Visits this year; one to Nelson C Bledsoe #74 and the other to Downtown Lodge #86. A couple more visits are planned for the year and I hope to find, or create, the Traveling Gavel to encourage all lodges to conduct visits. The lodge tradition is to have a Potluck Social dinner in months that have 5 Wednesdays – we will continue that this year with the 4th Wednesday assigned as the potluck day, April 22 being the first and also new Mason night. We will also continue the tradition of a Past Master's night which will see perfect ritual work (wink) and a steak dinner for all Masons, scheduled for March 18. Another tradition is recognition of our widows which this year will be a trip to Gaslight Theater on April 26, everyone is welcome and escorts are needed too so contact WB Paul Simpson. A Masonic tradition we reinstituted for the first time last year in 10 years is a Table Lodge in honor of St John the Baptist and we will hold another Table Lodge on June 19.

Some new activities for this year include a bus trip to an Arizona Diamondbacks game on July 25 – details will be forthcoming but mark your calendar now, this will be fun. I have asked a couple of brothers to work on other social activities such as a horseshoe tournament and a square dance, perhaps as part of a potluck dinner. Lest we forget the part about becoming better

March 2015 Calendar

Mar. 4th	Stated Meeting Dinner 6pm Stated Meeting 7pm
Mar. 7th	Fellowship Breakfast 7am to 10am
Mar 11th	Degree or Practice 7:00pm
Mar. 17th	OV Downtown
Mar. 18th	Pat Master's night Dinner 6pm Degree at 7pm
Mar. 19th	Officers Meeting 6pm Ritual Practice 7pm
Mar. 25th	Degree or Practice 7:00pm
Mar 27th to 29th	Officers Retreat
Mar. 28th	Deadwood 11:30am Laverna's Coffee Shop

The preparation group Bob and Rich are leading will meet every Wednesday at 7:00pm.

Degrees are subject to candidate availability and proficiency.

NOTE: Please do not forget to make reservations for all dinners.

men, Brother Aaron French is coordinating excellent Masonic education presentations on the various Monday of the month. And MWB Bob Conrad will hold a class on Masonic funerals on March 12.

I am looking forward to seeing you in lodge, at dinner and at these other social activities.

Fraternally

Leigh Creighton

Worshipful Master

FROM THE WEST



Brethren,

It is official from the Grand Lodge that Tucson #4 has shown a positive growth in membership! Tucson #4 is one of seventeen lodges in state of Arizona that increased in 2014. This trend is continuing this year as we have nine Entered Apprentice candidates as of January. These candidates are eager to learn, and you most likely have seen them in the lodge serving you fellowship breakfast, cleaning up the dining room or even working with the Thursday crew. We would appreciate your support by having you attend their upcoming degrees and welcoming them to the lodge.

I need to note that the Constitution and Statutes of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Arizona requires that the completion of the approved Candidate Education Program is one of the minimum requirements of a candidate's proficiency. Candidates are required to turn in their program material to the Secretary prior to their degree. Please contact the Master, Secretary, or myself if you have questions or concerns.

We are having degree practice on the third Thursday of the month. Please contact our Ritual Advisor, Ron Allen, or myself if you would like to practice a part in an upcoming degree.

Changes are being made to our Lodge website and we will continue to make more changes. I would like to thank our web master, John Prokop, for his latest efforts and I ask you to visit the site if you have not done so recently.

Fraternally

Jon Schmidt

Senior Warden

Widows' and Ladies Outing

Set the date! Sunday, April 26th we will be attending the Gaslight Theater for their performance of the *Adventures of Robin Hood*. This will be their typically irreverent treatment of the story of Robin Hood and his Merry Men, the tales of which we grew up with.

We have a limited number of seats (16 to be exact) and are opening them first to our widows. We expect to seats available after their reservations are made and will open them up to the members of the lodge. Currently the price will be \$20 each (\$10 for children 12 and under).

If you have never been to the Gaslight Theater, you are in store for a treat. The heroes get cheered, the villains get booed and if they are not happy with your response - they will stand there until you get it right. There is a limited menu. A fun time for all.

For more information contact Paul Simpson (psimpson130@comcast.net).

FROM THE SOUTH



The Prince Hall Masons are the oldest and largest group of Masons of African origin in the world. Today there are forty Grand Lodges of Prince Hall Freemasonry in the United States, Canada, the Bahamas, and Liberia. These Grand Lodges preside over more than 5,000 lodges. All of them claim descent from the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, which is traced back to the African Lodge No. 459.

Prince Hall, a native of Bridgetown, Barbados, West Indies, was freeborn on September 12, 1748, the son of Thomas Prince Hall, an Englishman, and his mother, a free black woman of French heritage. In 1765, at the age of 17, Hall worked for his passage on a ship to Boston where he became a leatherworker. Eight years later he had acquired property and was eligible to vote.

On March 6, 1775, Hall, now a minister with a Methodist Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts, joined fourteen other free blacks of Boston who all became Masons at British Army Lodge, No. 58, then attached to one of General Thomas Gage's regiments stationed in Boston. Hall and the other newly initiated Masons were granted the authority to meet as a separate lodge, to march in parades, and to bury their dead. They were not granted permission to confer degrees or perform any other Masonic work.

Nine years later on March 2, 1784, Hall petitioned the Grand Lodge of England, asking for a warrant for a Charter that they had been denied by the white Masons of Massachusetts. The warrant was approved and Hall established the first lodge of African American Masons in North America known as African Lodge No. 459.

Although the status of the African American Masons improved, they were not considered a "full" Masonic lodge until 1787 when Prince Hall received a charter from the Grand Lodge of England, the mother of all Freemasonry. In 1787, African Lodge No. 459 to

(continued next page)

became African Lodge No. 1 with Prince Hall as its leader. Also these Masons were now independent of the United Grand Lodge of England. They created separate jurisdictions comprised of mostly African American members. In 1791, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge was founded to govern the three then existing black Masonic lodges with Prince Hall as its first Grand Master, a position he held until his death in December 1807. Black Freemasonry evolved from the establishment of this Grand Lodge.

Due to prevalent racism and segregation in North America, it was impossible for African Americans to join most mainstream Masonic lodges until the late 20th century. Yet, because Prince Hall Mason lodges were African American, North American Grand Lodges denounced Prince Hall Lodges and Prince Hall Masons, deeming them illegitimate and refusing to recognize their authority. Until 1865 most Prince Hall lodges were in the North but after the Civil War, black Masonry quickly spread across the South, often led by Northern-born Masons who became active in Reconstruction Politics.

During the years of Reconstruction and continuing to 1900, Prince Hall Masonry remained a highly prestigious but small fraternity. By the early 20th century the membership rapidly expanded, lessening its exclusivity. Although all Masonic Lodges today are theoretically racially integrated, white Grand Lodges in Mississippi, Florida, Arkansas, Louisiana, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, and West Virginia still do not recognize Prince Hall Grand Lodge members as legitimate Masons. Nonetheless the Prince Hall Masons include tens of thousands of black and some non-black members throughout the United States, Canada, the Bahamas, and Liberia.

Fraternally,
Chris Jordan
Junior Warden

The Masonic Funeral Service is one of the most important obligations we have in the Craft. To honor our Brother is a duty incumbent upon all Masons. Remember our departed Brothers as we go about our lives, always bearing in mind that our days are numbered and that the time will come when you will not be able to answer our call. You should take time out of your busy schedules to join with your Brothers and the family of the departed, whenever the opportunity occurs.

The Masonic Fraternity has done a deplorable job of honoring our departed brothers in the recent past. Many members have never even seen a Masonic Funeral, let alone participated in one. Most say that they do not have the work or have never participated in a service.

Tucson Lodge No. 4 will be hosting a training session on Masonic Funerals on **Thursday, March 12th at 7:00 pm** at Tucson Lodge No. 4 located at 3590 N. Country Club Road. A copy of the Masonic Funeral Ritual will be provided for each attendee and a mock funeral ritual will be performed. The training is open to all Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Masons. The training will be conducted by MWB Robert Conrad and WB Craig Gross who have extensive familiarity with Masonic Funerals.

This is an opportunity for your Lodge to develop a Funeral Team or to refine the Funeral team you already have. There is no adopted funeral ritual for Arizona Masons, therefore there is really no right or wrong way to perform a funeral. However, if we are all working off a similar ritual it will make it easier for us to support each other.

Reservations are not required. Refreshments will be provided. There is no cost for this program but donations will be gladly accepted to offset printing and refreshment costs. Please plan on joining us. If you have any questions, please contact me at 248-4815 or at TL4SO@HOTMAIL.COM.

**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.**

Deadwood has become a social gathering and tool for the Brothers of our Lodge. The knowledge you pass onto some of our less informed Brethren is priceless. You are the link from the past to the future. The success of our lodge, and Masonry, is in your hands.

You do make a difference....

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

WILLIAM E. WILKINSON, P.L.L.C.

Living Trusts and Wills
HIPAA and HITECH Act
Personal Injury Law

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Tucson, Arizona 85704-4626



THANK YOU FROM THE SECRETARY

I want to thank all the brethren that have so promptly sent in their dues and received their 2015 dues card. It really helps us balance the finances of the lodge when the dues are being received in a timely manner. So far this year I have mailed out over 200 dues cards and there are fewer than three dozen yet to be mailed. Please check your wallet and make sure that you have a 2015 (salmon colored) dues card for Tucson Lodge No. 4. Those of you that are perpetual members may want to consider making a donation to the lodge for your yearly per-capita payment to the Grand Lodge of \$28.00. We truly appreciate any donation made to off-set the per-capita fee.

BYLAWS CHANGE TO BE VOTED ON AT THE MARCH MEETING

Brethren: I am proposing a change to the by-laws of the lodge to remove an unnecessary requirement from the budget. In 2008 the by-laws were changed to create a contingency fund of \$2000 per year for unforeseen facility repairs and maintenance. At the time much maintenance was deferred due to lack of funds. The financial situation of the lodge is dramatically different now given the new building and the endowment from the sale of the old building. Facility repairs and maintenance are no longer deferred but completed as soon as possible. Therefore this part of the by-laws is out of date and should be removed.

Existing Language: ARTICLE 10 Of committees and Grand Lodge

Section 5: The Master, at the Stated Meeting following his installation, shall appoint a Budget Committee consisting of the Senior Warden (Chair), Junior Warden, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Secretary, Treasurer, and one (1) Past Master. The Past Master member shall be in addition to the other committee members listed, who are either elected or appointed Officers of the Lodge. The Budget Committee shall prepare a budget for ratification at the October Stated Meeting. *Said proposed budget shall include a contingency fund of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) which shall accrue annually, for unforeseen facility repairs and maintenance.*

Proposed Language: ARTICLE 10 Of committees and Grand Lodge

Section 5: The Master, at the Stated Meeting following his installation, shall appoint a Budget Committee consisting of the Senior Warden (Chair), Junior Warden, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Secretary, Treasurer, and one (1) Past Master. The Past Master member shall be in addition to the other committee members listed, who are either elected or appointed Officers of the Lodge. The Budget Committee shall prepare a budget for ratification at the October Stated Meeting.

TO THE STUDY OF GEOMETRY

Vesica Piscis

Vesica piscis is a Latin term which translates into English to mean “bladder of a fish.” Geometrically it is created by joining two intersecting circles or spheres with equal radii so the midpoint of each circle touches the perimeter of the other. (See Figure 1) The intersection formed has an Italian name *mandorla* which in English translates to “almond.” The most familiar modern 3-D example of this ancient symbol is the American football. In Freemasonry we see this symbol used as the shape of the collars worn by lodge officers to hold and display their jewels of office. It is used as the shape for enclosing official seals of Masonic lodges also.

To the ancients the almond shape was used as a symbol to represent the protective, sealing away of an important subject matter or substance inside a virtually impassable covering. One can visualize easily the valuable almond safely contained with its shell as a metaphor. The section was commonly viewed mystically as a concentration of light inside each person that shines outward from within us. This concept of concentration led to it symbolizing a covering packed inside with great power. The geometric ratio of the width of the vesica piscis is the square root of 3. Mathematically this is $265/153$ or 1.7320. . . The Pythagoreans called this ratio the measure of a fish and it was a holy number to them.

This symbol though used for millennia before Jesus Christ was born was later adopted after his birth in the Christian tradition and used a symbol for a fish called the “ichthys” to represent Christianity. (See Figure 1) Interestingly, the denominator of 153 for the width to height ratio for the vesica piscis is mentioned in the Gospel of John (21:11) as the precise number of fish caught for the miracle catch therein. This number of fish suggests there may be a coded reference regarding holy beliefs held by the Pythagoreans.

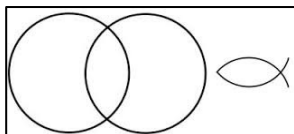


Figure 1: Vesica Piscis

This symbol has been used to represent the coming together and union of two opposites like heaven and earth or spirit and matter. Ancient Egyptians saw the geometry of these two intertwined circles as a representation of a total solar eclipse and imitated this design in their buildings and artwork. To the study of geometry, therefore, your attention is especially directed.

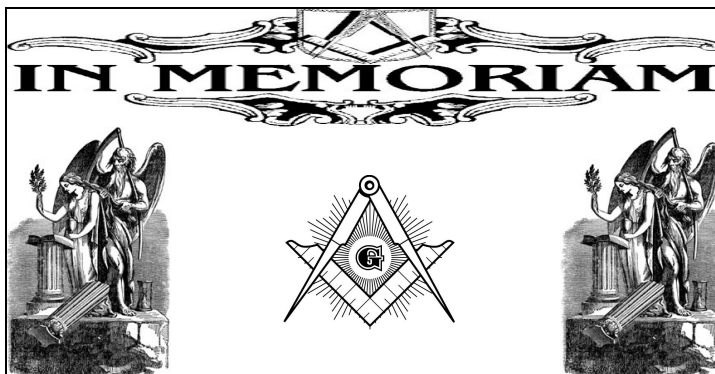
William Wilkinson, Esq., Junior Deacon

MARCH MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

NAME	DATE	YEAR	YEARS
William Tafoya Beltran	2	1983	32
Laszlo Fabian	3	1982	33
Charles Jude Soulliard	3	2003	12
Ayman Ismat Abdulhamid	5	2002	13
Bruce Andrew Fisher	8	1963	52
James Richard Randolph	8	1975	40
Jose Estrella	9	1988	27
William Raymond Hill	9	2011	4
Neil Allen Bailey	12	2014	1
Floren Curtis Warren	13	1963	52
Donald Laurence Seamands	14	1956	59
Bruce Daniel Pyles	16	2012	3
E. David Hobbs	17	1948	67
Dennis Michael Loss	19	1975	40
Morris Van Elrod	22	1980	35
Russell Blair Johnson II	23	2005	10
Hannes Jurgen Meyer	24	2004	11
Karl Gray Rosenstein	24	1965	50
Stephen Odell Doonan	25	1998	17
James Donald Wadley	26	1979	36
James Larkin Rodger	27	2012	3
Ralph Fleming Kerfoot	28	1972	43
Wesley Yandell Jr.	28	2012	3
Joseph Franklin Maddux	30	1960	55
Donald Melvie Jess	31	2003	12

Please congratulate these Brothers when you see them. If you don't see them, yet know them, give them a call and invite them to go to lodge with you.

Bring your Birthday Card and get your dinner compliments of the Lodge.



Of our Brethren who have passed on this Masonic year

Name	Birth	Raised	Death
Minor Grover “Dusty” Rhodes, Jr.	05-31-21	05-08-63	01-09-15

OUR LADIES ENTERTAINMENT

March 4th Stated meeting. Ute Vaughn and Nancy Bautzmann will be sharing a night of fun with art. First a short presentation on what they do and then hands on drawing. Materials will be provided. Come and enjoy finding the artist in you.

From First Lady Nancy

2015 LODGE OFFICERS

Worshipful Master	Leigh Creighton (Nancy).....	(520) 360-9798	ljcr8n@gmail.com
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TUCSON LODGE MASONIC FAMILY SCHEDULES

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

Requests to use the Lodge building must be referred to Lynda Gross at lgross100@cox.net or 795-3932

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