

Newsletter Issue 02, March 2021



THE FRESHEST PRESTLEBOARD



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**SCHEDULED
ZOOM MEETINGS
EVERY 2ND & 4TH MONDAYS
@ 7:00PM
CHECK EMAILS FOR
INVITATION**

NEWSLETTER ENTRIES

NEWSLETTER ENTRIES ARE DUE
ON THE 25TH OF EVERY MONTH.
PLEASE EMAIL ENTRIES TO
SL76TRESTLEBOARD@GMAIL.COM



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<http://rioranchofreemasons.org>

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By John R. Heisner Part. 01

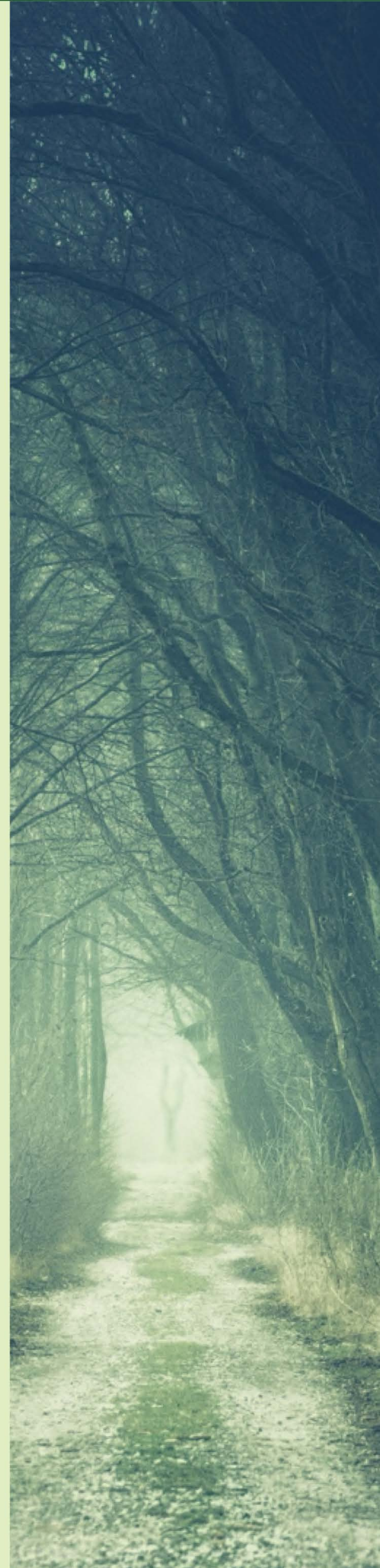
From its origin to the present hour, in all its vicissitudes, Masonry has been the steady unwearing friend of man.

- Bro. Theodore Roosevelt

Brothers!

It is hard to believe that it is almost three months since I was Installed and took my turn in the station in the East. I am grateful to all the officers and brothers that have worked so hard these past few months. Thank you to everyone that continues to be faithful and joining the meetings on Zoom. I'm hopeful that we will be able to meet in person soon, but let's continue to be creative as we travel through these challenging times to find ways to stay active and engaged.

WM Eric Moses





THE MASONIC DECK OF CARDS

Posted by Shirya Paranjpe on the Facebook masonic group "Masonic World Wide"

One evening a Lodge Mentor retired with a young Brother who could not witness a ceremony in a higher degree.

The Mentor produced a pack of playing cards and said to the younger Brother, "Did you know that you can learn a great deal about Freemasonry from these?"

"No, indeed," said the young Brother.

"What can they teach me?"

"They are useful for improving your memory," said the Mentor. "Look here, now."

- The ACE it reminds me of the Great Architect of the Universe.
- The TWO reminds me of the two great pillars at the entrance of King Solomon's Temple
- The THREE reminds me of the 3 who rule the Lodge,
 - the WM,
 - the SW
 - and the JW.
- The FOUR reminds me of our progression in the Craft
 - Entered Apprentice,
 - Fellow Craft,
 - Master Mason,
 - and Worshipful Master.
- The FIVE reminds me of the 5 noble orders of Architecture,
 - Tuscan,
 - Doric,
 - Ionic,
 - Corinthian
 - and Composite.
- The SIX reminds me of the 6 principles of our order,
 - Brotherly Love,
 - Relief,
 - Truth,
 - Faith,
 - Hope,
 - and Charity.



- The SEVEN reminds me of the 7 liberal arts and sciences,
 - Grammar,
 - Logic,
 - Rhetoric,
 - Arithmetic,
 - Music,
 - Geometry,
 - and Astronomy.
- The EIGHT reminds me that we have members from all faiths. Muslims believe that there are 8 paradises, signifying God's mercy. In Buddhism 8 is a lucky number.
- The NINE reminds me of the working tools. Three for each of the three degrees.
- The TEN reminds me of the 10 Commandments on which our order is based. TEN was also the Pythagorean symbol of perfection or completeness.
- The JACK reminds me of the word we share in the Fellow Craft Degree.
- The QUEEN reminds me of the widow who bore the famous son and, also our Sovereign.
- The KING reminds me of King Solomon the principal figure of our order.
- There are TWELVE face cards which remind me of
 - the 12 tribes of Israel
 - and the 12 signs of the Zodiac.
- There are TWO COLOURS which remind me of
 - Night and Day.
 - Good and Evil.
- There are FOUR SUITS which remind me of
 - Prudence,
 - Temperance,
 - Fortitude
 - and Justice.

"I am most grateful," said the young Brother. "I will never forget all that you have said. But tell me, there are two cards which you haven't yet explained."

"Oh, those," said the Mentor. "Those are the two JOKERS who Proposed and Seconded you after telling you that it would take no more than one evening a month!!"

The hourglass on the level

An excerpt from: TODAY in Masonic History -
www.masonrytoday.com
Presented by: Bro. Tyler McKenzie JW

The Hourglass is an icon of Freemasonry with several different things represented.

The first actual sand hourglass is believed to have been invented sometime around 150 B.C. The actual invention of the sand hourglass is murky to say the least. It did not begin to be used in iconography, generally on coffins, until sometime in the 4th century A.D.

For Freemasons it's two biggest representations is time and death. Which leads us to another symbol and, some may say, a principal of the Masonic Fraternity, the Level.

The Hourglass representing time can have many meanings in itself. One is that we are all moving forward in time, unable to move the sands backwards up the glass. No matter our station or position that we may hold in life, no matter how many riches we may acquire the sand continues to move from the top of the glass to the bottom. In this matter we are all equal, or on the level with each other.

Another allusion that the Hourglass has is death. Sometimes the Hourglass is represented with a scythe further enforcing the concept of death. The scythe has a long tradition, particularly in Europe and the Americas of representing the Grim Reaper or the Angel of Death. It also is associated with the mythical figure of father time. In this allusion, death the great leveler is referenced. Again regardless of station in life or wealth that we have gained, death comes for us in the end.

For Freemasonry, this is probably some of our more darker references. It can though be turned around, with the belief in the eternity of the soul. That time passes for us all and that death comes for us all is true. It is through the belief that leading a good, honest and true life that we will be able to one day turn the hourglass on it's side, stopping the flow of time as our good works here on Earth are recognized.

When the Lodge was closed by the Grand Master, Marci Easterbrook with the support of the Board of Directors recognized that the students needed to continue their lessons. If they were delayed in their lessons, they would lose much of what they had learned. In order to continue their schooling, Marci and the parents of the students worked out a schedule and computer systems to allow remote teaching. Marci set up a classroom in her home and was soon busy teaching our 11 students. Classes were taught for 45 minutes up to 5 times per week. The students have made excellent progress. We had five students complete the program by September. Marci is working on how to introduce new students to our program using remote viewing as the concern over healthy one on one teaching will be with us through the fall. As sponsors of this very important and successful endeavor, Sandoval Lodge can take great pride in our results. We are the only dyslexia school in the state's masonic lodges that is providing learning during this shut down period.

Dan Irick
President

MSCLD UPDATE



QUOTES AND SAYINGS AS AN INSPIRATION FOR EXCELLENCE

WB Dave Bachman

Brethren, I often find quotes and sayings and present them to my team at work. I try to use these to instill a sense of pride in the job we do and keep them constantly moving forward. I find often that they translate into everyday life.

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.” - Will Durant

We often think “That’s not my job”, “Someone else will do it”, “My contribution won’t make a difference”. Excuses are like armpits everyone has them and they all stink. Progress takes work. What we need to be thinking is “I am willing to do that job”, “If not me, then who? Let me do it”, “My contributions will make a difference”, “I want to see this Lodge succeed and I’m willing to do whatever it will take to make that happen”.

“There are only two options: Make progress or make excuses.” - Tony Robbins

Excellence is doing something the very best we can. Whether this be in our jobs, our lives or in this case, in our Lodge. The ability to consistently perform our duties and the good work of Masonry makes us excellent. Excellence takes work and with work comes reward. The reward we are striving for is knowing we are doing our best. This does not come easy, we must work, practice and be committed to our craft. The more we do this, over and over, the better we become. Once we reach excellence we must strive for Elite. Elite is the consistent performance of excellence. We must work to make this not a chore but a habit.

"In Search of Grand Master Hiram: Understanding Masonic Symbolism"

BY JOHN R.
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"The labor of the righteous tendeth to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin."

Prov 10:16

Certain writers about Freemasonry emphatically declare that Masons were originally builders, or men who were skilled at fashioning stone for the builders use. For them, the phrase operative masonry refers to men from a certain period in history who, presumably knowing nothing about the spiritual significance of our Masonic symbols, worked with squares, compasses, mallets, and levels to erect buildings. In contrast, speculative masons are described by those same writers as present-day Masons- men who have suddenly discovered the spiritual significance of the tools our blue-collar ancestors evidently knew nothing about. Some support for that contention is believed to derive from Masonic ritual itself, which purportedly offers the candidate a distinction to consider between operative and speculative Masonry. We are informed that our ancient brethren wrought at the building of King Solomon's Temple and other stately edifices, but that we today are only speculative masons.

The history of the English guilds also provides an additional basis for concluding that operative Masons were originally skilled builders who saw no spiritual significance in the tools with which they worked. For them, the secrets of Masonry exclusively pertained to the various skills associated with stonemasonry. However, without regard to whether Freemasonry sprung from those guilds, or is actually the heir to the ancient mysteries found in the initiatory rites, if today's Mason is simply told that his Masonic ancestors were simply originally builders, he is deprived of the more significant lessons in esoteric symbolism offered by comparing operative and speculative on a spiritual level.

On one level all Masons past and present are both operative and speculative. The speculative side of man learns the philosophical, theological, and spiritual lessons that Freemasonry teaches, while the operative side of man puts those lessons into action. In that freemasonry has adopted the Hermetic habit of synthesizing contrary or competing concepts, it is essential that the Mason understand how he is to bring the lessons he has learned into the world where he lives.

