

From The East



Brothers,

I want to encourage your continued self education, which as you know is a life-long journey. I want to encourage you to participate in the upcoming degrees. Even if it has been a while since you have done some of the memory work, it can be a refreshing experience that can teach you something new. If you would like to participate in one of our upcoming degrees, please contact Senior Warden, Woody Purdy or me at (530) 957-8939.

I also want to encourage you to come out for a free lunch and hear some of the words of wisdom from Most Worshipful Arthur Weiss, the Grand Master of Mason in the state of California, who will be visiting us in Sonoma County in “beautiful downtown Bloomfield.” This will be a sumptuous, free outdoor lunch picnic provided by local lodges. This event is happening on June 19 but you need to RSVP – space is limited. It is the Masonic way, an educational, in-person talk with a free lunch on top (see the information in this Trestleboard for the RSVP number).

Speaking of self education, below is the third in a series of three articles that were part of a paper presented at the Northern California Research Lodge by me on Tuesday, March 16. The paper is entitled, “Did Freemasonry Bring Light to Higher Edu-

cation in California?” The paper discusses the past, present and future of free education after high school in California.

The first in the series, which was in the March 2021 Trestleboard, covered Masonic contributions to free public education from 1850, when the early gold-mining camps existed, to 1920 when the annual Masonic celebration of public education was first initiated. The second article dealt with the Zenith of free higher education in California from 1920 to 1970.

This article reviews the last fifty years and what we can do to return to free post secondary education in California. How can we make free education benefit all Californians?

Back to the Future of Free Higher Education in California

The last fifty years have marked the decline and rising again of free higher education in California – a proverbial phoenix, yet still struggling to rise from the ashes. Only one UC campus was opened in the last fifty years. Fees and tuition at the three major institutions of higher education increased in the 80s, 90s, and into the early 21st century. The anti-education forces, financial crises, and budget complications combined to make college students pay these increased tuitions and caused the decline of free higher education. Perhaps the nadir of that decline was in 2011 when “for the first time in UC’s history, student fees exceeded contributions from the State of California.” 16

The Cal Grant system has made great improvements offering grants for college students thus making a college

From The South



Patron Saints of Masonry

Our Lodge is erected to the Supreme Being and dedicated to the patron Saints of Free Masonry, “the Holy Saints John”. This month, we celebrate the feast day of one of them, John the Baptist, on June 24. The other Saint John is John the Evangelist, whose feast day is on December 27.

Why are these Saints our patrons, are they important to Masonry & why these specific days? Having read many authors’ texts on these subjects, I try in this short and high-level article to synthesize 3 major concepts that have emerged over time.

1 --- IT WAS BECAUSE OF A MERGER

Historically, having 2 patron Saints seems the result of an agreement in what we call today “Mergers & Acquisitions”. A little over 300 years ago, there were 2 primary Masonic lodge groups in the British Isles:

The first included the Premier Grand Lodge of England (PGLE) and the Grand Lodge of Ireland. They chose Saint John the Baptist as their patron because PGLE was formed on June 24, 1717.

The second included the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the Ancient Grand Lodge of England and the Grand Lodge of All England. They installed their Grand Masters on the feast day of John the

From the East Continued

education at certain universities less expensive, but with some limitations, including the start of coverage, application deadlines, and challenging qualifications. Also, as recently as September, 2019, Forbes magazine reported that "California will now provide free tuition for the first two years of community college for first-time students who attend full-time." 17 These are two different approaches to returning to free higher education, but both have limitations. While these college funding mechanisms are beneficial to most students, they seem to me to be somewhat akin to a welfare system than that of a truly free higher education similar to that of the K-12 schools.

The former system used in the early 20th century was better because it encouraged the best and brightest minds of several generations to move to California, many of whom stayed to help build the future of the state whether they were wealthy or not. Whether they were citizens or not, the knowledge they retained was a benefit to the entire state. This was especially true when most would stay in the state after graduation and were in a higher tax bracket later due to higher income

they could command after completing some state-sponsored higher education.

The Future is Calling

This paper is a call for Masons, locally and statewide, to not only double and triple their support for free post-secondary education in California, but also a call for greater support for free public education in the United States and internationally. How do we make the next fifty years better than the last?

The pandemic has been a wakeup call as to the needed improvements in online education, the greater needs that exist for doctors, nurses and other medical staff, the greater need for apprentice programs in the trades, and the need for people of all sorts to be trained and enlightened as to sustainable environmental practices. We will need sustainable approaches to be able to deal with the multiple crises presented to the human race by climate change. The success of young students in these fields is a societal good for people of all ages who will need these services in the coming decades. Finally, greater enlightenment is needed on the philosophy of mutual benefit.

Does it not behoove Masons and our society in general, even if we were only to consider narrow self interest, to provide assistance to young students who will be the future providers of services and future essential workers? Who will take care of us when we are older? Do we not also want to support and reward those young men and women of great common sense who want to pursue work in the trades as plumbers, electricians, mechanics,

gardeners, etc? Isn't it time that we get rid of the stigma and prejudices against blue collar careers, when masters in those fields can earn six figures these days and job openings go unfilled? Many students, starting even as early as middle school, begin to lose interest in schooling because it does not teach them enough about subjects in which they are most interested. Often, when a student finds a subject that they are passionate about they begin to see how academics can help them in their career.

It shouldn't matter whether one pursues an academic education, hands-on training, or on-line certification. What should matter is how passionate students are about the subjects they

May Stated Meeting



Join us for our June Stated Meeting. Thursday June 3rd, 2021 at 7:30 pm

We will have a half hour for social interaction and start the Meeting at 8:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://nusd-org.zoom.us/j/82282682075?pwd=TD-VIL1B0SkRHZnh6KzhMOXF3el-RqQT09>

Dial by your location

1 888 788 0099 US Toll-free
Meeting ID: 822 8268 2075
Passcode: 656415



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Contact Masonic Assistance
visit: www.masonichome.org
email: intake@mhcuc.org
or call: 888/466-3642.

Lodge Contact Info:

<http://freemason.org> (CA Grand Lodge) ~ <http://masons180.org> (Pet.-Ham.#180 website)

Lodge Phone Number 707-762-6513, For Reservations call 707-762-4171

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want to make into their careers. They should be encouraged to develop a thirst for knowledge, learning, and enlightenment in general, no matter how they come by that. Should not Masons help promote and provide these opportunities for students? Because they are inspired by their passions and perhaps with assistance, their hard work to educate themselves will pay off for all Californians. Perhaps they will pursue academic or non-academic subjects in ways that they may have avoided because they were less affordable.

Did Freemasonry bring light to higher education? I believe that it is an unfinished work like the pyramid construction on the back of the dollar bill. This free-public-education construction has been beset with reversals and challenges but is noble in design.

Don Nicodemus, Jr.
Worshipful Master,
Petaluma-Hamilton Lodge #180
F&AM

Events Committee



On April 15th, 2021 Petaluma Hamilton #180 presented a virtual zoom event titled Masonic Support for education, the Past, Present and the Future. We had a total of 19 attendees. Guy Chalmers Past Master opened the event and welcomed everyone in attendance and introduced each speaker.

Worshipful Master Don Nicodemus presented on the past and gave a history of masonic contributions to California education. Other speakers included Candler Gibson Director of Masonic Philanthropy for California, Katrine Ciaffa director of 10,000 degrees for our scholarship program, our very own Alex Saslow Past Master spoke on our teacher mini grant program, Jennifer Tokarski Novato School teacher and member of the Rainbow Girls and we capped off our event with a presentation from Superintendent of Petaluma schools Gary Callahan who spoke on local education.

Following the event Guy facilitated an open discussion and a pleasant conversation was had between attendees and brothers.

I would like to thank all members of the events committee, Worshipfuls Nicodemus, Chalmers, Fonseca, Brother Sonnenberg and other brothers who made cameo visits during our various meetings. I look forward to future events both virtual and live that brings brothers and friends close and from afar together.

I am currently in the initial planning stages of a welcome back event for the lodge when pandemic restrictions loosen and we are able to safely meet once again, I am tentatively planning this event for the early fall.

~ Brother Vern Dorthey



From the South Continued

Evangelist, December 27.

After many discussions, these 2 groups decided to merge on December 27, 1813 and took the name of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) which still exists today. So, since the end of 1813, the 2 Saints John officially became our dual patrons (1, 2).

2 --- TWO MEN WITH THE SYNERGY OF DISSIMILAR YET COMPLEMENTARY APPROACHES TO COMMON BELIEFS

Let's now consider, from a high level, who were the 2 Saints John...

John the Baptist was a Jewish preacher who baptized many who repented as he felt that God's final judgement was approaching. He was an active, vibrant, eloquent, persuasive, and passionate preacher who seemingly could speak directly to the souls of people. The many baptisms he performed in the river Jordan earned him the Christian title of "the Baptist". A great orator, he preached abstinence, and righteousness. He baptized Jesus of Nazareth, later known as Jesus the Crucified or Jesus Christ. This baptism was a monumental event for what was to become Christianity and there are many references to him in the Holy



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Bible. John the Baptist's rhetoric and sermons attracted so many crowds that King Herod Antipas, not particularly liked by his subjects, feared that John might call for rebellions, so he imprisoned him and had him put to death (3) by having his body separated from his head. Head that supposedly the Knights Templar found during the time of the Crusades while digging under the Temple in Jerusalem.

John the Evangelist is more complicated to define. He is none other than the author of the Bible's Gospel of John. Some scholars have advanced that the Evangelist is the combination of several other Saints John. By Christian lore, he is also known as John the Apostle, his mother may have been the sister of Mary, Jesus' mother, and his older brother was Saint James. After the death of Jesus, he is reported to have been exiled to the Greek island of Patmos where he is alleged to have written the Book of Revelation though some opine that someone else did (4). He seems to have been a thinker more so than man of physical action, though equally passionate about his beliefs, and a writer with more aptitude than the Baptist to express his thoughts with pen. The Evangelist also is considered one of the closest disciples of Jesus and, just read the beginning of the Gospel of John in the New Testa-

ment: it almost reads like a Masonic text regarding light and darkness.

Christianity considers these 2 men as deserving Sainthood. Masonry views them as emblematically representing two synergistic & parallel masonic concepts: John the Baptist for decisive action based on strict faith, rituals, righteousness & morality; John the Evangelist for the softer and equally important brotherly love, charity, philosophical, and readily taking to pen and paper to express thoughts and ideas. Thus, considering these 2 men as patrons of Free Masonry also makes sense. Doesn't the symbol below bring something to mind, brethren?

3--- IT WAS THAT TIME OF THE YEAR

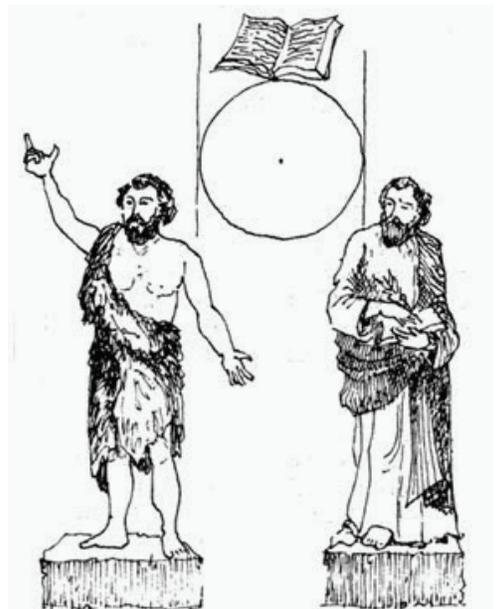
Now, for the dates themselves, June 24, and December 27. The Catholic church's FAQs about Saints indicates that by AD 100 Christians honored Saints who had died and prayed with them for their intercession (5). Even before Christianity appeared, ancient people worshiped deities and other important figures of their culture. Jews honored prophets and holy people too. The guilds & trade groups that appeared in the Middle Ages in Europe often adopted Saints as patrons and protectors.

Also, from time immemorial, going back to the Sumerians of Mesopotamia, if not before, the ancients had already observed the cyclicity of time: spring turns to summer which turns into fall, etc. They formed their own pagan calendars, often based upon the positions of stars which relate to seasons. They noted and celebrated the time at the beginning of summer when the days are at their longest, so the light of day shines the longest. Today, it is called the summer solstice. They noted and celebrated the time as well at the beginning of winter when the days are at their shortest, so the light of day shines the shortest, the time when darkness

changes to light. That is what today we call the winter solstice. Later came the calendar that we use today (6). The Christian church, not able to prevent certain pagan rituals simply adopted them and gave them Christian names. The birth of Jesus signifies the return of the Light of life, and so the Christian church set the feast day of St John the Evangelist to December 27 to distinguish it from the birth of Jesus which is set to December 25. The solstice coming 6 months later, the Catholic church set the feast of Saint John the Baptist in June, which again relates to the greatest length of a day or Light.

Summary but not a conclusion
And that, my brethren, is my high-level, easy to remember, take on why the Saints John are our patrons: a) a merger of British Grand loges made them our dual patrons; b) the synergy between their different yet parallel and complementary conducts made them almost perfect representations of the 2 primary Masonic roads: ritualism and esotericism; and c) it was that time of the year.

References:
 St. John's Day, Masonic feast - Wikipedia
 History of Freemasonry - United Grand Lodge of England (ugle.org.uk)
 JOHN THE BAPTIST - JewishEncyclopedia.com
 John the Evangelist - Wikipedia
 Frequently Asked Questions about Saints - Saints & Angels - Catholic Online
 Gregorian calendar - Wikipedia



Happy Birthday

- James Jordan June 5th
- Wallace Kelly June 5th
- Michael Hering II June 6th
- Robert Clarke June 9th
- Robert Mac Donald Jr. June 11th
- Jacob Kaminker June 13th
- Mathew Epstein June 16th
- Robert Miller June 19th
- Russell Smart June 20th

Sonoma County Masonic Unity Mixer

June 19th, 2021 @ High Noon
at Emma Herbert Memorial Park
Bloomfield Rd and Broderick St
Located in Beautiful Downtown Bloomfield

All Masonic Families
are invited to join us for an afternoon of
Food, Comradery, Live Music, and Fun!

Special Guest: Most Worshipful Art Weiss, Grand Master

Please RSVP by June 4th, 2021 at

<https://bit.ly/2Rd2kZk>

or call Stephen Henry @ (707) 535-6241

Please Practice State and County Covid 19 Protocols



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June 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Hall Association (virtual)	3  Stated Meeting (virtual)	4	5
6	7  Royal Arch #22 Virtual Meeting	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Masonic Unity Mixer
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			