

MICHIGAN TRIPLE TAU

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons
of Michigan

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Getting Older

As I've aged, I've become kinder to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend.

I have seen too many dear friends leave this world, too soon; before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it, if I choose to read, or play, on the computer, until 4 AM, or sleep until noon? I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 50, 60 & 70's, and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love, I will.

I will walk the beach, in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves, with abandon, if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the jet set. They, too, will get old.

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten. And, I eventually remember the important things.

Sure, over the years, my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break, when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when somebody's beloved pet gets hit by a car? But, broken hearts are what give us strength, and understanding, and compassion. A heart never broken, is pristine, and sterile, and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turning gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver. As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself anymore. I've even earned the right to be wrong. So, to answer your question, I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day (if I feel like it).

I Didn't Know That!

People often think of the Twelve Days of Christmas as the days preceding the festival. Actually, Christmas is a season of the Christian Year that lasts for 12 days beginning December 25 and lasting until January 6. The Day of Epiphany – when the church celebrates the revelation of Christ as the light of the world and recalls the journey of the Magi.

From 1558 until 1829 people in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. During this era someone wrote the 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' as a kind of secret catechism that would be sung in public without risk of persecution. The song has two levels of interpretation: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the church.

Each element in the carol is a code word for a religious reality.

1. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.
2. The two turtledoves are the Old and New Testaments.
3. The Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.
4. The four calling birds are the four Gospels.
5. The five gold rings recall the Torah (law) the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit.
8. The eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the spirit (Gal.5)
10. The ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.
11. Eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples.
12. Twelve drummers drumming symbolize the 12 point of belief in the Apostles Creed.

There you have it, the HIDDEN meaning of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and the secret behind the song.

Sorry to ruin your whole day. I know, you thought that Masonry is the only organization that had its own hidden secrets, symbols and mysteries. Ours are all out in the open, this should be also.



Donald L. Galway

Grand High Priest

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"COMMUNICATION IS KEY"

Comments and Observations From The Grand East

November twentieth and here I sit thinking, like everyone else, next week is Thanksgiving. Now how did that happen, wasn't Labor Day last week. December is installation month for the lodges around the state and hopefully the master's pins will be presented to the incoming masters at their installation. Chapters should be looking for their candidate for the MSA or Bronze award; every chapter has at least one member that is worthy of either of these awards. All that is required is a little paper work to submit to the Chairman, Richard Hitch. The next three months are filled with activities,

December is a shortened month with the last week taken up with Christmas and New Years. That time should be spent with family, either in state or traveling out of state to visit. Lodge gatherings, and events, Christmas parties, where does one find the time to attend all of these things. When the month comes to an end some will be heading to warmer weather and relaxation, while those who are left behind will be hoping the snow will not get to deep.

January, now there is a month, not much to do, curl up with a good book and a warm fire and watch it snow. Nice thought but that is not happening, we have a lot that can be done Educational seminar, DeMolay Winter Fest and any number of other things to keep you busy. Chapter inspections should be scheduled or completed and we can all look forward to February. Now there is the month.

February, cold, snowy, nothing happening we can all just relax. Oh wait, we have a seven-degree day in the works for the first weekend in February in the Flint area, it is back and should be better then ever, so ok the first weekend is tied up, but we still have the rest of the month. Well not quite! The weekend of the fourteenth is the George Washington Celebration in Caro; this is a new event that was started around ninety six or ninety seven years ago. The Grand Chapter has its mid year meeting in the morning. The RAM Foundation has a meeting in the afternoon and the day is culminated with the George Washington dinner provided by Caro chapter along with entertainment, which has always been a high lite to the day.

Thank God for March, now there is a real month if it comes in like a lion it goes out like a lamb. Not much happens in March, we are all thinking spring is just around the corner. Wait, didn't someone just ask me about the seven degree day in Schoolcraft the first week end. Yes, there is going to be a seven-degree day the first weekend as it stands now. The next weekend is the East-Central Regional conference of General Grand Chapter. Which is being held in the Doubletree Hotel in Bay City. Now where was I, oh yeah, where did all the time go?

I have found that the Chapters that are using robo calls are getting an increase of the attendance to their meetings. For the price of a roll of stamps, most Chapters can call their members with a message each month, thus bringing better communication to the members. Your Grand Officers or DDI's can help get the information or feel free to contact me and I will point you in the right direction. Remember Companions "Communication Is Key"



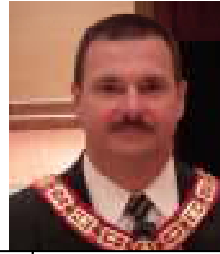
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King's Korner



RICHARD HITCH

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Scribe's Scratches

Companions:

We have an alarming trend that is infiltrating our fraternity and is becoming more and more the norm in some of our Lodges, Chapters, Councils and Commandries. The alarming trend I refer to is reciting from open ritual rather than from memory.

To continue this trend is to chip away the dignity, decorum, respect and high standards our fraternity has always maintained. Taking the path of least resistance does not lead to success or personal reward. It's an embarrassment to the fraternity and to the member reciting from an open ritual. Think about the candidate! He has paid good money to join our various bodies. He is entitled to quality degree work. If the degree work is not quality degree work, then he has been short changed and his opinion of the fraternity has diminished. We have failed him.

Have you ever attended a live stage play? If so, you know doubt paid a hefty fee for the ticket. If the actors performing the play were reciting from their scripts rather than from memory, what would your reactions be? You would probably demand your money back. Remember, the candidate is the audience. Don't disappoint him and embarrass yourself.

Our fraternity teaches us to be and give our very best. Not only at our meetings, but in our daily lives. Don't lower your standards and those of the fraternity by doing inferior work. Let's restore the quality of our ritualistic work and be the Masons we should be.

Fraternally, Howard W. Duke
Grand King

Companions:

As the Holidays are so soon approaching, it is a good time to first remember the reasons for these Holidays. We celebrate Thanksgiving to do just that, give thanks for the many blessings we have received. We celebrate Christmas as the birth of our Lord. As many of us will spend these days sharing with our families, neighbors and friends, we also need to remember those who cannot share this special time with their families, neighbors and friends. As we are giving thanks this year at Thanksgiving and celebrating our Lord's Birthday, let us not forget about the thousands of service men and women who are and have served this great country in order that we have the right and ability to celebrate. Also, let us not forget about those who are a bit down on their luck or a bit less fortunate. When you are giving those thoughts and prayers of gratefulness, take a moment to remember those not in our immediate circle. Also, let us not forget those past and fallen Brothers that have served our craft with such zeal and set so many great examples. After all, without many of them, many of us would not have been given an opportunity.

This year I would also like to ask each and every one of you to reach out to a friend or a Brother, that you have not seen for a while or is ill or an organization you have always said that you would donate to and reconnect or donate. Not only does this reach and help the soul of the individual or help someone benefiting from an organization, you will be surprised how much lighter and happier your soul will be. Personally, I am going to give a bit more to both RARA and the Michigan Humane Society.

So many times we allow ourselves to get overwhelmed with the shopping, planning and attending of these so important Holidays that we forget what they are all about. So this year take a moment and remember and then enjoy! Let this Holiday season be your happiest.

Rich Hitch, Grand Scribe



Louis C. McCray, PGHP

Grand Secretary

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Secretary's Scribbles

Grand Chapter Web Site:

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Greetings Companions,

Last month I kicked off my article commenting on the early snow that hit Northern Michigan in October, now as I write this the week-end before Thanksgiving, we are looking at a major snowstorm expected to dump anywhere from 3-7 inches depending on location and affecting just about the whole state to some degree.

The Grand Chapter now has mail delivery service set up at the new office in Alma. The address in Alma is Grand Chapter RAM, 1200 Wright Ave., Alma, MI 48801. The quickest way to reach me by USPS mail is still at my home address listed above.

Commenting about mail, there are some chapter secretaries who seem to be a little "confused" about procedures for by-laws changes and/or dispensation requests.

Chapter by-laws changes or amendments must be written up on Form 545 listing the portion of the by-laws to be changed as they currently are stated and the changes as approved. The request must be accompanied by Form 547 certifying that the changes were presented at one convocation, held over for one month to notify the membership and approved by vote of the members at the next convocation. The forms should then be set with the seal of the chapter and sent directly to the chairman of the Jurisprudence Committee for evaluation and approval. This year the chairman is Larry A. Inscho PO Box 143, Fostoria, MI. 48435.

Dispensations for temporary activities which may be in conflict with the by-laws of a chapter e.g. change a starting time or meeting night, move a charter to a different location, a 4 degree day, etc. should be sent to the GHP. The request must state the reason for the request and the date the activity is to take place and in the case of a 4 degree day the request must include a cast list for each of the degrees. The request should also be set with the seal of the Chapter.

If your request is sent to the wrong person, he can forward it to the proper officer for approval but it will cause delays in getting the request processed and increase the chances of it being misplaced.

December will be a busy month for our chapters with lodge installations to attend and Master's pins to distribute. Please do your part to make the Royal Arch presence known in the lodges in your area by visiting as many of the lodges as you can to show your support of the incoming Worshipful Master.

I don't want to forget that also in December is the Jewish Holiday of Hanukkah from December 6th to the 14th which celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after the Maccabees defeated the Seleucids to reclaim the Temple in 165 BCE,



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the Christian Holiday of Christmas on December 25th celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ,



and the week-long observance of Kwanzaa from December 26th to January 1st to commemorate the African heritage in much of the African-American community.



So to all our friends and Companions, may I wish you all a Merry Christmas, a happy Hanukkah, a rich and meaningful Kwanzaa, and a Happy New Year, and I look forward to seeing many of you in 2016.

**HOOKER CHAPTER #73, Belding
Degree Conferrals**

Dispensation to hold November and December Stated Convocations on their scheduled date of December 9th, but to open the Chapter for the dispatch of business at 7:00 pm each evening.

Dinner will be served at 6:30, as usual.

Opening at 7:00 pm for business meeting and then;

December 9 – RAM Degree

Send request for Courtesy Degree Conferral to John Fossler at: jfossler@hotmail.com

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Greetings Companions! The holiday season is here. I would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday.

I think we need to stress the importance of communication within our chapters. There seems to be a large gap in communication. I am not sure why this is given current technologies available.

At our local chapters, each high priest or secretary should put together some kind of contact list (email, texting, robo call, Social Media) to ensure that as many members of his chapter are informed of events, dinners, meetings, and degree work. The High Priest should also take time to contact his assigned Grand Chapter DDI and line officer. If you are a High Priest or a secretary of a Chapter, and you do not know who you're DDI or line officer is, you should contact the Grand Secretary to obtain that information. Each Chapter should make it a point to have the Triple Tau read at your stated meetings to share the information from Grand Chapter. These simple steps will go a long way in keeping your Chapter informed of what events are coming up and may also help spur attendance or suggestions for your Chapter's events.

I welcome all communications from any Chapter. If I receive information on events, I will send them out to all of my contacts. I have started an email chain to try to help keep companions informed of events. If you wish to be added to this email list for chapter, please send me your contact information to mickey422@yahoo.com

"Communication works for those who work at it." ~ John Powell

LIVINGSTON CHAPTER NO. 30 Royal Arch Masons

Cordially invites you to join with them in honoring



Most Excellent Companion
DONALD L. GALWAY

Grand High Priest

&

Right Excellent Companion
DONALD C. MAYVILLE

Grand Master of the 1st Veil



SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2016

HOWELL, MASONIC CENTER

401 W. Grand River, Howell, MI. 48843

SOCIAL HOUR: 6:00 PM

DINNER: 7:00 PM

\$15.00 PER PERSON

R.S.V.P – N.L.T. January 19, 2016

Checks Payable to:

LIVINGSTON CHAPTER NO. 30 RAM

MAIL TO: LOUIS D SCOTT, JR.

6509 Hamburg Road, Brighton, MI. 48116

louscott@yahoo.com

810 229-9294



THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving Day is a holiday celebrated primarily in the [United States](#) and [Canada](#). Thanksgiving is celebrated each year on the second Monday of October in [Canada](#) and on the fourth Thursday of November in the [United States](#). Because of the longstanding traditions of the holiday, the celebration often extends to the weekend that falls closest to the day it is celebrated. Several other places around the world observe similar celebrations. Historically, Thanksgiving had roots in religious and cultural tradition. Today, Thanksgiving is primarily celebrated as a secular holiday.

A time to give thanks for, and share with the less fortunate, all of the bounty, joys and fortunes that we have had bestowed upon us during this past year.

In giving it some thought I have come up with what “**Masonic Thanksgiving**” means to me:

M - for Masonry, the oldest and largest fraternal organization in the world.

A - for All who give without material injury to themselves.

S - for King Solomon, the ancient leader and builder, without repute.

O - for the Organization that promotes Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

N - for all who attempt to meet the Needs of others.

I - for the Instruments upon which we build a better life.

C - for the Cardinal Virtues of Temperance Fortitude, Prudence and Justice.

T - for giving Thanks for all that you do every day for all of mankind.

H - for Harmony amongst all the Brothers.

A - for this Ancient, yet so modern and up-to-date organization.

N - for our Neighbors, friends and family we all hold dear.

K - for the Kindness which we give to and receive from others.

S - for the Sharing of a smile wherever we go.

G - for the Golden Rays of Truth shining throughout the world.

I - for the Identity that we all have in common.

V - for our Vision for the future of all mankind.

I - for Individuals all working together in peace and harmony.

N - for the Nice friends that we make in all of our journeys.

G - for God in whom we all put our trust.

This is what **MASONIC THANKSGIVING** means to me. A 365+ day/year celebration.



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Last month MI Companion James had as his topic “Enjoy the Ride.” Let me assure you that his journey was not the one which he has most recently been on. It was just a short detour in the most enjoyable and rewarding Ride that he will take. He just got out of the Hospital today, Sunday, from Pneumonia. That was not an enjoy Ride, but fortunately just a little detour with a few potholes thrown in on his ride.

Have a full recovery, rapidly.

Happy Thanksgiving.

And a Happy Thanksgiving to all. Sorry about the snow to start the season off with. Drive carefully and cautiously.

Paul Howell

WHY PRESIDENT MCKINLEY BECAME A MASON

When General Horatio King asked William McKinley how he happened to become a Mason he explained: “After the Battle of Opequam, I went with our surgeon of our Ohio regiment to the field where there were about 5,000 Confederate prisoners under guard. Almost as soon as we passed the guard, I noticed the doctor shook the hands with a number of Confederate prisoners. He also took from his pocket a roll of bills and distributed all he had among them. Boy-like, I looked on in wonderment, I didn’t know what it all meant. On the way back from camp I asked him:

“Did you know these men or ever see them before?”

“No,” replied the doctor, “I never saw them before.”

“But,” I persisted, “you gave them a lot of money, all you had about you. Do you ever expect to get it back?”

“Well” said the doctor, “If they are able to pay me back, they will. But it makes no difference to me; they are brother Masons in trouble and I am only doing my duty.”

“I said to myself, if that is some of Freemasonry I will take some of it myself.”

FREEMASONS BUILD FORTS

“Fort Masonic” was built on what was known as the Heights of Brooklyn, which later became Bond and Nevins Streets, Brooklyn, New York. On August 22, 1814 the Grand Lodge of New York adopted a resolution by which, on September 1, the officers of the Grand Lodge accompanied by a group of Masons from fourteen lodges, went to the place and performed one day’s work. On Sept 127, another day’s work was done to complete the work.

“Fort Hiram” was built on October 3, 1814, at Fort Point, Rhode Island, by the Grand Lodge which supervised 230 Masons at work. Thomas Smith Webb was Grand Master at the time, The purpose of the fortification was to protect the harbor of Providence, Rhode Island.

SILENT CAL AND THE CRAFT

President Calvin Coolidge had the reputation of being a person of few words. One time while attending a public function he was told by a young lad. “Mr. President, I made a bet that I can get you to say three words. To which he replied, “You lose.”

Although not a Mason, he was not stingy with words when he talked about Freemasonry. While Governor of the Bay State, he addresses the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and said. “It has not byn my fortune to know very much about Freemasonry, but I have had the great fortune to know many Freemasons, and I have been able in that way to judge the tree by its fruits. I know of your high ideals. I have seen that you hold your meeting in the presence of the Bible, and I know that men who observe that formality have high sentiments of citizenship, of worth and of character. That is the strength of our Commonwealth and Nation.

I was stranded on a desolate road, not to far from San Francisco, it was raining and I went into a monastery to seek shelter, a Monk greeted me and asked “If I would like something to eat?” I thanked him and he returned a short time later with some fish and chips. They were the best fish and chips I had ever eaten. So when I was finished I went to the kitchen to compliment the chef. I spotted what I thought was the cook and asked, “Are you the fish fryer?’ He responded, Mo I’m the chip monk!”

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GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

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R. E. Grand Commander

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GRAND COMMANDERS CORNER NOVEMBER MESSAGE

GRAND COMMANDERS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

At this time of the year, we say, "Merry Christmas." I prefer that to "Happy Holidays," but I don't get confrontational about it. Instead, I want to be gracious. After all, Christmas isn't always a happy time for everyone. For someone who has lost their job, this is not the most wonderful time of the year, because so much emphasis is placed on a merry Christmas being a materialistic one. There are many who are in need of encouragement at this time of year. They don't need a Christmas present; they need His Christmas presence. They need to be reminded of what this season is all about. It is not about things. It is not about presents. These things have their place, but we need to remember the essential message of Christmas, which is Immanuel—God is with us. And for the hurting person, the lonely person, the sorrowing person, this is the time of year to bring the gift of encouragement to them and say, "The message of Christmas is: God will be with you. God will help you. God will strengthen you." So look for opportunities to share the love of God during this season, because it is a time when we seem to be more open to engaging in conversation with others. Now is a great opportunity for you to bring encouragement to someone who is struggling. Who needs your encouragement today. A light pierced the darkness at the birth of the babe in Bethlehem. He illuminated the night. He said: "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the **light of life**." A light led wise men to Jesus, and Jesus led wise men to the light. He still does. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

On behalf of Lady Nancy and Myself, Merry Christmas Sir Knights and All

SK Albert F. Johnson

Grand Commander

Knights Templar of Michigan

