

Wise Master • Masonic Education • Editor



Freedom

As the title above states, this month's theme is "Freedom," and the funny (but not really funny at all) truth is that, when I put together a list of themes for the 2020 newsletter editorial calendar, I had *no* idea that some of these topics would take such ironic, unfortunate, and in some cases, cruel turns.

Freedom is a bunch of what many of us feel like we don't have in this age of pandemic; when the internet and TV too often show the injustices experienced by many in a free society. People are stuck at home, forced to emburden themselves with inconveniences in the name of public safety and courtesy. Our favorite pastimes are locked up; closed for business. Not many of us Americans are feeling very free at this moment in history.

So I've been doing a little reading in preparation for this article (gotta do *something* to pass the time under semi-quarantine). What is *freedom* anyway?

Freedom and liberty: The same thing, but not really

The founding fathers spent a lot of time discussing *liberty* in this country's formative documents. While we often think of freedom and liberty being synonymous, there's a subtle distinction between the two.

Liberty is a word with political overtones. Liberty ascribes itself to the relationship between a person and their government. The Bill of Rights gives us certain liberties which we've enjoyed for over two hundred years. Freedom, on the other hand, is a more nebulous term. There are different types of freedom and they aren't mutually exclusive. Nor are they all necessarily unilaterally guaranteed to us as citizens of the United States of America.

Freedom, three ways

Freedom can be looked at from three different perspectives: National freedom, political freedom, and personal freedom.

Borrowing from the article <u>Freedom: The History of an Idea</u> by J. Rufus Fears of the Foreign Policy Research Institute:

National freedom is freedom from foreign control. This is the most basic concept of freedom. It is the desire of a nation, ethnic group, or a tribe to rule itself. It is national self-determination.

Political freedom is the freedom to vote, hold office, and pass laws. It is the ideal of "consent of the governed."

Individual freedom is a complex of values. In its most basic form individual freedom is the freedom to live as you choose as long as you harm no one else. Each nation, each epoch in history, perhaps each individual, may define this ideal of individual freedom in different terms. In its noblest of expressions, individual freedom is enshrined in our Bill of Rights. It is freedom of conscience, freedom of speech, economic freedom, and freedom to choose your life style.

In the United States, we tend to assume that these three ideals of freedom always go together. That is wrong. History proves that these three component ideals of freedom in no way must be mutually inclusive.

You can have national freedom without political or individual freedom; Iraq under Saddam Hussein and North Korea are examples. In fact, this national freedom, this desire for independence, is the most basic of all human freedoms. It has frequently been the justification for some of the most terrible tyrannies in history: Nazi Germany had national freedom but denied individual and political freedom in the name of this national freedom.

It is quite possible to have political and national freedom but not individual freedom. Ancient Sparta had national and political freedom, but none of the individual freedoms we expect today.

The Roman Empire represents two centuries that brought peace and prosperity to the world by extinguishing national and political freedom, but in which individual freedom flourished as it never had.

From the Declaration of Independence to the First World War, the history of our own country provides a dramatic example of the separation of these three component ideals of freedom. After 1776, the United States had national freedom.

Adult white males also had political and individual freedom. White women had a considerable degree of individual freedom but no political liberty until 1920 and the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment. Until after the Civil War, African-Americans possessed neither political nor individual freedom. In 1857 the Supreme Court formally ruled that African-Americans did not have the right to individual or political freedom. The soldiers of the Confederacy fought valiantly for their political, individual, and national freedom while defending their right to deny individual and political liberty to a considerable proportion of their population.

Thus, clearly, throughout history, these three components ideals of freedom have not been mutually inclusive.

Two takeaways

So, while we may feel that our *individual* freedoms are suffering in this age of COVID-19, we still enjoy the national and political freedoms that have kept this country safe and stable.

It's important to remember that this curtailing of individual freedoms is temporary. By making temporary sacrifices now, we help ourselves in the long term. It's painful now, but this pain will pass.

It is also important to realize that we need to exercise our political freedom so that we can ensure continued stability and national freedom. Adversarial entities and governments are constantly trying to undermine our national and political freedom. So how do we counteract this? Exercise your political freedom and vote this November!

Masonic Education

As you know, our **Master Craftsman Study Group** will not be meeting in person this month. That does not excuse us from scholarly study, however! On the contrary, with extra time on your hands at home, I strongly encourage you to continue your journey in Masonic education. Venerable brother **James Cervantes** and I are here to answer any questions and guide you. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to either of us by e-mail:

Andrew Todd, 32°:. <u>atodd@ocscottishrite.org</u>

James Cervantes, 32°: <u>jcervantes@ocscottishrite.org</u>

If you'd like to participate or are looking for information about the program, please prepare by visiting the website for information about the books and other information to get you started:

www.ocscottishrite.org/master-craftsman-program

The Master Craftsman Program

For those unaware, the Master Craftsman is a by-mail correspondence course. Each participant is required to do some scholarly reading in advance and complete a written quiz which is mailed to the Supreme Council for grading. As each quiz is completed, a new



SCOTTISH + RITE MASTER + CRAFTSMAN: SYMBOLIC+LODGE

one is sent and the program progresses. The course consists of 7 quizzes, after completion of which the successful participant will receive a certificate and a lapel pin.

The Scottish Rite Master Craftsman: Symbolic Lodge course will familiarize students with aspects of the development of Blue Lodge Masonry and explore some of its developing symbolism. This will reveal that the "High Degrees" began to develop soon after formation of the Premier Grand Lodge (1717). Albert Pike's book, Esoterika: The Symbolism of the Blue Degrees of Freemasonry, along with Arturo de Hoyos' Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor & Guide (3d edition) will be used to demonstrate a rational and philosophical interpretation for much of what is found in Craft Masonry.

Study with us on Zoom

We will be meeting in the "virtual classroom" on Zoom this month. Join us on Thursday, September 17th at 5:00pm as we continue our progress through the Master Craftsman program. Stay tuned for an email invite, coming soon.



The month of August sees us continuing Quiz #4 of the Symbolic Lodge program. If you want to join us, please purchase the books and read the following in preparation for the quiz:

Albert Pike's Esoterika, pp. 385-484

If you're just getting started we can also help you with Quizes #1 - 3. You can also reach out to me directly for information and access to our Facebook group.

Thanks to all our brothers for your interest and participation. I'll see you in the classroom!

From the Editor

I'd like to express my thanks again to the heads of body for contributing their excellent and thoughtful articles this month and for doing so in a timely fashion.

Calling All Writers!

You don't have to be a head of body or a member of the line to contribute to this newsletter! If you have something to say from a masonic perspective — perhaps insights into your masonic ruminations, scholarly endeavors you'd like to share, or general news for the brethren — this newsletter is your conduit for those ideas. I encourage any and all brothers who'd like to contribute something to this newsletter to send their ideas to:

editor@ocscottishrite.org

I'll work with you on getting your article together for the next issue.

Fraternally,

Andrew Todd, 32°

Wise Master, Chapter of Rose Croix Editor, Director of Masonic Education

Personal Representative



Greetings Brothers. On behalf of Illustrious Frank Loui, I wish to invite you to an exciting event being held in September. Please join us for an online symposium exploring the hidden mysteries of Freemasonry: THE SCOTTISH RITE MYSTERIES — AN ESOTERIC JOURNEY.

Broadcast live via Zoom on September 11th and 12th, this twoday event will feature speakers of enormous Masonic knowledge, background, and reputation.

The schedule of presenters includes:

- Friday, September 11th at 6 PM:
 Ill Brent Morris, 33°
- Saturday, September 12th at 11am:
 Ill Art De Hoyas, 33°
- Saturday, September 12th at 1:30pm: A special panel discussion with III Brent Morris, 33°, III
 Art De Hoyas 33°, III John Cooper, 33° PGM and III Steve Doan, 33° PGM moderated by III
 John Heisner, 33°PGM



*All times PDT

Please make plans to attend this extraordinary event. Further details and information can be obtained by contacting **Ill Mario Balbiani**, **33**° at 916.452.5881 or via email at mbalbiani@sacramentoscottishrite.org.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Ill. Frankie Rosario, 33°

Personal Representative of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General in California Valley of Orange County

Director of the Work o Venerable Master



My Brothers: I hope you are all safe, healthy and well. September is here and we're all powering through as best as we can. And the good news... we have stuff happening this month... virtually!

First up is our stated meeting/catch up call that will be happening on September 14th at 6:30PM. We'll be emailing out information to you all a few days ahead of time. We're using the Zoom platform.

To participate, you'll just need to download the program from their website, it's free to use too!

Second is an update on our Fall Reunion. The Reunion will also be presented on November 6th and 7th with Illustrious Frank Loui, 33° S.G.I.G in California communicating the 5 mandatory degrees to all the candidates in the state. We'll

provide more info soon on times and what else will be happening during the program.

I also want to take a moment to give a shout out to our Brother Bob White, Commander of the Council of Kadosh. Bob has, through all of this crazy pandemic, been quietly volunteering regularly at the American Legion. While not our organization, the American Legion is a very important group providing aid and assistance to the veterans of our armed forces who have fought so hard to protect our freedoms. I have always admired Bob's willingness to stand up and serve, whether it be his time serving our country, or in little quiet acts like making meals at the American Legion. Thank you for your service, Brother.

As always, stay safe. Stay healthy. And may the Great Architect bless all of you!

James Cervantes, 32° Venerable Master Director of The Work

OC Scottish Rite 2020 Upcoming Calendar		
Monday September 7th	Labor Day	
Friday-Saturday Sept. 11th-12th	Online Symposium (via Zoom) The Scottish Rite Mysteries: An Esoteric Journey	
Monday September 14th	Catching up with the Valley Zoom meeting 6:00pm In-person Stated Meeting, CANCELED	
Thursday September 17th	Master Craftsman Study Zoom meeting 5pm	

Senior Warden



Brethren, I hope this message finds that you and your family are doing will. I found this article, from an article I read, from the Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." - Preamble of the Declaration of

Independence

The signing of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution were borne from our Founding Fathers' unwavering belief in the right to "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." Thus, today, we celebrate the bravery and patriotism of the men who did what was deemed treasonous in order to achieve what they knew was right for their fledgling nation.

Among these liberty-seeking men were some of the United States' most prominent historical figures, including George Washington, John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin, and Paul Revere. Just as these courageous men are well known across the U.S. for laying the foundation upon which our country has been built, their devotion to the Fraternity is lauded among Masons.

George Washington, First President of the United States of America

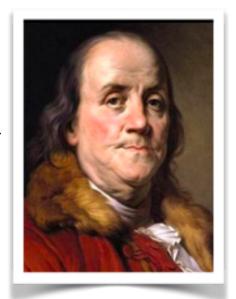
As the first President of the United States of
America, George Washington is one of the most
famous Founding Fathers and Freemasons in
American history. Washington acted as the
backbone of the American Revolution and set an
example for future presidents by serving the
American people with dignity and humility. To
learn more about the political leader and military



general who led the Patriots to victory in the War for Independence, we encourage you to visit our blog George Washington, President and Freemason.

Benjamin Franklin, Founding Father, Politician and Freemason

Once described as "An Illustrious Brother whose distinguished merit among Masons entitles him to their highest veneration," Brother Benjamin Franklin was a true embodiment of Masonic values. A writer, an inventor, an activist, a revolutionist, and a Freemason, Benjamin Franklin's life was never dull.



Born in the city of Boston, Massachusetts, Franklin

was an enthusiastic writer from the first. At the early age of 12 years old, he became an apprentice for the printing company owned by his brother, James. Three years later, James had established the first US newspaper, The New

England Current, and, much to young Benjamin's dismay, his brother forbade him to submit his own work to the paper. However, having always been an advocate for freedom of speech, Franklin submitted his work under the pseudonym, Silence Dogood. Ardently committed to this fundamental right, Franklin once said, "Without freedom of thought, there can be no such thing as wisdom and no such thing as public liberty without freedom of speech."

In 1731, at the age of 17, young Franklin's travels took him to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he was quickly initiated into the Philadelphia Masonic Lodge. His dedication to Freemasonry led him ultimately to become Grand Master of PA in 1734 and Secretary of John's Lodge from 1735 to 1738. His other notable Masonic accomplishments include editing and publishing the second edition of James Anderson's Constitutions of the Free-Masons.

In-Person Stated Meetings Canceled; Valley Updates via Zoom

It is with an abundance of caution and concern for the health and welfare of our brethren and their families that we are canceling upcoming Stated Meetings until further notice.

Please join us Monday, September 14th at 6:00pm to catch up with your brothers on Zoom. Stay tuned for an email invite with the link and password!

Over time, Benjamin Franklin's popularity and political clout grew and he was eventually selected as the Pennsylvania Delegate to the Second Continental Congress. During the rise of the Revolution, Franklin became an appointed member of the Committee of Five, which was responsible for drafting, presenting and, ultimately, signing the Declaration of Independence.

John Hancock, Governor of Massachusetts

John Hancock played a pivotal role in sparking the rebellious flame of independence that liberated the American colonies from under British rule. Like many notable figures of the Revolution,
Brother John Hancock was born in Massachusetts.
He graduated from Harvard Law and spent much of his life dedicated to the Revolutionary cause, his political aspirations, and the Craft.



During a trip to Quebec in 1762, Hancock was first made a Freemason in the Marchants Lodge No. 277. Upon his return to the colonies later that year, he became a devoted Brother to the Lodge of St. Andrew in Boston.

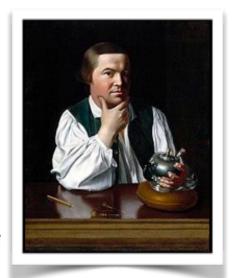
Hancock's career in politics was prolific. While serving as President of the Second Continental Congress, Hancock etched his place in American history when he scribed his famously flamboyant, oversized signature upon the Declaration of Independence. As legend has it, Hancock claimed he wanted King George III to be able to read his signature without the use of his eyeglasses.

Following the Revolutionary War, he was elected as the first Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As Governor, he pushed for the ratification of the U.S. Constitution and would end up holding the office twice. In poor health during his second term, John Hancock passed away while in office and was buried in Boston. His grave remains a popular destination for those visiting the city to this day.

Paul Revere, Folk Hero, Silversmith & Freemason

Born in the North End of Boston, Massachusetts,
Paul Revere spent his formative years as an
apprentice at his father's silver shop. As a young
adult, Revere enlisted in the provincial army to
support the patriot cause. Later in his life, he
opened his own silver shop and became a wellregarded silversmith in his community, although he
also dabbled in dentistry to help him make ends

meet.



Throughout his life, Brother Paul Revere was an active, devoted Freemason, beginning his Masonic journey in 1761 when he became a member of the St. Andrews Lodge. After 34 years as a Freemason, Revere was elected as the second Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

There is likely no story more famous in the United States' history than that of Paul Revere's "Midnight Ride". A Freemason through and through, his

courageousness and pivotal role in defying the forces of the British army made him a local hero and legend throughout the colonies, but especially in Massachusetts.

It was April 18th, 1775, when Revere was summoned by fellow Mason, Dr. Joseph Warren. There were rumors that the British army was making its way toward Lexington to capture Samuel Adams and John Hancock. There was also a mounting fear that the British planned to invade Concord military stores to destroy military ammunition. The story is well-known across the United States: Warren sent Paul Revere out riding to Lexington to warn Adams and Hancock and help them avoid capture, along the way warning the patriots of Massachusetts that the British were coming.

His legacy lives on to this day, especially in Massachusetts, where the town of Revere bears his name. The route of his famous ride is still marked by signs through Lexington and Concord.

John Adams, Second President of the United States of America

Although he was not a Freemason, it is fitting to revisit the eloquent and prescient words John Adams wrote to his beloved Abigail as the Continental Congress prepared to sign the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God



Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forevermore.

You will think me transported with enthusiasm, but I am not. I am well aware of the toil and blood and treasure that it will cost us to maintain this Declaration and support and defend these states. Yet, through all the gloom, I can see the rays of ravishing light and glory. I can see that the end is more than worth all the means. And that posterity will triumph in that day's transaction, even although we should rue it, which I trust in God we shall not...

It may be the will of Heaven that America will suffer calamities still more wasting, and distress yet more dreadful. If this is to be the case, it will have this good effect at least. It will inspire us with many virtues which we have not, and correct many errors, follies and vices which threaten to disturb, dishonor and destroy us. The furnace of affliction produces refinement, in States as well as individuals...But I must submit all my hopes and fears to an overruling Providence, in which, unfashionable as the faith may be, I firmly believe.

Mike Selix, 32° KCCH Senior Warden Orange County Lodge of Perfection

Commander of Kadosh



There it is, another month of strangeness marked off the calendar.

As I sit contemplating another month of what each day will bring I look forward to the first meeting of brothers in the same room.

In these continued unprecedented times there are cries of freedom being quashed, but I choose to see the light see the end of this long tunnel. My own freedoms have been weighed heavy upon with so much turmoil continuing to echo my insides in the outside world.

As I try to continue to use the trowel of brotherly love to spread PMA I know I have to ask for help. Each month I have struggled to write an article as so much weighs on me this year.

I look forward to this year ending and hopefully taking much of this strife and turmoil with it.

Bob White, 32° Commander of Kadosh

New to ZOOM?

All of this virtual meeting business may be the wave of the future, but it can also be a little intimidating to the uninitiated. If you've never "Zoomed" before, or are looking for ways to take better advantage of the platform (maybe you want to add your own fancy virtual background, or learn about "Zoom etiquette") the company offers a wide variety of online tutorials that are highly recommended. You can access them all on the Zoom website:

General Secretary



Brethren: With the coming of the Fall, the Valley can look forward to our Fall Reunion in November. Due to the pandemic, this will be a virtual Reunion online. Our SGIG will be delivering the 5 mandatory degrees. Our new Masters of the Royal Secret from the virtual Reunion will also be asked to attend the next physical Reunion. Since we had to cancel our Spring Reunion, we have candidates who have been patiently waiting to become 32°

Masons and this virtual Reunion will bring them in to our Valley.

Since Reunions have resumed, please let this office know about any Master Masons you know who would be interested in joining our good Valley. When physical gatherings are permitted again, there should be great opportunities for new members to participate in degree teams.

Membership dues notices for 2021 should start arriving this month. If you have any questions about your membership status, please call or email the Valley office. Finally, please let us know if you are aware of one of our members in distress. Have an outstanding month.

Jamie Hopkins, 32° General Secretary

Language Center News



Welcome to the RiteCare Language Center of Orange County! We sincerely hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy. As our summer hiatus is coming to a close, we've been busy planning for the future along with Chapman University. The University brings a wealth of expertise to our Language Center, which has resulted in the creation of extremely detailed Site-Specific plan to allow our Language Center to conduct onsite therapy for one day a week.

The Site-Specific plan provides detailed training and safety precautions that must be followed to keep everyone healthy. This includes regular and deep cleaning of the center. The staff will use screening questions to ensure that only healthy low risk people enter the center and will also need to use personal protection

equipment to prevent the transmission of germs & diseases. More exact procedures for carrying out these protective measures are covered in the details of the plan.

While the use of Tele-therapy has been very successful, it is not the right fit for all of the children. Some children make great improvements through Tele-therapy, but some kids still do require onsite, face to face therapy



to make improvements. However, at the end of the summer session we did learn that some families would welcome the return of onsite therapy.

The California Scottish Rite Foundation has approved our Language Center to reopen for one day a week based on this site-specific plan. We will also be open the other days for Tele-therapy. Everyone is very optimistic that we will continue to have a positive impact for these children and families with this therapy regimen. We look forward to sharing all that we learn this next session.

We have always valued the support of our Scottish Rite members and during this Covid pandemic your continued support is even more vital. If you have the ability to donate I ask that you consider joining our annual President's Club. A \$500 donation is a great way to sponsor a child at our RiteCare Language Center of Orange County and give a child the Gift of Voice. Please visit our website at www.oclanguagecenter.org/donate/ to make your donation. Thank you for your support.

David Frias, 32° KCCH

Chairman

RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Orange County

Please Donate!

Please consider donating to our Language Center during the new year. We are very thankful for all your support. To donate, visit:

https://oclanguagecenter.org/donate



A Community Program of the Scottish Rite Foundation for Children with Speech and Language Challenges

Speech Language Pathologists

Leslie Sierra-Guzman, MA CCC-SLP Laura Garcia-Maxey, MA CCC-SLP Chris Switzer, MA CCC-SLP Francine Wenhardt, CCC-SLP

www.oclanguagecenter.org

Please support your RiteCare Childhood Language Center by making an individual, group, or company donation. Support our Center by becoming a member:

President's Circle: A donation of \$500 or more each year supports one child at the center for a year

365 Club: A donation of \$365 each year **Center Club:** A donation of \$100 each year

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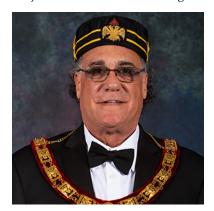
James Cervantes, 32° Venerable Master jcervantes@ocscottishrite.org



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Stated Meetings on the first Monday of the month, 6:30 pm; dinner follows at 7:15 pm (reservations requested) at the Anaheim DeMolay Center, 303 W. Lincoln Ave. Anaheim, CA 92805

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