Greetings ladies, brethren and friends.
Rather than regale you with all the wonderful things our lodge accomplished throughout the year, I’d rather use my last column as Master to express my gratitude, share my appreciation, and appeal to your sense of civility.

I’m deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve as Master of such a great lodge as Solomon’s Staircase. The officers of this lodge have humbled me through their dedication and hard work. And the brethren have shown me time and time again that when we work together we can “rise and build” and accomplish great things.

I appreciate the time, patience, and fellowship of my brothers. I appreciate that the lodge is a safe place where the only thing that isn’t tolerated is intolerance itself (okay, and crossing in front of the altar). I appreciate the diversity of our brethren and the civil discussions that can take place between men of differing skin colors, religions, political views, and orientations. The lodge has been a safe haven from the hateful rhetoric, the fear mongering, the racism, and outright incivility that have been pervading the news.

CIVILITY MATTERS
I’d like to close out my final column with an excerpt from my remarks about civility at last year’s installation. In addition to being an appropriate bookend, these remarks outline a few simple, specific ways not only to act more civilly, but to think more civilly. Keep these recommendations in mind as the 2016 election heats up. Touch your Masonic ring, lapel pin, or other object as a reminder of your obligation before engaging in political or divisive discussions.

[…] These armchair architects upheld ideals of equality, religious tolerance, and the natural law of science, as well as a belief in a Supreme Being. And they exhibited those ideals in their daily lives. These radical concepts were central to the foundation of the United States, fueled the French Revolution, and inspired democracies that spread across the globe.

It seems incredible to claim that members of an organization of only six million today have had such a profound influence on the world. But when you consider the types of free thinkers masonry attracted, the claim has merit. Freemasonry has certainly had an illustrious past.

Continued on page 5
DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

WIVES’ BIRTHDAYS
Mary Leightner (George)  4
Kimberli Overturf (Todd)  4
Louise Stanford (Veri)  13
Lina Feghali (Naji)  16
Vicki Nelson (Dale)  21

WIDOWS’ BIRTHDAYS
Betty Blassingame (Gary)  1
Joan Eckert (Blair)  4
Louise Buck (Riley)  7
Sally Mitchell (James)  8
Zahrah Williams (Robert)  11

ANNIVERSARIES
Clarence & Ellen Ritchey  1
Gary & Janice Taylor  9
Ralph & Barbara Doyle  10
Edward & Barbara Hocking  16
John & Tricia Cangey  19
Martin & Florence Klein  19
Rand & Elia Stolp  19
Richard & Kathy Gomez  31

HONORABLE MEN

#357 HIRAM AWARD RECIPIENTS (LIVING)

John G. Truesdell  1981
Ralph T. Doyle  1987
Richard L. Riemer, PM  1993
J. Lloyd Clayton, PM  1995
John Allen, PM  1999
John H. Reynolds, PM  2002
Bert F. Spencer  2006
John A. Reynolds, PM  2008
Carl J. Cupp, PM  2009
Heinz Feuerbach, PM  2010
Jay Goldberg  2011
Richard Krull, PM  2012
John Bill Muntean  2014
Charles S. Hayes, PM  2015

BROTHERS’ BIRTHDAYS
Hovsep Fidanian  1
Dean E. Knupp  1
Joe D. Anderson  2
Edward Brodboll  8
Ace Gorgonio  9
Rocky Rivera  9
Aaron Reddoch  12
Leon Garrett  13
Roger E. Clark  16
Loren G. Hinkelman  16
Ronald D. Paton  18
Herbert E. Conway  21
Ernest P. Pattern  21
Tim K. Crail  22
James A. Greenway  26
Charles E. English  27
Kenneth M. Bowen  30
Joe H. Rodriguez  30

PAST MASTERS (LIVING)

Rowe C. Harvey  1959
Richard L. Riemer*  1961
James E. Seay  1963
Raymond Parrish  1970
Nels A. Anderson  1972, 1985
Manual R. Alarcon  72, 76, 77, 93
Lewis Edwin Phillips  1976
John H. Reynolds*  1977
Normand Couturier  1978
Heinz D. Feuerbach*  1979
Craig Holoboski  1979, 2007
Lloyd H. Dane  1981
Bart E. Blakesley  1982, 1989
Henry F. Winchester  1983
Charles A. Cooper  1984
J. Lloyd Clayton*  1986

Chris Christopherson  1986, 1994
Frank Witherington  1987
David V. Martin  ’90, ’99, 2000
Richard L. Krull*  1991
John Allen*  1993
William C. Papas  1995
Charles S. Hayes*  2009, ’10, ’12
Aaron S. Reddoch  2013, 2014

* Hiram Award Recipient
FELLOW CRAFTS

The brothers listed below have been passed to the degree of Fellow Craft in the last five years and must complete their second degree proficiency to become Master Masons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>PASSED</th>
<th>COACH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jesse Kelii</td>
<td>11/12/2015</td>
<td>Richard Krull, PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Melnyk</td>
<td>06/28/2012</td>
<td>Chuck Hayes, PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vance Hand</td>
<td>10/15/2015</td>
<td>Brian Smith</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ENTERED APPRENTICES

The brothers listed below have been initiated as Entered Apprentices in the last five years and need to complete their first degree proficiency to be passed to the degree of Fellow Craft.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>INITIATED</th>
<th>COACH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Martin Ayon</td>
<td>06/18/2015</td>
<td>Carlos Diez, Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edgar Mendoza</td>
<td>03/19/2015</td>
<td>Brian Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Beltran</td>
<td>10/23/2014</td>
<td>Ace Gorgonio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joey O. Agustín</td>
<td>01/16/2014</td>
<td>Felix Lopez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff E. Rodriguez</td>
<td>04/25/2013</td>
<td>Aaron Reddoch, PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Whittiker</td>
<td>08/09/2012</td>
<td>Chuck Hayes, PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter J. Katalinas</td>
<td>01/20/2011</td>
<td>Bert Spencer, HA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEW APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been received by the lodge. We will vote on these applications at the next stated meeting, pending a favorable investigation.

Christian Lapinid

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

If you’re struggling with illness or other hardship, notify the secretary so we can help relieve your distresses. The brother listed below could use a call or a friendly visit.

IN MEMORIAM

We are happy to announce there is nothing to announce here.
YOUR 2015 LODGE OFFICERS

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BUILDING MANAGER
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BUENA PARK TEMPLE BOARD
templeboard@solomonstaircase.org

TRESTLE BOARD EDITOR
Aaron S. Reddoch, PM
treasurer@solomonstaircase.org

WEBMASTER
Richard L. Krull, PM (Alesa)
admin@solomonstaircase.org

MASONIC QUOTES

“The secret of Masonry, like the secret of life, can be known only by those who seek it, serve it, live it. It cannot be uttered; it can only be felt and acted. It is, in fact, an open secret, and each man knows it according to his quest and capacity. Like all things worth knowing, no one can know it for another and no man can know it alone.”

Dr. Joseph Fort Newton
FROM THE EAST, CONT.
So what of freemasonry today? Is its age of influence over? It may seem quaint to join a masonic lodge in modern times, even anachronistic. After all, those ideals of equality, religious tolerance, and a natural law of science aren’t so radical anymore, are they?

Yet, based on current news stories, it seems modern society still grapples with these ideals: income inequality, gender inequality, race inequality; religious persecutions around the globe; and showdowns over the content of science textbooks. The list goes on.

Political brinksmanship, vitriolic rhetoric, polarizing speech, and general incivility have paralyzed our society and our governments. Incivility prevents us from fixing these issues and dissuades us from talking about them meaningfully. Our society has some heavy lifting to do, and Freemasons are needed more than ever to restore order to civil discourse and take positive steps to improve the world.

So, my brothers, I challenge you to remember your working tools and lead by example. Don’t engage in hateful speech, blast those with whom you disagree, or suffer such abuse from others (ever remembering, that I see your Facebook posts!). The breeding ground for incivility is getting set in your own ways, refusing to consider the views of others around you, and falling into the trap of what essayist David Foster Wallace called “blind certainty.” Avoid media outlets that pander to the way you already think. Get your news from a different source at least one day a week. Shake up your routine. Expand your perspectives.

Remember that “masonry unites men of every country, sect, and principle, and causes true friendship to exist among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance.” Keep that principle of brotherly love near the forefront of your mind.

Fraternally,
Michael R. Opsteegh

MASONIC QUOTES
“Being persuaded that a just application of the principles, on which the Masonic Fraternity is founded, must be promote of private virtue and public prosperity, I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the Society, and to be considered by them as a deserving brother.”
George Washington

SAYING GOODBYE, FOR NOW
You never know what life is going to hand you and that couldn’t be more true for me and my wife Pam. Around the middle of September I was asked if I was interested in a job opening with my company, which would require me to move to San Antonio, Texas. It was an incredible opportunity so I immediately called Pam and we both agreed it was too good to pass up. Within a couple weeks, after multiple interviews and a visit to Texas, I was offered the job. That following Monday I began my weekly commute to Texas until we move later this month.

Since that time I have not been to any lodge meetings or events and I can feel it in my deepest being that some-thing is missing. I was raised on December 13, 2008, was appointed Sr. Steward one month later, and have been an officer, a coach, a committee member or in some other way involved in one capacity or another. It was actually very strange to me when the list of officers was announced for 2016 and my name wasn’t on the list.

I guess it was a moment of realization that this move was really happening and we are leaving.

I have made many tremendous friends in Masonry and will continue to maintain those friendships whether I am in California, Texas, or wherever my next role takes me. So, don’t be surprised to get a phone call, text, email, etc. from me at any odd time. You are my friends and I think of you often. And, as often as I can, I will be manipulating my work schedule so I am in California on a Thursday night so I can surprise y’all and stop in for some fellowship.

I will see you at the December stated meeting and the installation and after that... who knows? So I say goodbye, for now.

Aaron S. Reddoch, PM

MASONIC QUOTES
I am closing my address with a confession.
Since becoming a Freemason, I forgot hate. Instead, I learned to love - to love God and my fellowman. I am now at ease with my own conscience. I only do what I think is right, and shun all evil. I also forget fear. I can be alone no matter where I am, what I do, or where I go.

A clean conscience makes a man brave. I hope that Freemasonry has had the same influence upon all of you, which is an assurance of a better world to live in, and a happier humanity to live with.”

General Emilio Aguinaldo
(addressing the Grand Lodge of the Philippines)
Brethren,

This past week at the XIV World Conference was great. I attended as a Vendor for my side business - Masonicon. My intent was to sell apparel, get the name known within the Fraternity and connect with Brethren around the world. That did happen and sales were great but, what I received in addition to that, was the fellowship I hadn’t planned for. Besides the visitors from around the world, I met Lodge members, Officers, Masters, Past Masters and Past Grand Masters throughout California.

The reception I received was great and very refreshing. There was a lot of input and discussion - even suggestions. I can't wait to involve all of you with these ideas. I think the greatest individuals who will benefit from all of this are, the candidates to come and the ones who are currently receiving their Degrees.

One night, I was invited for fellowship at Prometheus Lodge 851. I sat and talked with many Brethren. We discussed the Craft, our concept, ritual, lectures, philosophy, liberal arts, Masonic education and the future of this great Fraternity. All this really helped shape the vision I have for our Lodge next year. To say the least, it was inspiring and enlightening. I felt very enthused and motivated - I still have that feeling in me. I shared my thoughts and concepts for how I would like to lead Solomon’s Staircase in 2016 and the long lasting effects that will (hopefully) remain for years to come.

I hope you all have a great week and Thanksgiving with your loved ones. Till we meet again, SMIB

S&F,
Carlos M Díez, Jr
GOLDEN VETERAN—ARTHUR MONCRIEF
Brother Arthur Moncrief was presented with his 50 year pin on November 19th. Pictured here with his wife Barbara being congratulated by Brother Shivam Sharma.

LODGE PINS
You had to have known it was coming. With the artistic talent we have in our lodge it was only a matter of time before a lodge logo was designed and pins were made.

Lodge pins are now in stock and will be available at the December stated meeting. Yet another great reason to come to lodge.

LA PALMA DAYS PARADE
As has become a custom for our lodge, several of the officers and brethren from our lodge put on their finest and marched in the annual La Palma Days Parade. If you have been paying attention over the years you will notice that the group has gotten larger and includes members of other lodges as well. This is a great opportunity each year for Freemasonry to get out in the public and say hello to the community.

Most Worshipful Perry (pictured above) will be the installing officer at our 2015 elections so you will definitely want to be there to meet him and get a chance to shake his hand.

GRAND MASTER PERRY
Shown above is the logo of our newest Grand Master of Masons in California. With the theme of “Rise and Build” look forward to great things coming this year.

WORK PARTY
Masonry is not all just fellowship and ritual like some might think. That’s right, we sometimes need to break out our working tools and get to it. Many thanks go out to the Brethren who gave up a Saturday to come to the lodge and dig a pit, and install a grate and sump pump where we often get an overflow of water into the lodge so that we no longer have that issue as we prepare for the upcoming “El Nino”.