

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

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THE RITE BULLETIN



*From The Personal Representative
Ill. James G. Hamlin, 33°*



Wisdom

Thought I had a few ideas for this month's article, each started out well, but they did not lead anywhere. So I stared at a bookcase, still no inspiration. Later that night it occurred to me that it would be nice to find a cabin on a beach and take a year to read, re-read and think about the adventures, ideas and facts contained in the books I have in my home. Adventures I may never take; ideas that never occurred to me; and facts I could not discover on my own.

The amassed knowledge and philosophy contained in my home is tremendous. Between the bound editions and electronic copies of books it would take me more than a few years to read and start to understand. Heck, it could take many months to study and begin to understand Morals and Dogma. And, besides being a contestant of Jeopardy, what good does it do to just accumulate knowledge? It has been said that wisdom is a combination of knowledge and experience. Knowledge is the accumulation of information; facts, principles, and theories. Knowledge is the foundation of wisdom, the bricks and mortar. Experience includes the practical application of knowledge in real-life situations where we encounter challenges, make decisions, and learn from successes and failures.

Wisdom develops when we combine knowledge and experience. Drawing on our accumulated knowledge and using the lessons learned from our life's journey. As we learn and experience more our wisdom evolves.

It would be a shame if each generation had to reinvent wisdom. We rely on the wisdom of those who have gone

before to, hopefully, become wiser. Babies learn from their parents just as they learned from theirs. As evident by the state of the world, ignorance, irregular passions, and prejudices get in the way of greater leaps of wisdom.

"Wisdom encompasses several facets, each contributing to its multifaceted definition.

- 1. Insight and Discernment: Wisdom involves the ability to perceive inner qualities and relationships. It goes beyond surface-level understanding, allowing one to see deeper truths and connections. Think of it as a keen intuition that guides decision-making.*
- 2. Good Judgment: Wisdom is synonymous with sound judgment. It's the capacity to make sensible choices based on experience, knowledge, and common sense. A wise person considers various factors before arriving at a decision.*
- 3. Accumulated Learning: Wisdom also encompasses accumulated philosophical or scientific knowledge. It's the result of years of learning,*

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reflection, and intellectual growth. Think of it as the treasure trove of insights passed down through generations.

4. *Wise Attitude and Beliefs: A wise attitude involves adopting perspectives that align with deeper truths. It's about embracing humility, compassion, and ethical behavior. Wise beliefs guide actions toward positive outcomes.*
5. *Ancient Teachings: In religious and literary contexts, wisdom refers to the teachings of ancient sages and wise men. These timeless insights provide guidance for living a meaningful life.*

*In summary, wisdom combines discernment, judgment, knowledge, and ethical principles. It's not just about knowing facts; it's about applying them wisely in our lives." **

So why is wisdom important to Masons? We are told the three pillars of our craft are Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty. Wisdom to contrive. Why?

"To contrive is to devise or create something skillfully, often with ingenuity or cleverness. It implies inventing or scheming to achieve a specific purpose.

The etymology of the word "contrive" traces back to Latin roots, where "con-" means "together" and "trivium" refers to a crossroads or meeting place. Thus, it conveys the idea of bringing disparate elements together to create something new.

In the grand theater of language, words like

*"contrive" dance across our minds, weaving tales of creativity and purpose." **

So we, as Masons, are to use Wisdom to bring together disparate elements to create something new. What this "something new" is, I will leave for you to ponder. As the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite is considered the university of Freemasonry, we can continue to pass on knowledge, share our experiences and hopefully increase wisdom in our ranks. It is not just our duty to perform the mandatory degrees and communicate the rest. We must continue to discuss and explore the meaning and wisdom contained in our degrees. We owe this to each other and to those who will follow.

April 12th, 1633, just over 391 years ago, Galileo Galilei's trail for heresy began. His treatise that denied the sun moved around the Earth went against the Church's earth-centric belief and caused him to be convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. Was Galileo wise or just knowledgeable?

Fraternally,

Jim Hamlin 33°, Personal Representative to the Valley of Everett

**AI was used in part (shown in italics) to create this article.*



From the Desk of the General Secretary

By Terry Grove, 33°

Brethren,

We are quickly approaching the graduation for our 2024 4°-32° degrees. The following brothers received their 18° back on April 15th, 2024.

The 2024 Illustrious Brother Carl Smith, 33° - Tribute Class: Candidates - Dan'l Adams (Marysville); Brian Hobbs (Anacortes); Howard Livingston (Mount Vernon); Jovan McClay (Everett); Aaron Rothe (Burlington) and Corey Stout (Camano Island).

May 6th, 2024 - 30° Knight Kadosh – Monday - 6:30 Dinner – Degree at 7:30 PM

May 20th, 2024 - 32° Master of Royal Secret – Monday – 6:30 PM Dinner – Degree at 7:30 PM.

June 3rd, 2024 - Monday 8:00 PM Cap & Ring Ceremony – 6:30 PM Punch Bowl

RSVP deadline May 30th, 2024. Dinner 7:00 PM. Ceremony at 8:00 PM

Are you going to join them in their successful efforts? As you can see, they have traveled long distances to complete their degrees. Many of our Elected and Appointed Officers will be there to participate in the dramas. Won't you take the time to support them or possibly join- in on the degrees.?



The Enlightenment and Masonry—12

By Richard Llewellyn Jones, 32°, KCCH

It is hard to underestimate the centrality of John Locke (1632-1704) to the Enlightenment and to the drafting of our Declaration of Independence and Constitution. Taking up from his predecessors, Locke's epistemology (theory of knowledge), dealt a death blow to the Aristotelian Scholasticism that had been the prevailing intellectual paradigm throughout the seventeenth century.

Locke was born into a Puritan family and raised during the tumultuous period between the over-throw of Charles I (1649), the Cromwellian Protectorate (1649-1660) and the Restoration of the Crown and Charles II (1660). His father was a country lawyer who served in the cavalry during the English Civil War under the command of Alexander Popham, a local member of parliament. It was through Popham's patronage the young Locke gained his education, first at Westminster school and then at Oxford.

Like most of his contemporary Enlightenment luminaries, Locke found the Aristotelian Scholasticism that remained the primary focus of higher learning at Oxford wanting. Locke gravitated to a growing number of students and faculty that were beginning to challenge the existing paradigm in much the way Francis Bacon (1561-1626) had in *Novum Organum*, first published in 1620. Following Bacon's lead, Locke and his fellow students concluded that the best way to understand the natural world was through keen observation and the systematic collection of facts to arrive at generalizations that could be rigorously tested. In many ways, Locke greatly expanded the role of empiricism that had been forcefully argued by Bacon.

Locke received his B.A. in 1656 and then went on to study medicine. Locke immersed himself in the work of Robert Boyle (1627-1691) and Issac Newton (1643-1727), both of whom he knew personally. It was through the lens of Boyle and Newton that Locke was introduced to the work of René Descartes (1596–1650).

Although he found Descartes an alternative to the Aristotelian Scholasticism he found so objectionable at Oxford, he disagreed with Descartes' belief that humans possess a God given innate knowledge of the world around us that we must merely unlock through reflection. Instead, Locke believed that all knowledge is acquired through our experience of and interaction with the world around us. For Locke, the human mind at birth is a "*tabula rasa*" (blank slate) through which we obtain knowledge from two sources: (1) sensation acquired from our experiences with the natural world and (2) reflection of the mind on the ideas generated from those experiences. In refuting Descartes epistemology, Locke argued in his *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1689) that if knowledge is innate as asserted by Descartes, "children



and idiots" should be as knowledgeable of the world around us as a competent adult!

For Locke, all knowledge, whether scientific, philosophic or theological, is based upon experience which leads to general propositions. But these general propositions are provisional and always subject to review and revision should empirical testing reveal those general propositions to be faulty or inadequate.

Whereas Descartes' epistemology, based upon God given innate knowledge of the world around us from birth left humans little free will, Locke's epistemology based on knowledge gleaned from our empirical exploration of God's creation rather than innate knowledge, provided humans substantially more free will. With such free will, we can rightly discuss the nature of God, based upon empirical evidence of his existence, and consider the proper place of kings and monarchs, based upon their benefit to society as a whole. These notions clearly conflicted with the prevailing paradigm of the absolute authority of the Catholic Church and the divine right of kings.

From Locke's epistemology flowed his theories about government. Like Thomas Hobbs (1588-1679) and Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) after him, Locke argued in his *Second Treatise of Government* (1690) that humans have "natural rights" to "life, health, liberty or possessions." Sounds a lot like the phrase "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" found in our Declaration of Independence. However, the uncertain state of nature propelled people to enter into "social contracts" with the governments the goal of promoting their security and welfare. In this, Locke was skeptical of monarchy, which tended to intolerance and tyranny, and advocated separation of powers in government. These notions also found their way into our founding documents, especially our Constitution.

Locke's influence on our founding fathers cannot be underestimated. As Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) wrote: "Bacon, Locke and Newton . . . I consider them as the three greatest men that have ever lived, without any exception, and as having laid the foundation of those superstructures which have been raised in the Physical and Moral sciences." High praise from the leading architect of our Constitution.

Locke set into motion radical changes in our thinking about our natural world and our place in it. Certainly, our democratic form of government and notions of rights and responsibilities owe a considerable debt of gratitude to John Locke.



Some Thoughts on Memorial Day

By Tim Bryce

BRYCE ON THE MEANING OF THIS HOLIDAY

It's not about barbecues, auto racing, or the start of summer.

On Monday, May 27, 2024 we will commemorate Memorial Day, a custom in this country resulting from our Civil War where we honored the dead soldiers of both the North and the South. Originally, it was called “*Decoration Day*,” an expression older people would occasionally use as I remember from my youth. The intent was to honor the soldiers by decorating their graves either with small flags, flowers, or some other small tribute. Actually the custom of honoring deceased soldiers is an old one, going back to the Romans.



member what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for

which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Today, Memorial Day is celebrated more as the start of summer vacation and the Indianapolis 500 as opposed to remembering the millions of soldiers who gave their lives in the service of their country which is rather disappointing. Fortunately, there are still people who commemorate the day with a small town parade or observe a military service at a nearby cemetery. Two of the most impressive services is at the Tomb of the Unknowns at the Arlington National Cemetery, and Gettysburg National Cemetery in Pennsylvania. You remember, the place where Lincoln delivered his famous address, “*Four score and seven years ago...*”

It's the last paragraph of Lincoln's address which defines the meaning of Memorial Day:

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long re-

member what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for

which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

One custom commonly overlooked on Memorial Day is the display of the American flag. The proper etiquette is to raise it briskly to the top of the staff and then solemnly lower it to the half-staff position, where it remains until noon. It is then raised to full-staff for the rest of the day. Those of us with modest sized flags at home should simply display them proudly.

The one event I particularly enjoy is the National Memorial Day Concert in Washington, DC and televised on PBS. They do an admirable job of remembering our troops.

Let us never forget, Memorial Day is not about barbecues, auto racing, the end of the school year or the beginning of summer, it's about honoring our fallen heroes.

Keep the Faith!



“Honor to the Soldier, and Sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor also to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field, and serves, as best he can, the same cause—honor to him, less only than to him, who braves, for the common good, the storms of heaven and the storms of battle.” —Abraham Lincoln

The History of Freemasons For the Month of May

May 05- In 1904 Bro. Denton "Cy" Young pitched baseball's first perfect game, not allowing a single opposition player to reach first base. Bro. Young's outstanding performance led the Boston Americans in a 3-0- victory over Philadelphia in the American League. The Cy Young Award for Pitching was named in his honor. He was a member of Mystic Tie Lodge 194, Urichsville, OH, He died November 4, 1955, and was buried with his Masonic apron on.

May 09—In 1926, Americans Bro. Richard Byrd and pilot Floyd Bennett became the first men to fly over the North Pole. Their privately financed expedition circled the Pole several times in brilliant sunlight in a flight that lasted 15 hours and 51 minutes. Their observations verified America's claim to the Pole that was announced 17 years earlier by Admiral and Bro. Richard A. Peary and his co-explorer, Bro. Matthew Henson.

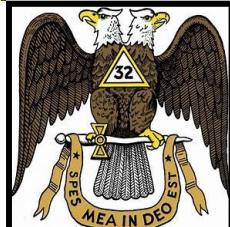
May 12—In 1804 Bro. Meriwether Lewis and Captain and Bro. William Clark left St. Louis, MO to begin their search for a route to the Pacific Ocean as charged by President Thomas Jefferson. They arrived at the Pacific coast of Oregon in November, 1805, and returned to St. Louis, September 23, 1806. Bro. Lewis was a member of Door to Virtue Lodge No. 44. Albemarle County, VA.. That Lodge went out of existence in 1801 and is believed that Bro. Lewis, along with many others, transferred to Widow's Son Lodge No. 60, Charlottesville, VA. He died of gunshot wounds, October 8, 1809. It is not known whether he was robbed, killed or had committed suicide. He had long been subject to attacks of depression and hypochondria. Bro. William Clark was a member of St. Louis Lodge No. 111 (under Pennsylvania Charter); He died September 1, 1838, in St. Louis, and was buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery there with Masonic honors. A large monument with the square and compasses stands over his grave.

May 16—In 1868, the US Senate failed by one vote to convict Bro. Andrew Johnson, then President of the US, as it took its first ballot on one of 11 articles of impeachment against him. His close association with Freemasonry was one of the factors that led to his impeachment trial. Thaddeus Stevens, the anti-Mason, was a ringleader in the impeachment proceedings against Bro. Johnson. Bro. Johnson died July 31, 1875. He was a member of Greenville Lodge No. 119, Greenville, TN. He was also a Knight Templar and belonged to the Scottish Rite.

May 19—In 1943, an address to the U.S. Congress, British Prime Minister and Bro. Winston Churchill pledged to US and President, Bro. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, his country's full support in the war against Japan.

May 23—In 1785, in a letter to a friend, Benjamin Franklin revealed his most recent invention: spectacles of two thicknesses. Franklin needed special glasses that allowed him to see near and far. To solve the problem, he had two pairs of spectacles cut in half; he put half of each lens in a single frame, and the first bifocals were born.

The Members of the
Valley of Everett
extend to all the
Brethren listed for
the Month of
May A Very
Happy Birthdays



Steven I Anderson
Louis E Bartrand
Gary R Bermensolo
Ronald H Brittain
Melvin D Freimuth
Jason D Finch
Spike A Hoskinson
Bill E McAllister
Steve C. Martin
Richard J Morey
Dennis R Olivarez
David F Surface
Michael J Tando
Carl E Tingelstad
Donald H Wilson



A Mason is not necessarily a member of a lodge. In a broad sense, he is any person who daily tries to live the Masonic life, and to serve intelligently the needs of the Great Architect.

Scottish Rite Education

Meaning of the Scottish Rite Cap

In the Scottish Rite, the caps [indicate] the consecration of one's physical and spiritual (material and intellectual) attributes to the betterment of humanity. On the one hand, the caps are an inheritance from our chivalric tradition, as similar ones were associated with European Orders of



*Knighthood, where they evolved from the Arming Bonnet, worn under the helmet. On the other hand, they are also worn as a type of prayer cap, a tradition which also survives in some religions. Thus, the caps are a constant reminder that the physical must be subject to the spiritual and that, like knights, we must valiantly endeavor to maintain honor and virtue by applying the Moral Sense and Reason.” —From Arturo de Hoyos, *Scottish Rite Ritual Monitor and Guide*, 3rd Ed., Corrected (Washington, DC: The Supreme Council, 33°, SJ, 2010),*

Valley of Everett Coming Event Cap n Ring Ceremony

Monday, June 3rd, 2024

6:30 PM Punch Bowl—7:00 PM Dinner— 8:00 PM Ceremony

At the Everett Scottish Rite Temple
2431 Rucker Avenue
Everett, Washington

RSVP to our General Secretary Terry Grove
no later than May 30th, 2024

VALLEY OF EVERETT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 06 Monday—Lodge of Perfection—6:30 PM Buffet—State Meeting—Confer 30°
May 20 Monday—Lodge of Perfection—6:30 PM Buffet —Stated Meeting—Confer 32°
June 03 Monday—Cap N Ring Ceremony -6:30 PM RSVP Dinner—Cap N Ring Ceremony

Note: Brethren take the time to visit your local Blue Lodges and share with them the Joys of Scottish Rite Masonry and Fellowship.

YOUR LOCAL BLUE LODGE MONTHLY SCHEDULE

DISTRICT TWO MASONIC HAPPENING

May 2024

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Lodge</i>	<i>Event</i>
May 07	Tuesday	6:00PM	Shoreline 248	Stated Meeting—6:00 PM Dinner
May 09	Thursday	6:30PM	Edmonds 165	Stated Meeting—6:30PM Dinner
May 14	Tuesday	6:00PM	Yancy C Blalock 265	Stated Meeting—6:00PM Dinner
May 16	Thursday	6:00PM	Ashler 121	Stated Meeting—6:00 PM Dinner
May 28	Tuesday	6:30PM	Mill Creek 243	Stated Meeting—6:00 PM Dinner

DISTRICT EIGHT MASONIC HAPPENINGS

May 2024

<u><i>Date</i></u>	<u><i>Day</i></u>	<u><i>Time</i></u>	<u><i>Lodge</i></u>	<u><i>Event</i></u>
May 01	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Centennial 25	Stated Meeting- 6:00PM Dinner
May 04	Saturday	8:00 AM	SLOC Meeting	Host—Centennial #25-
May 07	Tuesday	7:00PM	Sultan Monroe 160	Stated Meeting—6:00 PM Dinner
	Tuesday	7:00PM	Crystal 122	Stated Meeting—6:00 PM Dinner
May 08	Wednesday	6:30PM	Arlington 129	Stated Meeting—6:30 PM Dinner
	Wednesday	6:30PM	Alpha 212	Stated Meeting—6:30 PM Dinner
May 09	Thursday	6:30PM	Peninsular 95	Stated Meeting— OVDD- 6:30PM Dinner
May 13	Monday	7:30PM	Everett 137	Stated Meeting—6:30PM Dinner
May 14	Tuesday	6:00PM	Damascus 199	Stated Meeting—6:00PM Dinner
May 15	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Centennial 25	Stated Meeting- 6:00PM Dinner
	Wednesday	6:30 PM	West Gate 128	Stated Meeting—6:30 PM Dinner
May 21	Tuesday	7:00PM	Crystal 122	Stated Meeting—6:00 PM Dinner
May 22	Wednesday	6:30PM	Arlington 129	Stated Meeting—6:30 PM Dinner
May 25	Thursday	6:30PM	Peninsular 95	Special Meeting- 6:00PM Dinner
May 28	Tuesday	6:00PM	Damascus 199	Stated Meeting—6:00PM Dinner

DISTRICT NINE MASONIC HAPPENINGS

May 2024

<u><i>Date</i></u>	<u><i>Day</i></u>	<u><i>Time</i></u>	<u><i>Lodge</i></u>	<u><i>Event</i></u>
May 01	Wednesday	6:30 PM	San Juan 175	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
May 02	Thursday	6:30 PM	Skagit Valley 36	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
May 14	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Fidalgo 77	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
May 21	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Whidby 15	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
May 23	Thursday	6:30 PM	Camano 19	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
May 28	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Langlely 218	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting

Note: To the Valley of Everett Brethren please take the time on your First and Third Mondays to enjoy a good meal and great fellowship with your Valley of Everett Scottish Rite Brethren.

VALLEY OF EVERETT SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE MONTHLY RENTAL SCHEDULE

MAY 2024

May 01	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Amaranth - Welcome Court #58
May 02	Thursday	7:30 PM	Alderwood #185 Order of Eastern Star
May 05	Sunday	1:00PM	Prince Hall—SR Consistory 118
May 08	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rainbow Assembly #9
May 09	Thursday	1:00 PM	Oddfellows—Pilgrim #187 - Stated Meeting/Zoom
May 11	Saturday	10:00 AM	Prince Hall - Evergreen #9
May 11	Saturday	1:00 PM	Prince Hall -Golden Gate 4-Order of Eastern Star
May 16	Thursday	7:30 PM	Alderwood #185 -Order of Eastern Star
May 22	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rainbow Assembly #9
May 23	Thursday	1:00 PM	Oddfellows—Pilgrim #187 - Stated Meeting/Zoom

Notice to all Valley of Everett Members

The Valley of Everett structure for membership dues are as follows:\
 Annual Yearly Dues for 2024.....\$187 Per Year
 Life Membership Up top age 65Annual Dues time 15 Years
 Life Membership Age 65 to 75 Years Old.....Annual Dues time 10 Years
 Life Membership 75 and Older.....Annual Dues time 5 Years

Annual Yearly Dues for 2024.....\$187 Per Year
Life Membership Up top age 65Annual Dues time 15 Years
Life Membership Age 65 to 75 Years Old.....Annual Dues time 10 Years
Life Membership 75 and Older.....Annual Dues time 5 Years



bit.ly/ElementaryMatters bit.ly/MemorialDayToRemember

Rose Croix Funeral Service

This service is very beautiful and available all members of the Scottish Rite; however, Members must make their desires known to their families and the Valley. Should you desire a Rose Croix Funeral Service, when the time does come, please let your families know now. Ensure that they have the phone number of our Valley General Secretary, Terry Grove when that time does come - Terry can be reached at 425-610-4561 or email him at terrygrove50@yahoo.com



to

Valley of Everett 2024 Degree Schedule

May 6, 2024 30th Degree
 May 20, 2024 32nd Degree

June 3, 2024 Cap n Ring
 Ceremony—RSVP Required

SCOTTISH RITE WEB SITES
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 Orient of Washington
everettvalleysr.org

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