

May 15, 2026, #150

Dear Brethren and Friends,

Special Announcements:

The Rainbow Girls are collecting supplies for the unhoused in our community. They are asking for donations of toothpaste, hairbrushes, feminine hygiene products, hair ties, toothpaste, deodorant, travel sized soap, shampoo, and conditioner. There is a box at the lodge to place the donations. Please make sure all items are travel size.

Sickness & Distress:

Continued prayers for W:. Jim Parham is back at Ignite Medical Resort. Best time to visit is after 1 pm. Please let his wife April know you are coming. If you need her phone number, please contact a lodge officer.

4th Annual Masonic Jamboree has been moved from Saturday, June 13 to Saturday, July 11, 2026. Still at Chandler Park. Please mark your calendars.

My Ramblings by W:. Scott A. MacDonald © 2026

Put in the Effort

Human history is full of notable personalities that were “deep thinkers”. We also call them philosophers. How much do you know about them?

To be a fully rounded individual, we should look to our past at times to gather wisdom.

This week’s article is to simply provide you with a list of these philosophers and allow you to decide which you would like to study more. Pick one out and go find a book.

<u>Philosopher</u>	<u>Lifespan</u>	<u>Main Contributions</u>
Confucius	c. 551–479 BCE	Founded Confucianism; emphasized ethics, social harmony, family duty, and virtuous leadership.
Laozi	c. 6th century BCE	Associated with Daoism; taught harmony with the natural order (Dao), simplicity, and non-forceful action (<i>wu wei</i>).
Siddhartha Gautama	c. 563–483 BCE	Founded Buddhism; taught the Four Noble Truths and the path to ending suffering through enlightenment.
Pythagoras	c. 570–495 BCE	Linked mathematics and philosophy; believed numerical relationships underlie reality.
Heraclitus	c. 535–475 BCE	Argued that change is fundamental to existence (“everything flows”).

<u>Philosopher</u>	<u>Lifespan</u>	<u>Main Contributions</u>
Parmenides	c. 515–450 BCE	Claimed true reality is eternal and unchanging; influenced metaphysics and logic.
Socrates	470–399 BCE	Developed the Socratic method of questioning; focused philosophy on ethics and self-examination.
Plato	428/427–348/347 BCE	Founded the Academy; developed Theory of Forms, idealism, and influential political philosophy.
Aristotle	384–322 BCE	Systematized logic, ethics, biology, and metaphysics; emphasized observation and virtue ethics.
Epicurus	341–270 BCE	Taught that happiness comes from modest pleasures, friendship, and freedom from fear.
Zeno of Citium	c. 334–262 BCE	Founded Stoicism; emphasized reason, self-control, and acceptance of fate.
Plotinus	204/205–270 CE	Developed Neoplatonism; described reality as emanating from a single divine source (“the One”).
Augustine of Hippo	354–430	Integrated Christianity with Platonic thought; explored free will, evil, and divine grace.
Avicenna	980–1037	Combined Aristotelian philosophy with Islamic theology; influential in metaphysics and medicine.
Thomas Aquinas	1225–1274	Synthesized Aristotle with Christianity; developed natural law theory and scholasticism.
Niccolò Machiavelli	1469–1527	Realist political theory; argued rulers must sometimes act immorally to maintain power.
Francis Bacon	1561–1626	Helped establish the scientific method through empirical observation and experimentation.
René Descartes	1596–1650	Father of modern philosophy; emphasized rational doubt and mind-body dualism (“I think, therefore I am”).
Thomas Hobbes	1588–1679	Argued humans need strong government to escape violent “state of nature.”
Baruch Spinoza	1632–1677	Proposed a rational, deterministic universe where God and nature are one substance.

<u>Philosopher</u>	<u>Lifespan</u>	<u>Main Contributions</u>
John Locke	1632–1704	Developed empiricism and theories of natural rights, influencing liberal democracy.
Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz	1646–1716	Developed metaphysics of “monads”; co-invented calculus; argued this is the “best possible world.”
George Berkeley	1685–1753	Idealism: argued material objects exist only as perceptions in minds.
David Hume	1711–1776	Skepticism about causation, religion, and certainty; major influence on empiricism.
Jean-Jacques Rousseau	1712–1778	Social contract theory; argued civilization corrupts natural human goodness.
Immanuel Kant	1724–1804	Synthesized rationalism and empiricism; developed deontological ethics and theories of knowledge.
Jeremy Bentham	1748–1832	Founded utilitarianism: morality should maximize happiness for the greatest number.
Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel	1770–1831	Developed dialectical idealism; influenced Marxism and continental philosophy.
Arthur Schopenhauer	1788–1860	Philosophical pessimism; saw human life as driven by irrational will and suffering.
John Stuart Mill	1806–1873	Expanded utilitarianism and defended liberty, free speech, and women’s rights.
Søren Kierkegaard	1813–1855	Early existentialism; emphasized personal faith, anxiety, and subjective truth.
Karl Marx	1818–1883	Historical materialism; critique of capitalism and theory of class struggle.
Friedrich Nietzsche	1844–1900	Critiqued morality and religion; explored will to power and individual self-creation.
Edmund Husserl	1859–1938	Founded phenomenology: systematic study of conscious experience.
Bertrand Russell	1872–1970	Advanced analytic philosophy, logic, and philosophy of language.

<u>Philosopher</u>	<u>Lifespan</u>	<u>Main Contributions</u>
Ludwig Wittgenstein	1889–1951	Explored how language shapes meaning and philosophical problems.
Martin Heidegger	1889–1976	Examined being, existence, authenticity, and human experience of time.
Jean-Paul Sartre	1905–1980	Existentialism: humans are radically free and responsible for creating meaning.
Hannah Arendt	1906–1975	Analyzed totalitarianism, political power, and the nature of evil.
Simone de Beauvoir	1908–1986	Existential feminism; analyzed gender as socially constructed.
Michel Foucault	1926–1984	Studied relationships between power, knowledge, institutions, and social control.
John Rawls	1921–2002	Developed modern theories of justice based on fairness and equality.
Jacques Derrida	1930–2004	Founded deconstruction; questioned fixed meanings in language and texts.
Peter Singer	1946–present	Influential in applied ethics, animal rights, and effective altruism.

Lord, give us an inquiring mind that we may become better men. In His name I pray. Amen.

Lodge Calendar

May 19 (Tuesday) - Stated Meeting. Dinner at 6 pm, lodge at 7 pm.

May 26 (Tuesday) – Master Mason Degree. Dinner at 6 pm, degree to follow.

July 11 (Saturday) – 4th Annual Masonic Jamboree. 10 am to 3 pm. Location is Chandler Park, 6500 W 21st St, Tulsa, OK 74107. Masons, family and friends are welcome. No charge. Lots of activities for adults and children.

Grand Lodge Activities – Open to the Public

May 20 (Wednesday) – 50-year pin presentation at Red-Fork Masonic Lodge, 1030 W 51st St., Tulsa

See you at Lodge!

Sincerely,

W.: Scott A. MacDonald, Treasurer and Membership Calling Chairman

PS – I will be posting the weekly newsletter on our website at <https://ba-mason.org/newsletter> .