

May 29, 2026, #152

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.

June 9 (Tuesday) – Fellowship night. Dinner at 6 pm. We will be celebrating St. John the Baptist day in lodge. Additionally, dinner will be catered by Texas Roadhouse; cost is \$25 per person. Please prepay by Tuesday, June 2 at <https://balodge243.square.site/> so we will know how many dinners to order.

**Sickness & Distress:**

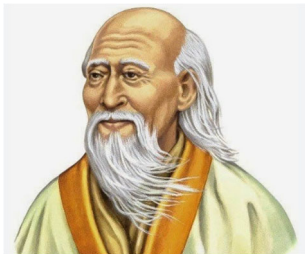
We are sad to report the passing of W.: Jim Parham on Sunday, May 24, 2026. He was at home surrounded by family. Please keep his family in your prayers especially his wife April. She stood by him 24/7 since mid-December.

Jim specifically requested there be no funeral of any type. However, he did request BA Lodge to perform a Lodge of Sorrow for him. We will do that after our Stated Meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2026. He requested only Masons to attend. Jim was well known in the Masonic Brotherhood. We don't know how many will attend but will do our best to get everyone seated. BA Lodge members have priority in seating.

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

**Take the Easy Way**

This column is the second in a series of major philosophers. Today we will discuss Laozi.



Laozi (also spelled Lao Tzu) is traditionally believed to have lived during the 6th century BCE in ancient China, around the same era as Confucius. Although historians debate whether Laozi was a single historical figure or a legendary composite, he is widely regarded as the foundational thinker behind Daoism (or Taoism).

Laozi is traditionally credited with writing the Dao De Jing (“The Way and Its Power”), one of the most influential philosophical and spiritual texts in Chinese history. The book is composed of short poetic passages that explore how human beings can live in harmony with the natural order of the universe.

It is estimated 20 to 50 million people practice Daoism in their daily life. It is a philosophy and a religion. They believe in heavenly realms, a structured celestial order, and a belief in multiple levels of existence.

Daoism does teach about immortality which can take several forms: spiritual immortality, longevity through medication, and in some traditions even physical or transformed existence beyond death.

The main teachings center around the following:

- **Harmony with Nature** — Human beings flourish when they live in balance with the natural world rather than attempting to control everything around them.
- **Simplicity** — Laozi taught that excessive ambition, materialism, and complexity often lead to unhappiness. A simple life encourages clarity and peace.
- **Wu Wei (“Non-Forceful Action”)** — One of Daoism’s central teachings, wu wei does not mean doing nothing. Instead, it means acting in accordance with the natural flow of events rather than forcing outcomes through aggression or struggle.
- **Humility and Flexibility** — Laozi often compared wisdom to water: soft and yielding, yet capable of overcoming what is rigid and hard.

Following is a very brief comparison of Daoism to Judaism and Christianity.

#### Daoism

- **Focus:** Living in harmony with the Dao (the Way)
- **Goal:** Balance with nature and reality as it is
- **Emphasis:** Simplicity, flow, non-force (wu wei)

#### Judaism

- **Focus:** Covenant relationship between God and the Jewish people
- **Goal:** Live according to God’s law (Torah)
- **Emphasis:** Ethics, community, justice, and obedience to divine commandments

#### Christianity

- **Focus:** Relationship with God through Jesus Christ
- **Goal:** Salvation and eternal life with God
- **Emphasis:** Faith, grace, love, forgiveness

What do you think about this?

Lord, provide us with the wisdom to discern truth. In His name I pray. Amen.

#### Lodge Calendar

June 2 (Tuesday) - Stated Meeting. Dinner at 6 pm, lodge at 7 pm. Lodge of sorrow to follow stated meeting. Masons only.

June 9 (Tuesday) – Fellowship night. Dinner at 6 pm. We will be celebrating St. John the Baptist day. Additionally, the dinner will be catered by Texas Roadhouse. The cost is \$25. Please prepay by Tuesday, June 2 at <https://balodge243.square.site/> so we will know how many dinners to order.

June 13 (Saturday) - Widows Luncheon 1 pm.

June 16 (Tuesday) - Stated Meeting. Dinner at 6 pm, lodge at 7 pm.

June 17 (Wednesday) – District 12 meeting at Akdar Lodge 555.

June 23 (Tuesday) - Fellowship night. Dinner at 6 pm. Speaker – W.: Mike Wright – Title to be announced.

June 30 (Tuesday) – 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Dinner.

July 11 (Saturday) – 4<sup>th</sup> 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. You will also have a chance to dunk DDGM Echota West in the dunk tank.

August 17 (Monday) – District 12 meeting at Red Fork Lodge #505.

Sept 29 (Tueadays0 – 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Dinner.

October 15 (Thursday) – District 12 meeting at Tulsa Lodge #71.

Dec 1 (Tuesday) – Lodge election night and Stated Meeting. Dinner at 6 pm, Lodge at 7 pm.

Dec 6 (Sunday) – Officer Installation. 2 pm light refreshments to follow.

Dec 29 (Tuesday) – 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Dinner

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> .