

June 5, 2026, #153

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 end of day Friday, June 5 at <https://balodge243.square.site/> so we will know how many dinners to order. If you cannot pay online, please send an email indicating you will be attending to BrokenArrowMaons@gmail.com

With the passing of Jim Parham, several thoughts come to mind.

1. Make sure you have a will and that everyone, including your surviving family members, understand what you want to happen. Waiting until the will is read is really not the best approach. There should be no surprises. Save those theatrics for the movies.
2. Let your lodge know what your wishes are for a masonic funeral. Put it in writing and give it to the Lodge Secretary and put a copy in your personal papers. Let your family know from your own mouth what you want as well. Again, no surprises.
3. Funerals or celebrations of life decisions should be made by those left behind. When I'm dead, I certainly don't care how my family decides to remember me. I am not going to try to dictate from the grave how they mourn.

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

What You Think You Become

This week we continue to examine the philosophers who emerged in the Axial Age.

The Axial Age from roughly 800 BC to 200 BC was a time when many of the world's philosophical and religious traditions emerged independently across different civilizations.

Siddhartha Gautama	c. 563–483 BCE	Founded Buddhism; taught the Four Noble Truths and the path to ending suffering through enlightenment.
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The top five influential ideas that came out of Buddhism and their parallel to Freemasonry:

1. Suffering has causes and can be overcome – This systematic approach influenced psychological suffering, psychology and modern mental health practices. (Rough ashlar.)
2. The Middle Way – the idea of moderation has influenced ethical thinking across cultures and is a widely accepted principle on personal development. (Passions within due bounds.)
3. Compassion for all living beings – Inspired humanitarian values, charitable work, nonviolence and ethical treatment of others. (Brotherly love and affection and practicing charity.)

4. Actions have consequences – Teaches personal responsibility. (Moral development)
5. Meditation and mindfulness – Cultivates awareness and wisdom. (Prayer and thanksgiving)

Famous Buddhist Sayings

The single most famous saying attributed to Siddhartha Gautama is probably:

- "What you think, you become."

However, scholars note that this is a modern paraphrase rather than a direct translation of the Buddha's recorded words.

A more authentic and foundational passage from the Buddhist scriptures is:

- "Mind precedes all things. Mind is their chief; they are all mind-made."— Dhammapada 1:1

This teaching emphasizes that our thoughts shape our perceptions, actions, and ultimately our lives.

Other famous Buddhist sayings include:

- "Hatred does not cease by hatred, but only by love; this is the eternal rule."— Dhammapada 1:5
- "Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without."— Commonly attributed to the Buddha (though the exact source is uncertain)
- "Better than a thousand hollow words is one word that brings peace." — Dhammapada 8:100
- "No one saves us but ourselves. No one can and no one may. We ourselves must walk the path." — A traditional summary of a central Buddhist teaching on personal responsibility
- "Hatred does not cease by hatred, but only by love; this is the eternal rule." It captures one of Buddhism's most enduring contributions to world thought: the idea that compassion, rather than retaliation, is the path to resolving conflict.

Lord, you created all and placed wisdom in mankind. Let us hear those things that make us better people and place us in your service. In His name I pray. Amen

Lodge Calendar

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) – 5th Tuesday Dinner. We will play Bingo after dinner.

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. 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 (Tuesday) – 5th 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) – 5th 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> .