



# December



Tom Tompkins, P.M.

*Master*



Greetings from the East.

## A Ben Franklin Christmas

Christmas during Benjamin Franklin's time (1706-1790) was quite different than the Christmas of today. The way Christmas was celebrated depended on which colony you were in. In New England colonies, the Christmas season was quiet and sometimes even forbidden, Massachusetts and Connecticut, Christmas was discouraged. Boston, for a time, even banned Christmas, often fining folks who celebrated Christmas.

In the middle colonies like New York, Pennsylvania ( Ben Franklin's adopted home ), and New Jersey, being more culturally mixed, Christmas celebrations varied. The Dutch settlers brought traditions like St. Nicholas (Sinterklaas) which influenced our Santa. Celebrations were lively but not extravagant. Lots of socializing, church going and feasts.

The southern colonies, Virginia, Maryland, North and South Carolina and Georgia, Christmas was a major celebration every year. Southern estates decorated their homes and hosted extravagant balls that lasted for days. Even the enslaved people received some time off and received small gifts from the estate owners. The Christmas tree was influenced by the German immigrants. A colonial Christmas was less commercialized and not centered on the children. During the 1800s authors like Charles Dickens and Washington Irving influenced the popularization of Santa Claus and thus turned Christmas into the family-centered holiday that we have today.

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Please mark your calendar for our installation of officers, Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup>. at 1:00 PM. We have a great slate of officers who will be guiding our lodge for the ensuing Masonic year.

Finally, thank you all for your continued support for our food bank. Every paper and plastic bag, empty egg carton, jar of peanut butter, box of dry cereal and every can of unexpired soup or vegetable helps a needy family. We do make a difference.

Until next time

Fraternally,

Tom Tompkins, Master

## Bruce Gavin

Senior Warden



Greetings from the West

### What is the 47<sup>th</sup> problem of Euclid?

Little is known about the life of Euclid. We do know that he was a Greek mathematician who lived in Egypt around 300 BCE. Euclid was reputed to be highly trained in multiple priesthoods and widely traveled. He earned the name of “Father of Geometry” for writing one of the most influential mathematical textbooks in all of history: the “Stoicheion” or Elements.

The Pythagorean Theorem that describes the 3:4:5 triangle is the 47<sup>th</sup> Problem of Euclid. In his writings, Euclid stated his Proposition #47 that establishes that with the right triangle the sum of the two sides squared is equal to the square of the hypotenuse. Or,  $A^2 + B^2 = C^2$ . This principle states that the angle formed by the 3:4:5 triangle is invariably square and perfect.

Operative Masons used a rope divided into 12 equal segments (3 + 4 + 5 segments) to form the Right Triangle. This was a swift means of creating an accurate right angle to be used as a template for the Mason’s square.

The core concept of Masonic sacred geometry is that geometric order (shapes, curves, and constructs) precedes all physical existence; that geometry was invented by the Great Architect of the Universe as a structure through which to create order in all of creation.

The origins of sacred geometry in Western civilization can be traced to the sixth century BCE philosophical school of Pythagoras. The historical Pythagoras is essentially a cipher, as there are no contemporary accounts of his philosophy.

Pythagoras’ extensive legend, however, along with the writings of Plato, Aristotle, and his other followers, was transmitted through the centuries and has a direct influence on the development of speculative Freemasonry.

For Freemasons, the 47<sup>th</sup> Problem symbolizes man’s ability to construct a perfect square. The square is a symbol that first appears in the Entered Apprentice Degree as one of the immovable jewels of the lodge. The square appears in the Fellowcraft Degree in the definition of speculative Masonry. It is the badge of the Worshipful Master and a lesson in morality. The Square is invoked in all instances when Lodge is closed.

Fraternally,

*Bruce Gavin*. Senior Warden



## Doug Jones Junior Warden



.Greetings from the South,

The month of November proved to be a very busy and meaningful time for our Lodge. The 176th Annual Communication was held, bringing new legislation, and renewed direction for our fraternity. We were also honored to host a wonderful 50-year celebration for Worshipful Doug Veale — a milestone that reminds us of the enduring commitment and light our long-serving Brothers bring to the Craft. In addition, our Lodge conducted its annual election of officers, setting the Lodge for the year ahead and preparing the way for continued growth and leadership.

Now, as we move into the closing weeks of the year the holiday season is truly in full bloom. We find ourselves in a season that calls us to reflection. It is a time to be grateful for the blessings we enjoy, but also a time to remember the deep Masonic principles of charity, compassion, and fellowship. The holidays offer us an opportunity to strengthen the bonds we share—not only with our families and friends, but with one another as Brothers, united by the square and compass.

Of course, I'd be amiss if I didn't remind everyone of the many upcoming events on our calendar. Our final Stated Meeting of the year will be held on December 10th, and we invite all Brothers to join us for a traditional ham dinner complete with mashed potatoes, seasonal side dishes, a fresh salad, and—of course—pumpkin pie and other festive desserts to welcome the spirit of the season.

Looking ahead, our Black-Eyed Peas event will take place on January 1st, a wonderful way to start the new year together. Then, at the end of the month, we'll gather for our annual Crab Feed on January 31st. This event is always a highlight of the year and a fantastic opportunity to bring together Brothers, families, and members of our extended community. Tickets are available just see any of the officers, so I encourage you to secure yours early.

As we look forward to a new year on the horizon, may we continue to support one another, uphold our Masonic values, and celebrate the fellowship that makes our Lodge a place of warmth and brotherly love. We hope to see you in Lodge soon and share in the light of friendship and unity during this joyful season.

Sincerely and fraternally,

*Doug Jones*, Jr. Warden

John Scofield, P.M.  
Hallboard President



My Brothers & Friends,



## San Juan Hallboard Holiday Update

### Season's Greetings

Happy Holidays to all from your Hallboard! As we approach the end of the year, things have quietened down, and we expect a calm period for the remainder of the year. However, there are still numerous activities scheduled for the building this month. If you notice anything that is not working properly, please let me know so it can be addressed promptly.

### Landscaping Improvements

You may have noticed the new plants around the Center. I've been working to enhance our grounds for everyone, including the tenants. Your feedback motivates me to keep improving the landscaping.

The latest additions include a variety of flowering plants, native flowers, and low-maintenance perennials chosen specifically to thrive in our local climate. Each plant was selected with care to add color and texture throughout the seasons, making the outdoor spaces more inviting for relaxation or gatherings. Improving the grounds is an ongoing effort, and I regularly consult horticulture experts to ensure our landscaping is both sustainable and aesthetically pleasing.

I welcome suggestions from all community members—whether it's ideas for future plantings or input on how we can make the space even more enjoyable. Thank you for helping create a vibrant and welcoming environment at the Center!

### Garden Donations

If anyone has an old bird bath or even just a part of one that is taking up space in the corner of your yard, I would be grateful to have it here for our garden. Additionally, if you have flower bulbs or plants you would like to donate, please reach out to me. My aim is to ensure our garden has plenty of character. Any old pieces of iron that you think might serve as an interesting addition to the garden are also welcome. Thank you in advance for considering these contributions.

### Special Thanks

A huge shout out goes to the ladies in the Friday Leisure Hour. Thank you so much for the Lowe's gift card and wildflowers. I have already planted them, and they should bloom beautifully in the spring. Thank you, ladies, for your generosity and support.

Respectfully submitted,

*John Scofield*, PM

**2025 HSJ Lodge Officers**

- Herbert “Tom” Tompkins, III, P.M. (Lynn).....Master
- Bruce Gavin (Sharon).....Senior Warden
- Douglas W. Jones (Heather).....Junior Warden
- Edward E. Rose, PM (Elaine) .....Treasurer
- Bob Jackson (Terri) .....Secretary
- Christopher Globis .....Chaplain
- John Scofield, P.M. ....Senior Deacon
- Steven M. Rankin (Rae)..... Junior Deacon
- Cris Bryceson (Joy)... ..... Marshal
- Mike Ramirez (Jordan)..... Senior Steward
- Tom Angello (Theresa).....Junior Steward
- George Sims (Kim).... ..... Tiler
- Tom Tompkins, III, PM (Lynn) ..... Head Candidates Coach
- Jeffery E. Robertson, PM (Angela) .....Officers Coach

**Harding San Juan Lodge, No. 579 F. & A.M.**

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*Trestle Board Editor, Bob Jackson*

## December 2025

### Birthdays

Robert	Knuckey	2
Ariben	Maglalang	7
Larry	Wood	9
Daniel	Larsen	10
Christopher	Tompkins	10
Clifton	Stauff	13
Shane	Fackrell	14
Marvin	Johnson	15
William	Maneely	19
Arnold	Natano	20
Russell	Meadows	21
Dallas	Phenneger	24
Michael	O'Brien	26
Ronald	Swan	31

## December 2025

### Masonic Anniversaries

Ronald	Capps	60
Gary	Darrow, PM	60
Lawrence	Miramontes	52
Steven	Borglund, PM	42
Gary	Macauley, PM	41
Thomas	Awalt, PM	40
Roger	O'Hagan	39
Gregory	Dwyer	28
Michael	Pulsipher	20
Blair	Williams, PM	20
Momo	Larmena, Jr.	16
Subi	Qalliu	9
Dennis	Butts	1
Earl John	Dayanghirang	1

# December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 — 6PM - Ex. Meeting 7PM—3rd Degree Practice (Full)	2	3 6PM - 3rd Degree Practice	4	5	6
7	8 3rd Degree (Abtin Hassani)	9	10 6:30PM - HSJ Dinner 8:00PM - Stated Mtg	11	12	13
14 1PM Officers Installation	15 7PM - 1st Degree Practice	16	17 6PM - 2nd Degree Practice	18	19	20
21	22 7PM 3rd Degree Practice	23	24 <b>New Year Eve</b>	25 <b>Christmas</b>	26	27
28	29 7PM 1st Degree Practice	30	31	1 1AM—Black Eyed Peas <b>New Year Day</b>	2	3

# SAN JUAN MASONIC CENTER ANNUAL CRAB FEED



## 2026

### January 31th

We will also  
have our famous  
silent action!

Steaks will be available when ordered at the  
time of purchase for those that can't eat crab.

AT THE SAN JUAN  
MASONIC CENTER  
5944 SAN JUAN AVE.



**\$75.00**  
PER  
PERSON  
**\$35.00**  
PER CHILD

APPETIZERS  
CRAB & SHRIMP  
PASTA  
SALAD  
BREAD, COFFEE, ETC



NO HOST  
HOSPITALITY  
HOUR  
5 P.M.  
DINNER  
6:30 P. M.



YOU MUST PRESENT YOUR TICKET IN ORDER  
TO BE SERVED YOUR DINNER

All Harding San Juan Lodge Officers will have tickets for sale.  
To pay by Square (Adult \$78.00 and Child \$37.00) [www.HardingSanJuan.com](http://www.HardingSanJuan.com) (Under the "STORE" tab)

December 27, 2025 from 8am until 10am



**You're Invited!**

Bring your family and friends to have breakfast and socialize with us at the Harding San Juan Masonic Lodge in Citrus Heights  
We are located at 5944 San Juan Ave at Northlea

This is the Best Breakfast West of Reno for only a small \$5 Donation  
Bacon, Scrambled Eggs, Toast, Pancakes, Waffles, Biscuits & Gravy

**Saturday,**  
Indoor and Outdoor Seating is Available, Weather Permitting



**From your Secretary**  
**It's that time of year again.**  
**Your 2025 dues are behind**  
**If you haven't paid them as of**  
**January 1st. We depend on your**  
**Paying them in a timely manner.**