

DECEMBER 2020

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ALMAS ALIBI

**MASONS SUPPORTING
CHILDREN**

Phone: 202.898.1688 - Fax: 202.789.1148

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FROM THE POTENTATES'S DESK



Nobles,

I hope you and your families find yourselves well and in good spirits.

As masons, we celebrate two feasts of Saint John. The feast of John the Baptist falls on 24 June, and that of John the Evangelist on 27 December, roughly marking mid-summer and mid-winter.

Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist appear in several places in our catechisms. St John the Baptist and St John the Evangelist represent the balance in Masonry between zeal for the fraternity and scholarly equilibrium. The Saints John stand in seamless parallel harmony representing this balance.

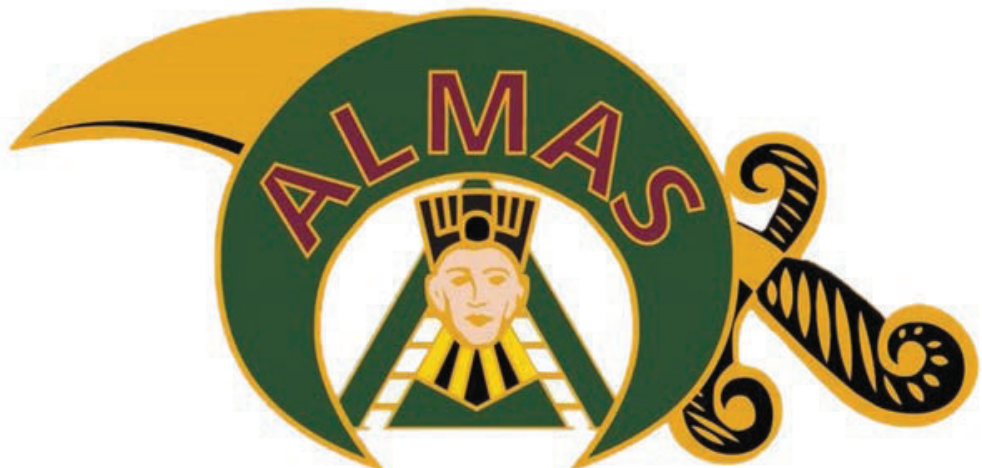
The balanced dualism of John the Baptist and John the Evangelist together represent the balance of passion and knowledge of faith providing an opportunity to reflect and channel our passion. Independently strong; combined, they harness and focus us as individuals. This is not just necessary to Free Masonry but should be applied to all areas of life. Together, they represent a well-balanced path towards enlightenment.

Combining the two dualistic figures, the Holy Saints John balance each other throughout the Masonic year. They symbolize the perfect balance of darkness and light, life and death, passion, and constraint, will and emotion, winter, and summer, and represent the interlocked star of Solomon, or the Square and Compass.

St. John the Baptist Day is an important day for Free Masonry, as it is a good day to come together and reflect in our past and future. It is a re-commitment of our circumscribed passions.

In fraternity, this helps us to reaffirm our binding ties and we should remember the Holy Saints John, not just in our sacred Jerusalem's but together in brotherhood.

S&F,
George Perez
Potentate





National Cookie Exchange Day

December 22nd is National Cookie Exchange Day; the occasion when festively decorated cookie tins appear at cookie exchange parties. While the origin of National Cookie Exchange Day is currently unknown, the history of the cookie is well-documented. The English word "cookie" is derived from the Dutch word "koekje," which means little or small cake. Cookies were invented during the seventh century in Persia. By the end of the 14th century, you could buy small wafers on the streets of Paris and cookie recipes could be found in cookbooks during the Middle Ages. Cookies arrived in America in the 17th century. Macaroons and gingerbread cookies were among the popular early American cookies. In 1976, Sesame Street included National Cookie Day for the first time on November 26th. Cookie Monster also proclaimed his own National Cookie Day in the 1980 book, The Sesame Street Dictionary.

Are you wondering how to celebrate National Cookie Exchange Day? Worry no longer! It is the easiest holidays in the world to celebrate. Just choose your favorite cookie and give yourself permission to indulge, maybe even let your husband indulge. This is one of George's favorite days. Since we unfortunately cannot meet to exchange, let's celebrate by exchanging recipes. Here is one of my easiest cookie recipes. If you have a cookie recipe, please exchange with us on National Cookie Exchange Day.

Amish Sugar Cookies

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 cup of confectioner's sugar
- 1 cup of softened salted butter
- 1 cup of vegetable oil
- 2 large eggs (at room temperature)
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 4½ cups of all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon of baking soda
- 1 teaspoon of cream of tartar



In large bowl, cream the sugars, oil, and butter. Beat in the eggs until well blended. Mix in the extract. Now, combine the dry ingredients (flour, baking soda, and cream of tartar) gradually to the creamed mixture until well mixed.

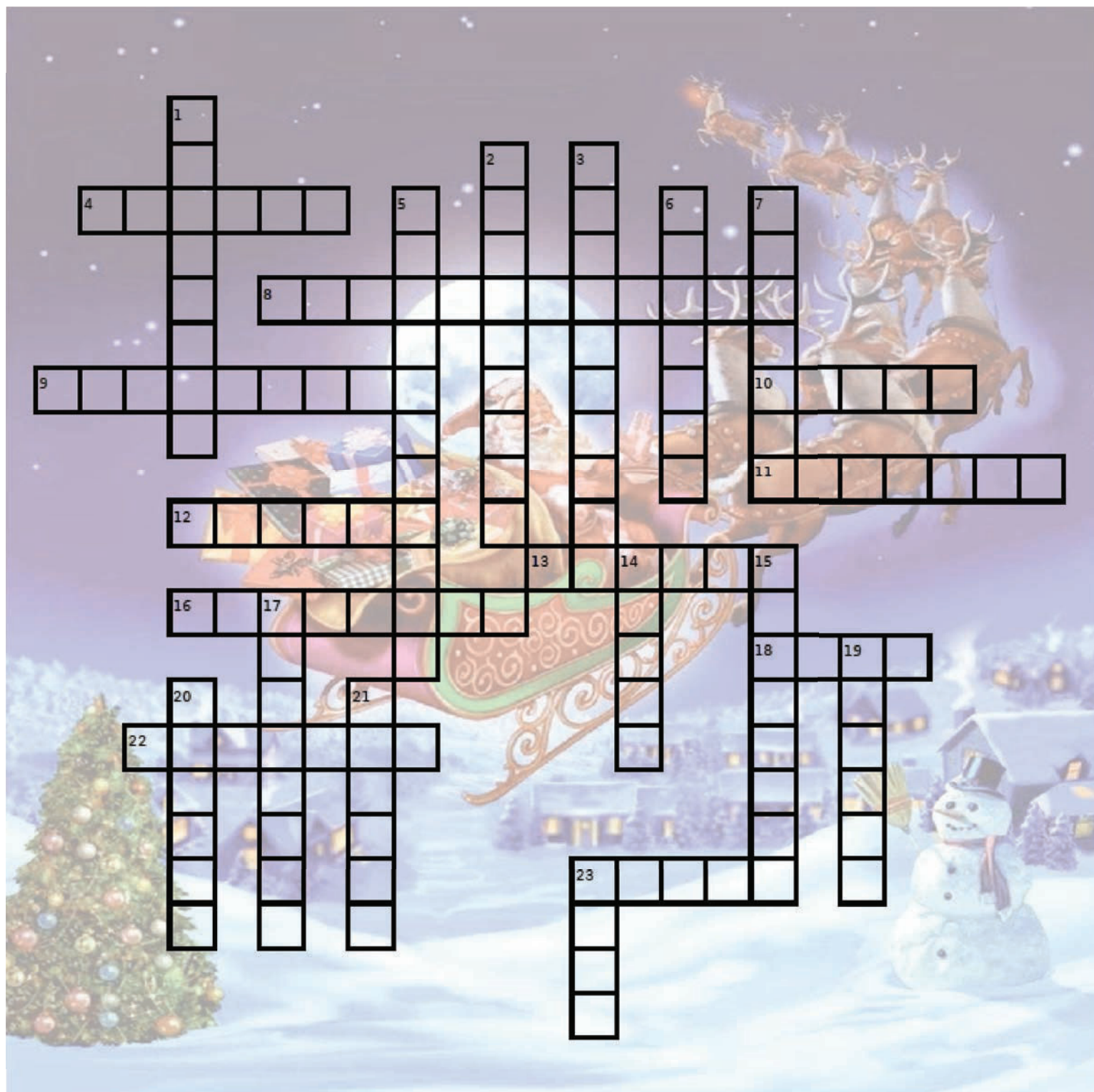
Drop by small teaspoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 375 degrees until lightly browned (8-10) minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool. Makes about 60 cookies.

Now, ENJOY!

Regards,
Lady Lesly & George Perez

Lady Lesly's Loft

CROSSWORD



Lady Lesly's Loft

CROSSWORD CLUES

Down:

1. The place and conditions of a birth of Jesus.
2. A religious festival celebrating Jesus Christ's birth.
3. A device used to crack open the shells of nuts.
5. A cookie made with molasses and ginger.
6. A nine-branched candelabrum used during Hanukkah.
7. A four-sided top used to play a gambling game during Hanukkah.
14. Pointy-eared creatures who build toys for well-behaved children.
15. The eight-day "festival of lights"
17. A Hebrew name meaning "God with us."
19. Alcoholic drink made with cream, sugar, eggs, distilled spirits.
20. Slender shiny metallic foil used as Christmas decorations.
21. A sled typically pulled by horses or reindeer.
23. The Zoroastrian priests of ancient Persia.



Across:

4. Pancakes made of grated potato, fried in oil.
8. An incense symbolizing holiness.
9. People are expected to kiss when standing beneath it.
10. An educated priest in the ancient Celtic cultures of Britain.
11. A region in Finland rumored to be where Santa Claus lives.
12. An open box or trough holding food for livestock.
13. A circular arrangement of greenery or flowers.
16. A Christian feast day celebrated in January 6th.
18. "The Christmas season"; derived from Old French.
22. An extraordinary event, unexplainable by scientific laws.
23. A fragrant oil symbolizing suffering and mortality.



Lady Lesly's Loft

WORD SEARCH

G	H	U	R	C	S	L	E	I	G	H	K	W	K	C	C	S	T	C	D	M	E	Q	J	N	L	D	O	G	
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K	I	N	A	R	A	B	I	M	K	H	U	A	X	Z	Z	O	X	I	J	U	B	N	U	G	N	H	Y	Z	Y
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A	S	N	V	B	A	Q	A	S	F	M	I	L	G	R	X	Y	B	M	J	F	M	A	A	M	J	N	M	P	J

Lady Lesly's Loft

WORD SEARCH

Carol	Kinara	Gingerbread	Stocking
Christmas	Krampus	Grinch	Tinsel
Chimney	Kwanzaa	Hanukkah	Toboggan
Dreidel	Magi	Holly	Wreath
Druid	Manger	Immanuel	Yule
Eggnog	Menorah	Jolly	Noel
Elves	Miracle	Nativity	Nutcracker
Epiphany	Mistletoe	Naughty	Poinsettia
Frankincense	Myrrh	Sleigh	

SUDOKU



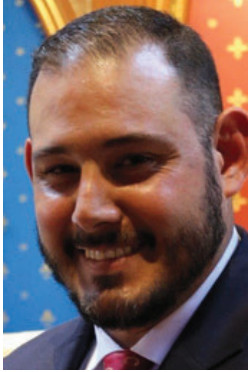
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The Traveling Man

FREEMASONRY AND THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

BY: BRO. KALEB LOPEZ

JUSTICE-COLUMBIA LODGE NO. 3



Around the world, Texas is known for specific stereotypes. Visions of “the Cowboy”, “the cattle drive”, and “the shootout at high-noon” come to the forefront. Shows like “The Rifleman” with the highly revered and popular Chuck Connors portray this life and add to the stereotype.

Though factual to some degree, Texas is so much more. People are most familiar with “Texas Pride”.

However, most don’t know why or know of the reasons for this pride. As a self-respecting, God-fearing, and proud Texan, myself; I can say with the same amount of pride that it is because of the storied history and continuing actions adding to it in Texas that this pride exists. As a declared independent country of its own, without aid from the



federal government, Texas won its independence and fought for its own identity. This same attitude and pride resonate with most Texans. As a Freemason, from Texas, this is equally true.

Freemasonry was alive and working all the while Texas was becoming Texas just as it was alive and working during the American Revolution when our great nation was founded. Names like Stephen F. Austin, Samuel “Sam” Houston, and Dr. Anson Jones are hallmark names of not only being the founders of Texas, but, as well as the founding fathers of Texas Freemasonry!! From the Texas State Historical Association, WRB. Stephen Austin and six other brothers originally petitioned the Grand York Lodge of Mexico in 1828 in an effort to establish Masonry in Texas.

Needless to say, around this time, things were not going so well for both Mexico and Texas. In fact, because of the turmoil between adherences to the Scottish Rite and those of the York Rite in Mexico, this petition was lost. Simultaneously, relations between Tejanos, Texians, and the Mexican government were beginning to fall apart for multiple reasons including the overthrow of the government in Mexico by Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna which directly affected the original citizenry in Texas. Approximately seven years later, in 1835, another attempt was made at establishing Masonry in Texas and Bro. Dr. Anson Jones, along with five others, petitioned the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. WRB., GM of The Grand Lodge of Louisiana, John Holland, gave permission, dispensed the charter, and Holland Lodge No. 36 met for the first time on 27 December 1835. Thus, the first official lodge in Texas met and Freemasonry in Texas was established with WRB Anson Jones presiding as WM.

The Traveling Man

Already at this time, the sparks and flames of revolution were underway. Earlier in the year, in October of 1835, the beginning of the Texas Revolution had started. The following year, on March 2, 1836, Texas would declare its independence officially. It was at this time that the security situation in Texas was so troublesome that Holland Lodge No. 36 shut down on account of the Mexican army, under Gen. Jose de Urrea, who destroyed all of the lodge's records and their equipment. As we all know, light will always overcome the dark and, in as much, the Grand Lodge of Louisiana issued two additional charters to form what would be known as Milam Lodge No. 40, in Nacogdoches, TX and McFarland Lodge No. 41 in San Augustine, TX. During the Revolution is when Masonry had its purposes and fortitude tested, without question. However, along with the Sons of Texas, who were masons, it remained active and flourished. It flourished so much so that I believe it was key to the success and winning of Texas independence. Thus, on April 21st 1836, Bro. Sam Houston and his Texian army defeated Bro. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna during the Battle of San Jacinto. After the battle, General and Bro. Santa Anna, was captured. In exchange for his life, he ordered the remainder of the Mexican Army back across and South of the Rio Grande River.

Here's where the story splits but is told and somewhat substantiated. It is stated and rumored, in an act of gratitude for sparing his life, Santa Anna gave his spurs to Bro. Sam Houston. This is stated to be based on reports that Santa Anna was allowed to live because of his giving of signs and tokens to other brothers who were in the Texian Army including that of Bro. Sam Houston. As a point of fact though, these spurs are on display in the George Washington Masonic Temple in Alexandria, VA. Now, the fact that Santa Anna was a mason has been a topic of controversy for some time. However, the Scottish Rite of Texas has confirmed that Santa Anna was, in fact, a Scottish Rite Mason in Mexico. According to M. Douglas Adkins "His original Scottish Rite membership certificate is located in the Livingston Masonic Library of the Masonic Grand Lodge of New York."

Sources of the Scottish Rite in Mexico have stated Santa Anna was kicked out of Masonry due to his actions and cruelty that were so well known throughout the Texas Revolution. These atrocities and acts committed were some of the most vile and anti-masonic, in virtue, that one could think of according to some. As a matter of fact, it is well-known that no prisoners were taken and all were executed by Santa Anna's forces, including other brother masons. Thus, other masons and other accounts do not go along with or accept that his life was spared because of Masonic connections or the giving of passes and tokens. Regardless, it is confirmed that Santa Anna was, at one time, initiated, passed, and raised a brother Mason. In as much, there's more to the story of the battle for the Republic of Texas, but, as it pertains to Masonry the story continues.

Two years after Freemasonry had become active in Texas, in December of 1837, slightly more than a year and a half after the Republic of Texas was formed, RWB, and President of Texas, Sam ,

The Traveling Man

Houston presided over a meeting between the delegates of the three lodges, Holland, Milam, and McFarland; who met for the purposes of establishing the Grand Lodge of Texas. It was at this meeting that Bro. Anson Jones was elected as the first Grand Master of the Republic of Texas. This new Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas was originally established in the city of Houston.

From that meeting in 1837 to just before the annexation, by treaty, of Texas to the United States more than 21 additional charters forming lodges were issued and membership had increased from the original 73 members to over 357. From the Texas State Historical Association, more than 1,100 members from other jurisdictions were residing in Texas at the time. Additionally, though constituting only about 1.5 percent of the population, all Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Secretaries of State were Masons.

Post Annexation and through the years, Masonry fluctuated. The Civil War, World War I, and World War II, all had great and drastic effect on the craft. It was during these times, the history of Freemasonry in Texas grew and waned equally. Each period with their own stories to tell that it would be too vast for this article, but, nonetheless, Freemasonry in Texas stands tall, proud, and as big as Texas to this day. However, one point of interest I wanted to ensure is understood, is that the Grand Lodge of Texas, originally situated in the city of Houston, is now situated in Waco, TX where it resides to this day. Built in Post WWII Texas (1948-1949) it is modeled after King Solomon's Temple, contains one of the largest collections of memorabilia, not merely specific to Texas, is over 135,000 Sq FT, and is open to the public.

Needless to say, writing this article has been my absolute pleasure being both a Mason and a Texan but, all the more, to show that each state and Freemasonry have a story to tell. It is a story that WE ALL are part of and have a solemn obligation to continue to uphold. If nothing more than to know and understand the history of our craft in shaping this great nation, to know and understand our place as brothers in the history we live in and futures we have responsibilities to shape. At every turn our craft has been part of bringing the light to a dark world and I hope this article sheds more light on your journey as traveling men to bring the light to others. May the Great Architect bless you and enlighten your path to see where it may lead and where you may be called to go.

Quote of the Month

Abraham Lincoln



Don't interfere with anything in the Constitution. That must be maintained, for it is the only safeguard of our liberties.

- Abraham Lincoln

Almas Yacht Club

The Almas Yacht Club is selling the 2020 White House Holiday Ornaments again this year. The cost is \$21 each. This year's ornament honors President John F. Kennedy. These ornaments are available now and can be obtained by submitting an e-mail order along with a check made payable to Almas Yacht Club. Please send your order and payment to Fred Evans (fwevans@verizon.net) or Jesse Villarreal (jv1301@aol.com). Do not wait till the last minute to order. Last year we ran out.

The ornaments are for the benefit of the Yacht Club and are not tax deductible.



In Memoriam

ILL. Sir Ralph Connolly

God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be so he put his arms around you and whispered, "Come to Me"

With tearful eyes we watched you and saw you pass away and although we love you dearly we could not make you stay.

A Golden heart stopped beating hard working hands at rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us He only takes the best.

Friends of the Temple

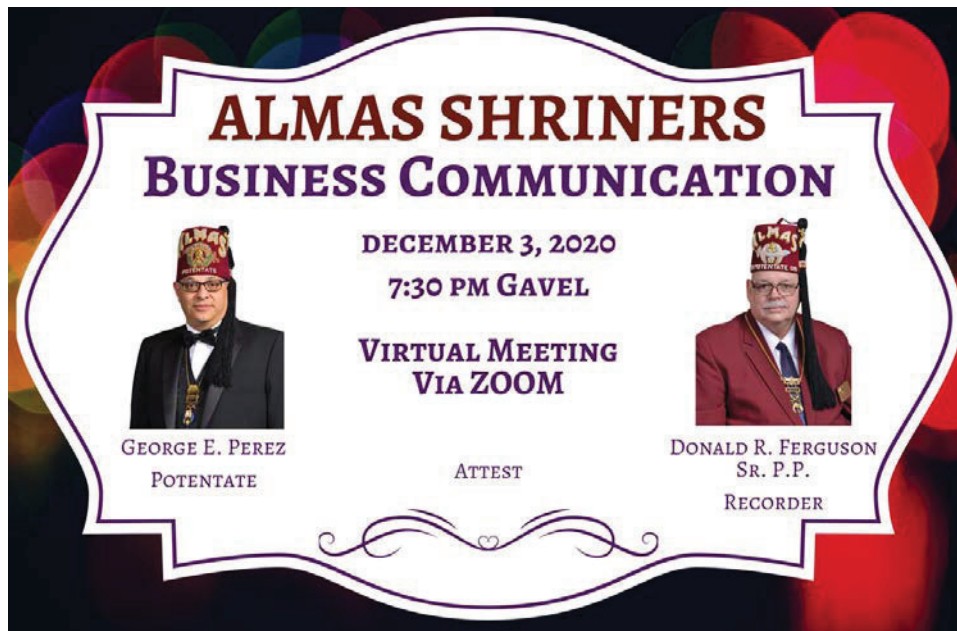
Alan L. Gordon, CPA, P.A.

51 Monroe Street
Suite 1604
Rockville, MD 20850

Ph: 301-762-8848


Fax: 301-762-8847

E-mail: info@algcpa.com • www.algcpa.com



ALMAS SHRINERS
BUSINESS COMMUNICATION

DECEMBER 3, 2020
7:30 PM GAVEL
VIRTUAL MEETING
VIA ZOOM


GEORGE E. PEREZ
POTENTATE

ATTEST


DONALD R. FERGUSON
SR. P.P.
RECORDER



Joke of the Month

A woman gets on a bus with her baby. The bus driver says: "That's the ugliest baby that I've ever seen. Ugh!" The woman goes to the rear of the bus and sits down, fuming.

She says to the Freemason next to her: "The driver just insulted me!" The man says: "You go right up there and tell him off go ahead, I'll hold your monkey for you."

-- Unknown

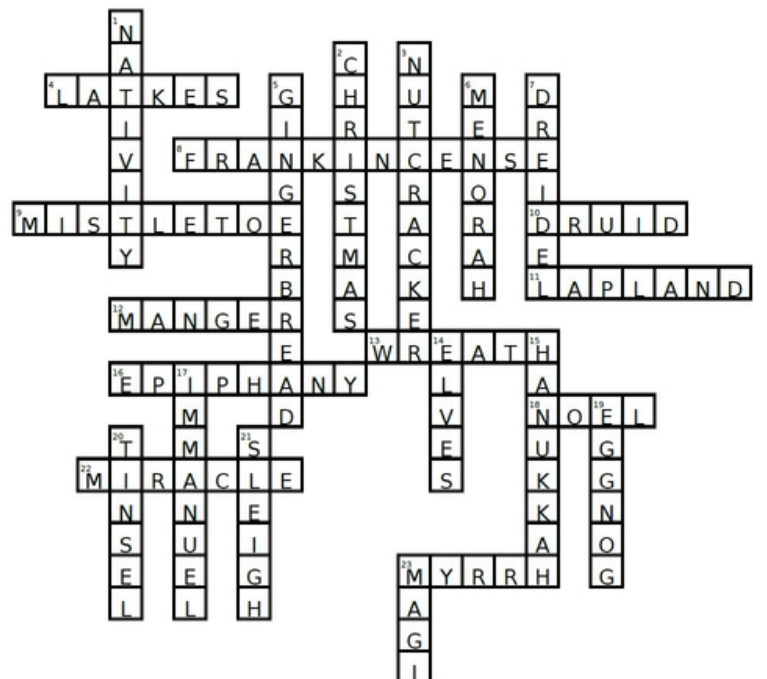
Lady Lesly's Loft

ANSWERS

GHURCSIEIGHKWKCCSTCDMEQJNLDOG
 VDPQKEWKJZMYRRHBAJVHEYGNGSGPIS
 HMTSEFZXSKTKTEDCHRFMHPGITGYDVGJ
 KINARABIMKHUAXZZOXIJUBNUGNHYZY
 SPMINVNQIBLT LHKLLVN ZHGC PZOMGA
 NORFIDEIMRRMHIRZIPJOZXEBJIMGJ
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Nobles Ill or Homebound

Call our Brother, they are eager to hear from you.
If you know of a Noble in this condition, please let us know at: 202.898.1688



Paul Adams

2101 Deyerle Ave. No. 318
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
540.333.5822

Scott Miskovic

Summit Place Assisted Living
491 Highway 17, No. 29566
Little River, SC 29566
843.658.5554

Patrick Curtis

9409 Gwynndale Drive
Clinton, MD 20735

LIVING PAST POTENTATES



1982 Donald P. McDade
1995 Charles W. Corey, III
1998 Grant R. Berning
1999 Ralph F. Connolly
2000 William M. Lanham
2001 Anthony S. Murray
2002 Donald M. Holliday, Sr.
2003 David W. Finn
2004 Kenneth J. Collins
2006 Lonnie L. Ramos
2007 Jeffrey G. Bodie
2009 Donald R. Ferguson, Sr.

2010 Paul Friedlander
2011 Alan L. Gordon
2012 Ricardo Rodriguez Kroger
2013 Rick Hall
2014 John R. Garrison
2015 Luis G. Cisneros
2016 Fred W. Evans
2017 Michael A. Gordon
2018 Jeffrey D. Holt
2019 Frank Ireton