

## IS FREEMASONRY STILL RELEVANT ENOUGH TO 2017'S YOUNG MEN?

BY Kurt Blazek, Mosaic Lodge No. 55

Three hundred years. That's a long time for anything to survive. Furthermore, it must be something that still has a place in modern times and beyond. Freemasonry is definitely one fraternity that has a place in the lives of young men today, and, at least to me, the answer is simple.

Nothing lasts for three hundred years without having something going for it, and Masonry does- in fact, it's something perhaps none of us realize. Our lessons, teachings and everything about Masonry is TIMELESS! Our beliefs that we should always be on the level, act uprightly by the plum, and always part upon the square. That it matters not what worldly possessions one has or where anyone stands in the working world. It is the INTERNAL qualities that make a man a Mason. All of us, myself included, no matter how long we've been in Masonry, need to remember these basic lessons we were taught, and show these to the new generation.

It would also help us to remember that the United States was originally founded on ideals that were largely written and/or influenced by Masons. George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and many others, were part of the reason why this country has lasted over 200 years. These principles are something that we need to remember ourselves and hand down to our younger candidates. This is something our current leaders have not taken into account. We all know what goes on through the various media. I will leave this to your interpretation, as this is not the purpose of the writing.

We also need to show what all of us can do together as a Lodge, and not just individuals, because you can accomplish more together than by yourself. Not only can you help the Lodge prosper, but your communities as well. All of our events and fund raisers bring remarks of how wonderful a job that we do. What they don't know is that many of these events are generally put together by the same brethren, and this can bring burnout after many years of finding help--I've seen it happen too many times over the years. There is an upside to this, however, as sometimes we get a new member as a result of getting out in the public. I only wish it happened more often.

Going back to how our country was founded with the help of Masonic principles, an idea came to me years ago, and from an unlikely source. In preparing for a welcoming speech for a George Washington Banquet when I was Worshipful Master of Mosaic Lodge #34 in Norfolk, I remember a "Star Trek" episode called "Mirror, Mirror," in which Captain Kirk was transported to an alternative universe ruled with violence. Kirk escaped with the help of that universe's Spock. Just before he was beamed back, Kirk encouraged the alternative Spock to change things, which Spock saw would eventually collapse in a matter of years. When Kirk told Spock to start the revolution himself, this exchange occurred as Kirk left:

ALTERNATIVE SPOCK: "One man cannot summon the future."

KIRK: "But one man can move the present."\*

As I remembered this, a thought occurred to me which I still believe to this day. Washington, Franklin, and all the people of that time did this. They moved their present, and with more than one person doing that, they summoned the future—the wonderful country they built which, putting aside today's events, endures today. I used this in my speech and was complimented for it.

While I am not encouraging takeovers or the like, this is another reason why Masonry can still be useful to today's younger men. It can encourage anyone to be like our Founding Fathers, many of whom were influenced by Masonic teachings. We can ALL start to move our present to summon the future—a future where not one or only a few prosper, but where everyone has a chance to be what they want without being held back. Masonry once helped to lead the way, and we can encourage our younger set that they can be the light that brings betterments to their families, their cities, their country, and maybe even the world. No, I am not naïve enough to believe this can happen overnight, and there are no quick fixes. The process is slow, but it's possible for Freemasonry to show the way.

With all this potential going for it, as well as the foundations it has built, Freemasonry has evolved and continues to be relevant to the young men of today. And we can continue by selling these points to all men. I close by reminding all of us of something I constantly remind myself—that time, patience and perseverance accomplish all things.

## References

“Star Trek: The Original Series”, Episode #039, “Mirror, Mirror”, from the DVD collection, “Star Trek: Alternate Realities”, Paramount and CBS Video, 2008.