

Hiram's Lighthouse



PROVIDING MASONIC *LIGHT* FROM TORONTO EAST DISTRICT

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Nullius in verba

... by the Lighthouse Beam

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Hiram's Lighthouse - March 1, 2024
Grand Lodge Merit Award Winner for District Newsletter 2008



My Dear Fellow Brethren,

As the snow, ice and cold of winter slowly fades into our memory, there is no better time than the advent of Spring, to re-focus on the virtues of the craft,

From the very beginning of each of our journeys in Freemasonry, we have been instructed to strive to live our lives centered on the virtues of Fortitude, Prudence, Temperance and Justice. This is what makes the difference in how we are viewed by those around us. It reinforces our thoughtfulness to others, kindness and honesty in our community and our businesses and, above all, fairness in ALL things.

We are all charged with attracting new members to our brotherhood. How better to ensure that this happens, than to be a bright light in our community. One that makes those around us want to know what makes us the way we are.

Deeds speak far louder than words!

We should strive to be involved with our community, Blood Donor Clinics, the Chip Program, Doors Open Toronto etc and our charities raising money for our local Food Banks, Hospitals, and all community based programs where we live.

Let people know who we are.

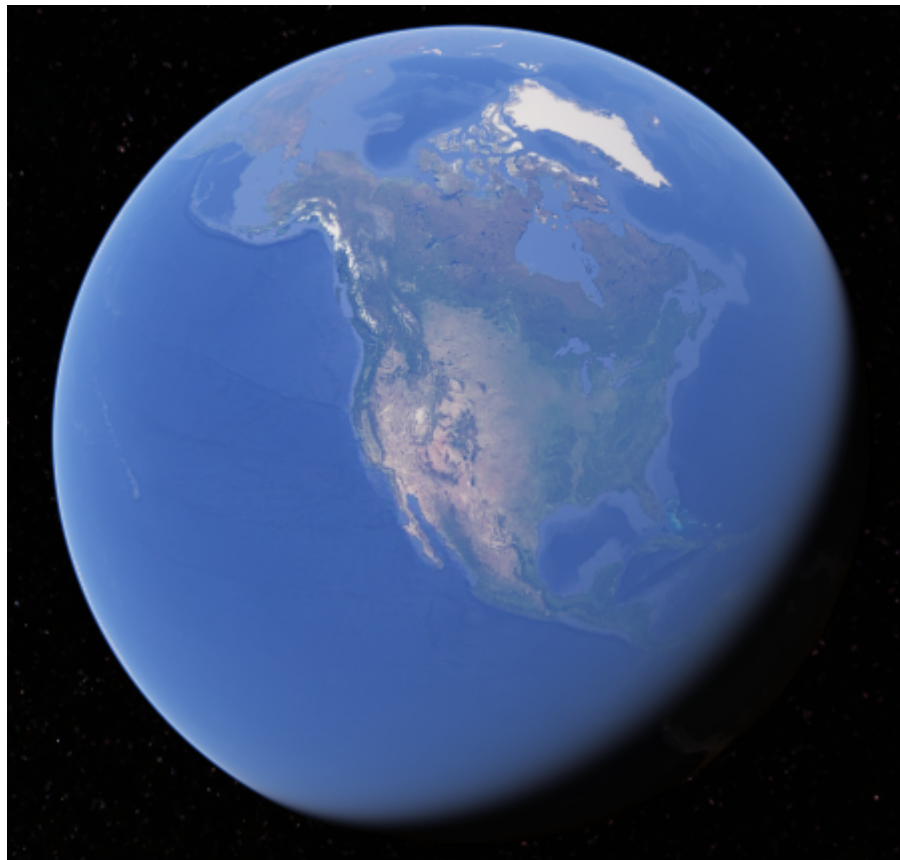
Be proud to be a Mason!

R.W. Bro. Nick Zarafonitis
District Deputy Grand Master
Toronto East District

...Now here's a Lodge in



**120 N Iowa St
Gunnison, CO
81230**



Anonymous donor to offer Masonic Lodge to Western Colorado University

Pending a successful sale and signed agreement, an unnamed donor has offered Western Colorado University the opportunity to lease and eventually own Gunnison's former Masonic Lodge. The plan will allow the university to have its first-ever physical presence in downtown Gunnison.

The Masonic Lodge, located at 120 North Iowa St., has been on the market since August of 2023. The two-story brick building was most recently listed at \$1.3 million dollars, and sits on seven parcels in the city's Central Business District.

Late last year, an anonymous donor approached the university and offered to buy the building and surrounding land. The donor's sole intent is to transfer ownership to the university after a five-year lease term of \$1 a month, said Western president Brad Baca at a trustees meeting on Feb. 8. He anticipates the sale will go through by April.

"The bottom line is having this piece of property in the Central Business District positions Western to be a key player in helping to revitalize the downtown of Gunnison," Baca said.

But the building, which is nearly 70 years old, may be in need of extensive repair. It could cost Western up to \$250,000 to maintain it over a five-year period, Baca said. This doesn't include the eventual cost to renovate the building, which could exceed the property's value depending on how Western wants to use it. At a recent board meeting, trustees discussed potential uses for the building. They touched on the university's risk in acquiring the old space, before unanimously approving the lease.

The donor remains anonymous to the university and it's unclear if they are an alumni. The donor prefers, but is not requiring, that Western use it to enhance its music and art departments, Baca said. If the university decided to sell the building in the future, the donor would like to see the proceeds go to the scholarships and faculty salaries in those same departments.

If the sale is completed, Western would lease the building for \$1 per month until Dec. 31, 2028. The university would be responsible for all costs of maintaining the building — utilities, insurance and custodial work. After that date, Western would assume full ownership of the building.

Board member Millie Hamner questioned why the donor would require a five-year lease, rather than buying and donating the building to the university right away. Baca said it appears as though the person has other businesses in the valley, and is looking to sell them over the next five years. So, the building donation might offset their tax liability down the road.

The board, executive administrators and the Western community have not yet decided on how the space should be used. Baca suggested the university direct a working group to parse out the short- and long-term uses. He urged the board to sign the lease, and offered a variety of possible uses including housing, university retail and student or academic programs.

"It's an extraordinary location in terms of being just a block away from Main Street," said board member Kara Buckley. "There are people around all the time. [It would be] a wonderful presence for Western and a chance to boost that community involvement."

The building's potential long-term benefits outweigh the financial risks, Baca said. Although renovation costs could exceed the property's value, the university would pay next to no rent and could sell it after

2028 to recoup costs. There's a wide array of possible uses for the lodge, Baca said, even though some will require rezoning or conditional approval from the city.

"This is not something we're accustomed to doing. Myself, as well as the institution, tend to be risk averse ... It's not about not taking risks. It's about taking the right risks," Baca said.

The 7,400 square foot facility has two floors with large open spaces. The lodge was built in 1957, and has had limited renovations or improvements since then. The building doesn't have an elevator, meaning Western would have to add one for ADA compliance. Asbestos was discovered beneath the floor tiles in the bathroom during a recent inspection, Baca said. There's not an adequate fire mitigation system, the electrical system is outdated and the boiler would need replacement within the decade.

Baca estimates it will cost between \$122,000 and \$240,000 to maintain the lodge in the nearly five years before the university would own the building. The high estimate assumes the university will use the facility during the lease, adding more maintenance costs. Western has yet to identify how that maintenance or later renovations could be paid for.

"This could be a significant learning experience across many majors," said board member Cecil Gutierrez. "This is an opportunity to bring in your business school to, say, do an analysis on how we use this space. [To] the music and art department — how do you envision being able to use this space? ... I saw this as a huge learning opportunity across the entire university."

Trestle Board

Coming Soon...



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Books and Manuscripts

This Month in History

March 1, 1961 - President [John F. Kennedy](#) established the Peace Corps, an organization sending young American volunteers to developing countries to assist with health care, education and other basic human needs.

Birthday March 2 - American soldier and politician Sam Houston (1793-1863) was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia. As a teenager he ran away and joined the Cherokee Indians who accepted him as a member of their tribe. He later served as a Congressman and Governor of Tennessee. In 1832, he became commander of the Texan army in the War for Texan Independence, defeating the larger Mexican army in 1836 at the Battle of San Jacinto. He then served as Senator and Governor of the new state of Texas but was removed in 1861 after refusing to swear allegiance to the Confederacy.

Birthday March 6 - Renaissance genius Michelangelo (1475-1564) was born in Caprese, Italy. He was a painter, sculptor, architect, poet and visionary best known for his fresco on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel and his sculptures *David* and *The Pieta*.



Please take the time to log in and review the new Grand Lodge website.
www.grandlodge.on.ca

Nature & Science





Plato: Political Philosophy

Plato (c. 427-347 B.C.E.) developed such distinct areas of philosophy as epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, and aesthetics. His deep influence on Western philosophy is asserted in the famous remark of Alfred North Whitehead: "the safest characterization of the European philosophical tradition is that it consists of a series of footnotes to Plato." He was also the prototypical political philosopher whose ideas had a profound impact on subsequent political theory...

In the *Republic* he criticizes the direct and unchecked democracy of his time precisely because of its leading features (557a-564a). Firstly, although freedom is for Plato a true value, democracy involves the danger of excessive freedom, of doing as one likes, which leads to anarchy. Secondly, equality, related to the belief that everyone has the right and equal capacity to rule, brings to politics all kinds of power-seeking individuals, motivated by personal gain rather than public good. Democracy is thus highly corruptible. It opens gates to demagogues, potential dictators, and can thus lead to tyranny. Hence, although it may not be applicable to modern liberal democracies, Plato's main charge against the democracy he knows from the ancient Greek political practice is that it is unstable, leading from anarchy to tyranny, and that it lacks leaders with proper skill and morals. Democracy depends on chance and must be mixed with competent leadership (501b)...

...In spite of the idealism with which he is usually associated, Plato is not politically naive. He does not idealize, but is deeply pessimistic about human beings. Most people, corrupted as they are, are for him fundamentally irrational, driven by their appetites, egoistic passions, and informed by false beliefs. If they choose to be just and obey laws, it is only because they lack the power to act criminally and are afraid of punishment (*Republic*, 359a)...

...Courage is not merely military courage but primarily civic courage: the ability to preserve the right, law-inspired belief, and stand in defense of such values as friendship and freedom on which a good society is founded. It is the primary quality of the guardians (430b). Finally, moderation, a sense of the limits that bring peace and happiness to all, is the quality of all social classes. It expresses the mutual consent of both the governed and the rulers as to who should rule (431d-432a). The four virtues of the good society describe also the soul of a well-ordered individual. Its rational part, whose quality is wisdom, nurtured by fine words and learning, should together with the emotional or spirited part, cultivated by music and rhythm, rule over the volitional or appetitive part (442a). Under the leadership of the intellect, the soul must free itself from greed, lust, and other degrading vices, and direct itself to the divine. The liberation of the

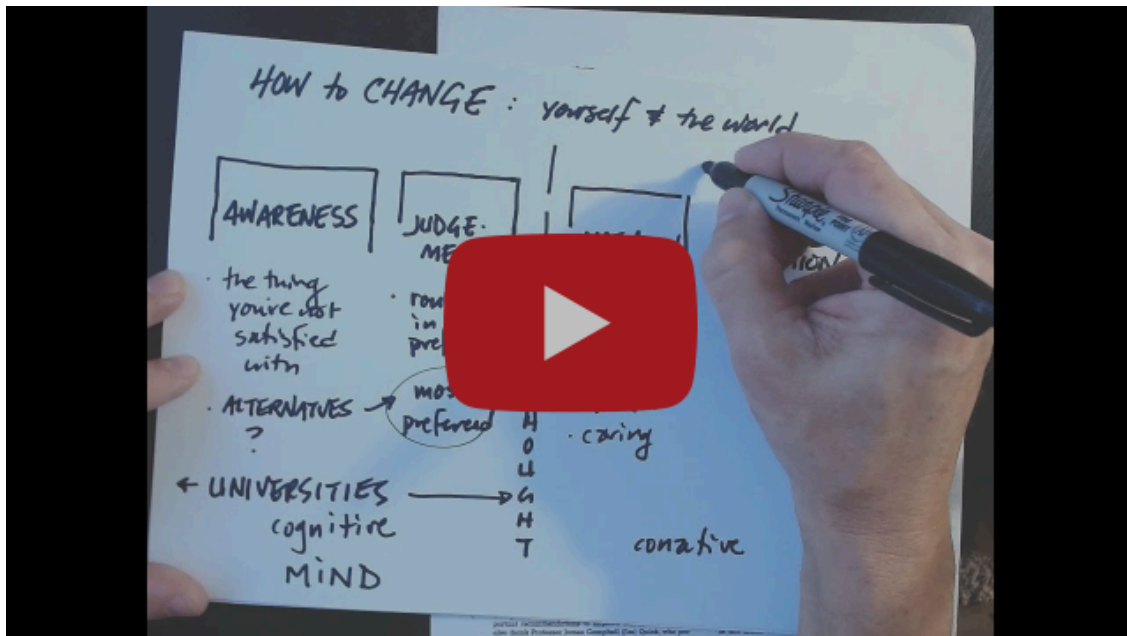
soul from vice is for Plato the ultimate task of humans on earth. Nobody can be wicked and happy (580a-c). Only a spiritually liberated individual, whose soul is beautiful and well ordered, can experience true happiness. Only a country ordered according to the principles of virtue can claim to have the best system of government...



Michael Merzenich - What Do Brains Do?



Is This What Quantum Mechanics Looks Like?



How to Change Yourself & the World (from thought to action)



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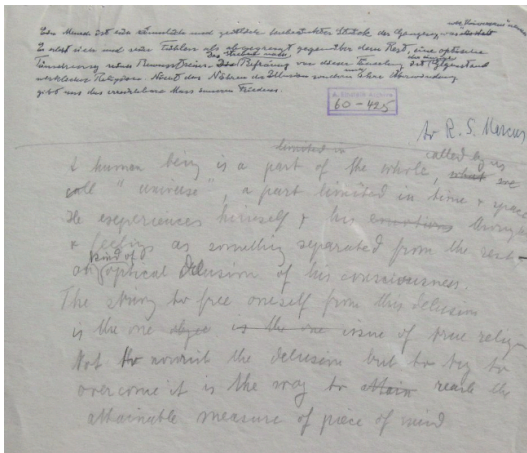
Long Bio

Thomas P Seager is an associate professor in the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment at Arizona State University. Seager leads research teams working at the boundaries of engineering and social science to understand innovation for resilient infrastructure systems, including the life-cycle environmental consequences of emerging energy technologies, novel approaches to teamwork and communication in socio-technical integrative settings, and engineering ethics education. Current research sponsors include the National Science Foundation, the

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, and several industry partners. Seager is the faculty director of the Resource Innovation Solutions Network (RISN), a partnership of between ASU, City of Phoenix and other local municipalities for fostering circular, closed-loop economies. RISN operates a vertical incubator to nurture entrepreneurs that will accelerate the transition to a Circular Economy. Additionally, Seager serves as chairman and CEO of eXperiential Sustainability Ethics Training (XSETGames, LLC), which creates digital simulations for examining economic and ethical dimensions of wicked problems including pharmaceutical pricing, technological innovation, intergenerational equity and the Tragedy of the Commons. These simulations have been used by corporations, government agencies, and higher education clients, including dozens of Universities on three different continents. Lastly, Seager founded the non-profit Sustainability Conoscente Network as a mechanism for sharing knowledge related to systems approaches to sustainable technologies. The Conoscente holds the [International Symposium on Sustainable Systems and Technology](#) in May of every year.

Education

- Ph.D. Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY 2001
- M.S. Civil Engineering, Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY 1994
- B.S. Civil Engineering, Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY 1987



"A human being is a spatially and temporally limited piece of the whole, what we call the "Universe." He experiences himself and his feelings as separate from the rest, an optical illusion of his consciousness. The quest for liberation from this bondage [or illusion] is the only object of true religion. Not nurturing the illusion but only overcoming it gives us the attainable measure of inner peace."

-[Einstein](#)

... by the Lighthouse Beam





**SOCRATIC MEDITATION
AND EMOTIONAL SELF - REGULATION:
HUMAN DIGNITY IN A TECHNOLOGICAL AGE**

Anne-Marie Schultz & Paul E. Carron
Baylor University

*This essay proposes that Socrates practiced various spiritual exercises, including meditation, and that this Socratic practice of meditation was habitual, aimed at cultivating emotional self-control and existential preparedness. Contemporary research in neurobiology supports the view that intentional mental actions, including meditation, have a profound impact on brain activity, neuroplasticity, and help engender emotional self-control. This impact on brain activity is confirmed via technological developments, a prime example of how technology benefits humanity. Socrates attains the balanced emotional self-control that Alcibiades describes in the **Symposium** because of the sustained mental effort he exerts that directly impacts his brain and his emotional and philosophical life. The essay concludes that Socratic meditative practices aimed at manifesting true dignity as human beings within the complexities of a technological world offer a promising model of self-care worthy of embracing today.*

PHILOSOPHY AND TECHNOLOGY

Administration

NOTICE: Hiram's Lighthouse is currently looking to expand its Editorial Board, should you or someone you know be a good candidate, please contact the editor at hiramslighthouse@gmail.com with a brief bio.

ADMINISTRATION:

Hiram's Lighthouse is your newsletter. It is published on the last day of every month. If Hiram's Lighthouse does not have the content you would prefer, it is because the editor does not have that content available. If you want something more, please submit it. Please feel free to offer suggestions, submissions for ... by the Lighthouse Beam, book and film reviews, and topics of Masonic interest.

We also ask all Secretaries and Worshipful Masters to inform their lodge members of the existence of the newsletter and how to subscribe to it.

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Newsletter.

To get a notice into the newsletter at least one month before the event, send a message to hramslighthouse@gmail.com with all the information and we'll run it every month until the function is past.

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