

# District of Columbia Supplement

## Sir Knight Kevin S. Matthews

### Right Eminent Grand Commander

#### *Masonic Allegory cont'd from August issue*

*They pan to Spock, who, dead pan, is slightly confused and then offers a lesson of his people's way of dealing with irrational behavior.*

*At the time of this show, this country was going through the "cold war". Russians and Americans were actively on the brink of nuclear war, yet, matter of factly, the bridge crew is composed of multiple nationalities, accepting each other "as is" and working closely and seamlessly. In those days, a woman wasn't very technically portrayed, nor did she generally work a career, much less being a senior officer or a senior military line officer. Yet, there was Uhura, a black woman, of African descent, as a co-star, senior bridge officer, senior crew, and the chief communications officer of the Federation's flag ship. There was no blatant bludgeoning of this. It was, once again, dealt with as a common, matter of fact, everyday event. It just was.*

*The episodes, themselves; many of them were taken from biblical stories or concepts, or from classical mythologies, with some of the premier science fiction writers of the day, including Harlan Ellison, who also was technical consultant. The technology of the star ship and future was, again, dealt with as a routine, defacto vehicle into which the stories were ported. You didn't have your nose rubbed into it. You were directed to the stories, and the morality and virtues of the characters and the "canonical Rodenberry future". Why was this show, which, initially only lasted one season, but later became a "cult" hit, and eventually, a phenomenon? In Star Wars, again, we have the battle of light versus dark. The concept of the "dark side of the 'Force'" battling the opposite and "good", with, of all things, "LIGHT SABERS".... isn't "light" one of our symbols for knowledge, ultimate truth? And they are battling with "swords of light"... what an interesting concept! I actually find that remarkable. You also have a young man, coming into adulthood, in the time of turmoil in his society, and going to join the army, but, becoming sidetracked by the death of his immediate family (as he knows it) eventually enters an association of virtuous warriors, who are seeking balance and to combat evil, ignorance and an oppressive government. Without a doubt, there will be a few of you who may instantly recognize some of this, especially in light of certain recent events! Over the course of the movies, Luke finds a mentor, learns of his past, finds his family, and confronts not only his father and the ultimate baddies, but also his own fears and discovers himself.*

*Eventually, HE becomes the Jedi Master and is now equipped to teach others and fight the legends.*

*And what about the concept of "the FORCE"... neither good nor bad, containing the seeds of both. The Jedi seek a balance; a balance in themselves; a balance in the 'force'; and a balance in their settings. The "Sith" are their polar opposites, completing the "yin and yang" of the Taoist symbol. The 'force' just IS, and each side determines their own destiny by either seeking one path or the other. Over time, the Star Wars sagas complete and create two generations of new mythologies! EVERYone knows who Yoda is, and Luke Shywalker, and Darth Vader, and what a light saber is.... But WHY? What made/makes these blockbusters so popular? When we look closely at the stories we find the common threads. Star Trek takes from the great moral stories of the Judeo-Christian bible, and from the excellent works of William Shakespeare, as well as a few Greek myths. Babylon 5 borrows heavily from certain Buddhist, Zen concepts, as well as the classical mythologies of several cultures dealing with the ultimate battles of good and evil. Star Wars is pure morality of good versus evil. It's the good guys versus the bad guys with few moral ambiguities with some Taoism as the backdrop. Right out of the old westerns, except with blasters and light sabers and the force. The reason that these shows, and movies, and books resonate with us is that they deal with the basic moral principles and ideas that we ALL grapple with, every day, everywhere. We identify with the characters and their situations because, while they are fighting mighty forces on galactic levels, the struggle is no less nor more than we each go through. We, as Masons, try to confront our shortcomings and fears, and we use such symbols and metaphors as reminders of what we are aiming at. But we didn't invent it. These are truths that have withstood the tests of time and societies, and seem to us to be self-evident and divinely inspired. We recognize this, and ourselves and identify with them. It really doesn't matter how you learn these 'truths', but only that you do, and that you try to be that ideal what we would like ourselves to be.*

*I will leave you with a final thought, a quote from Delenn:*

*We believe that the universe itself is conscious in a way that we can never truly understand. It is engaged in a search for meaning. So it breaks itself apart, investing its own consciousness in every form of life. We are the universe trying to understand itself.*

**Yours in the Service of Christ,**

*Sir Knight Douglas Cohen*

**Generalissimo 2019-2020 GCKTDC**