

## HAPPY NEW YEAR (DECADE)



It's a new decade. Or is it? Back to that in a moment.

A new year is beginning and the tradition is to pack all your last year's woes and start anew. That's how I feel. 2019 wasn't a great year for me. I spent a good chunk of April to June in a semi-vegetation state after being let go from my position as a chemical applications specialist. I really liked the job and was very good at it, but some poisonous attitudes and the fact that the company never looked on mining as more than a sideline didn't help. Of course, going public on the Dow-Jones meant paring down the books so it looked like they made more money with less people. The trick was to go public before they lost a bunch of business because of the people they laid off.

They have done this before. But I digress.

So, I am looking forward to new adventures in 2020. I have an online course in development, which actually should be out by now. My next novel, *The Tachi*, is planned for a March release. And I have Book 5 of the *Rainey Chronicles*, *The Quest*, and two other stories in mind for the year now that I have my mind back in focus. Might even be a small business start-up involving a distillery in the works.

So yes, I have big plans for 2020. New decade and all. But is it new?

I've had this discussion with a few people recently. Math is a bit funny. When you turn ten, you are actually beginning your eleventh year on earth. Your first year of life is spent before you are one, so it is kind of a year zero. For calendars, however, there is no year zero. For instance, my Masonic lodge is coming up to its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021, but we have just installed our 100<sup>th</sup> Master of the Lodge because the Lodge did not have a Year Zero. If you consider when Caesar Augustus set his calendar, the first year would have been Year One. Therefore, ten years would not have passed until the end of year ten. Extrapolate that to today, and 2,010 years will not have passed until the end of 2010. Therefore, the next decade actually starts in 2011.

Confused yet? I like to bring this up just to irritate people who are too excited about a new decade.

So, I'm going to keep this short. Here's hoping your new year (and decade if you so choose) brings peace and prosperity to you and your family. May you be able to spend time on things you are passionate about because that is what makes life worth living. And have a shot of scotch for me at midnight because I'll be having one for you.

Happy New Year and thank you all for being part of my blog family.