

# In the



# Daylight

Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866, F. & A.M.  
14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA 91405  
Editor: [davidikarp@karpmediation.com](mailto:davidikarp@karpmediation.com)

April 2021

## Freemasonry Is Fun, Seriously!

### Foreword ...

**W**e are not always so serious in our Lodge. Certainly our Degree work is serious. So is our focus on the values and ethics of our Craft and our charitable work. But there are times for fun as well.

I remember from before the pandemic some Lodge social events that were fun for our members. They included, among others, a casino bus ride and a golf tournament. Even our after-meeting lunches together were fun. Hopefully, we can return to these kinds of events soon.

We also had “fun with a purpose,” to borrow a phrase from Scouting. Hanging out with the Brothers and their families in the park while handing out water to the runners in the Shriners’ 5K/10K run was a blast.

This month’s Zoom meeting, to honor a public school teacher and, hopefully a student too, will be fun. I think our Fellowship gatherings are fun on Zoom.

Preparing this newsletter each month is fun for me. Note: You might find that some of the articles this month are more fun than others, given a certain annual custom relating to April 1. In any event, I hope you enjoy them.

Also, of course, there are some more serious items included, like information about our Public Schools observance/honoree(s), our Grand Master’s Proclamation, two articles from our officers, etc. Have fun and enjoy the read.

Fraternally, David I. Karp, Editor

### April Trestle Board

When we meet in person, but not now, we meet on 1st/3rd Saturdays at 10:00 AM except as otherwise noted. With authority from Grand Lodge, we conduct our Stated Meetings online, see below.

**April 1, 2021**, 7PM, Zoom Fellowship\*

**April 3, 2021**, Dark, due to the holidays

**April 8, 2021**, 7PM, Executive Comm. Mtg., on Zoom. Wor. Celso will provide link.

**April 10, 2021**, 10AM, Zoom. Stated Meeting. Tiled. Register in advance for this meeting:

**April 15, 2021**, 7PM Zoom Fellowship\*

**April 22, 2021**, 7PM Public Schools Observance on Zoom\*

**April 29, 2021**, 7PM, Executive Comm. Mtg., on Zoom. Wor. Celso will provide link.

## Masons Visit Jersey – An Account by a Brother

At a high point on the island called Jersey in the English Channel, there stands an ancient castle with a rich history called Mont Orgueil (see, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mont\\_Orgueil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mont_Orgueil) ). It has existed since the 13th century, was upgraded in the 17th century, and was used thereafter, even by the Germans during WWII. *Id.*

Of course, Jersey is also a place where Masons meet and visit. Freemasons' Lodges have existed on Jersey since 1756. See, <https://jerseymason.org.uk/> .

Last year before the pandemic, a group of California Masons [names omitted for privacy] decided to visit Jersey, its castle, and a Lodge there. They wanted to see and learn about the stonemasons' marks that some archeologists had found. The Jersey Masons knew about them but kept their secrets.

Through Jersey Heritage (see <https://www.jerseyheritage.org/> ), the California Brothers were able to join a tour of the castle. While there, they silently separated from the tour group. Up the steep slope below the castle they went. Reaching the base of the great wall just below the castle itself, they searched for the stonemasons' marks. Some were simple "X" marks, some more elaborate.

Ultimately, one resembling a square and compasses came into view, below it an arrow, which they followed. Soon they found another mark. It resembled the All-Seeing Eye with another arrow below it pointing down. In a crevice below, they found yet another mark which appeared to resemble a Tiler's Jewel. Next to it was a loose stone. One of the men stumbled and fell upon that stone. It moved.

A hidden door slid open and a tunnel appeared. Nervously, one of them suggested entering, offering that it was a perfect point of entrance, although dark. Thankfully, one of the Masons had a flashlight.

The Masons ventured in and followed the tunnel, lit only by the small flashlight. The tunnel led to a hidden Lodge Room, with an Altar and other indicia of early Freemasonry.

The flashlight dimmed. One of the jittery Masons suggested retreating and rejoining the tour before the light failed altogether. "Agreed," replied two more. They were weary and worn out from the excitement.

Just as the flashlight blinked out, one of the Masons saw a dusty open box of batteries upon the Altar. It looked very old. They replaced the dead batteries with those they found. "Let there be light," one said as he clapped and the flashlight relit.

Worried of being lost in the dark, the Masons quickly returned through the tunnel to the outside. They followed a circuitous route down the steep slope, rejoining the tour group just as the tour bus was to leave.

That night, the California Masons joined the Jersey Masons in their Lodge. The above tale was told and the question asked: "What about those old batteries we found on the Altar?"

The Master of the Lodge spoke: "Those are some of the Ancient Charges. For more Light in Masonry."

Fraternally,  
Bro. Hy Cassel



[Image attribution: Man vyi - Self-photographed (public domain), available on [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mont\\_Orgueil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mont_Orgueil) .]

## Medieval Masons

Medieval Masons moved freely from place to place in order to construct the great edifices of the era. They went where there was employment. See, <https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/medieval-England/medieval-masons/>.

Wherever they went, a Master Mason oversaw the work of the other masons, glaziers, and craftsmen:

"He would work in what was known as the Mason's Lodge. All important building sites would have such a building that served as a workshop and a drawing office from which all the work on the building site was organised. Anyone who arrived at the building site and claimed that they were a master mason would be tested by the Master Mason and by master masons already working on the site. By doing this they ensured that quality was maintained and that they would have a good chance of future building work." *Id.*

Roslyn Chapel, a 15th-century structure located in the village of Roslin, Midlothian, Scotland, likely was one of those building sites where such a Mason's Lodge was located nearby. There is some speculation that Roslyn Chapel is connected to Freemasonry, the Knights Templar, and the Holy Grail. See, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roslyn\\_Chapel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roslyn_Chapel). There is even a legend that an Entered Apprentice was murdered there. <https://freemasonrymatters.co.uk/latest-news-free-masonry/rosslyn-chapel-the-apprentice-pillar/>.

Less well known than the foregoing murder is the incident of the bee hive discovered at the Mason's Lodge. Masonic tradition informs us that a well established beehive was located under its eaves. In the rage that resulted from the EA's murder, the hive was dislodged. Most of the angry bees followed the animated masons away from the lodge as they scurried for their own protection. One bee remained.

She entered the Lodge, where the Master Mason and one other craftsman were poring over

the designs on the trestle board. The overly large bee buzzed around and ultimately landed upon the trestle board itself, whereupon the Master Mason, a man of few words, struck it with his setting maul.

Upon the demise of the insect, the craftsmen acknowledged the deed, simply saying "amen." The Master Mason looked up, grinned, and said, "Smote it. Bee." The rest is history.

Fraternally,  
Bro. Justin Upwright



### Masonic Recognition

#### Past Masters of Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866, F. & A.M.

Steven A. Wolvek (2017-2018)

Rogelio L. Soriano (2019)

#### Past Masters by Affiliation

Demetrio C. Cahapisan, Jr. (2012)

Celso V. Cardano, Jr. (2012)

Alberto L. Casanova, Jr. (2014)

Emmanuel D. Espiritu (2014)

Bruce L. Ewald (2004-2006)

Bruce L. Hawley (1984)\*\*

Luc Paul, Jr. (2018)

#### Hiram Award\*

Demetrio C. Cahapisan, Jr., PM (2013)

Alberto L. Casanova, Jr., PM (2016)

Keith S. Cotton (2017)

Bruce L. Ewald, PM (2011)

Bruce L. Hawley, PM (2000)\*\*

David I. Karp (2020)

John T. Seletos (2017)

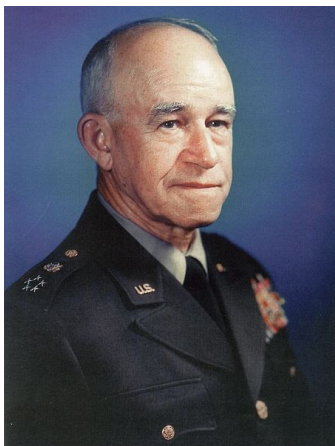
Thomas K. Sheehan (2014)

Rogelio L. Soriano, PM (2018)

Steven A. Wolvek, PM (2019)

\*A high honor presented to a Master Mason who has served the Lodge and the Masonic Fraternity with devotion over and above the ordinary.

\*\* Deceased.



[Image Attribution: In the public domain, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omar\\_Bradley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omar_Bradley) ]

## Bro. Bradley and the Masons

**G**eneral Omar Bradley, who became a Mason at West Point Lodge No 877 in 1923, commanded the First United States Army during the Invasion of Normandy. See, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omar\\_Bradley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omar_Bradley)

While in England, Bro. Bradley sought out Masters and Past Masters, inviting them to a top-secret, tiled, Special Communication relating to the invasion and to potential encounters with Masons in France.

They assembled at a secret location on the Third Degree. During that meeting he gave them certain instructions, strictly in charge. He knew they would keep the secrets as Master Masons. The meeting was never officially reported. One can scour the historical record and never find any reference to it. It is as if it never happened.

Weather delayed the invasion.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation\\_Overlord#Weather\\_forecasting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Overlord#Weather_forecasting). The Masons waited a time with patience until a certain Masonic sign was given and they assembled, together, all in one landing craft (an LST, i.e., “Landing Ship, Tank”).

Bro. Bradley made his way to the landing craft to address the men. Again, there is no official record of what was said, although words

of impatience for the invasion to begin were probably exchanged.

According to a recently discovered diary of a Past Master in attendance at the time, Gen. Bradley was finally asked: “May we go now?”

Replying individually and collectively, he answered: “Yes, WARSHIP-full.”

Source: Personal papers of Capt. Hiram Abaft, PM (deceased).



## Grand Master’s Proclamation

**A**PRIL 2021 IS PUBLIC SCHOOLS MONTH  
Embracing the Next Evolution

Whereas California public schools are facing the unprecedented challenge of remote instruction, hybrid classrooms, and the related health concerns of in-person learning; and

**Whereas** California Masons have for more than a century supported statewide programs to support public education initiatives through the observance of Public Schools Month; and

**Whereas** supporting public schools is a bedrock principle of the California Masonry; and

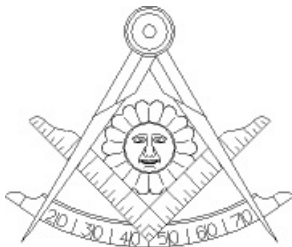
**Whereas** the next evolution of California Masonry is predicated on a strong system of public education;

As grand master, I therefore **proclaim** April 2021 to be Public Schools Month in California.

As California Masonry celebrates the 101st anniversary of Public Schools Month, support for our schools, teachers, and students has never been more important. Our schools are facing all new challenges, and as a result, more of our students are at risk of falling behind. It is up to organizations like the Masons of California to help close gaps in funding, technology, and materials that our schools require in order to ensure that students have equal access to learning [continues next page, see “Proclamation”]

["Proclamation," continued from p. 4]  
and a safe and healthy environment in which to grow. I call on California Masons to aid your local schools; tutor or mentor students in your community; organize lodge events to improve school grounds and to ensure that students, teachers, and administrators have the equipment they require; and donate to the California Masonic Foundation so that all kids in California have access to the support and materials they need to succeed in school and in life.

Sincerely and fraternally,  
Grand Master Arthur H. Weiss  
Attest:  
Grand Secretary Allan L. Casalou



## Masonic Spotlight: WB Leland Celestre, PM, Our Inspector

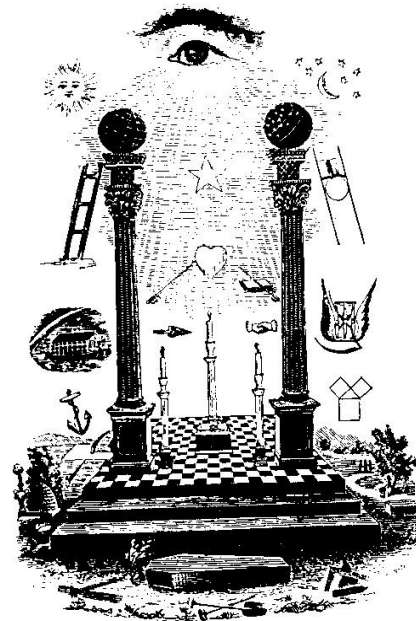
**O**ur Inspector, Leland Heywood Celestre, PM, was born on March 10, 1957 in Oakland, California. He grew up in San Luis Obispo, California. WB Leland spent six years serving in the US Navy as a machinist's mate aboard a frigate in the Pacific Fleet. After receiving an Honorable Discharge, he began studies in Mechanical Engineering, eventually earning post graduate degrees and Professional Engineer Licensure. Our Brother pursued a rewarding 35 year career in aerospace engineering, which included contributions to development of engines for multiple space launch vehicles including the Space Shuttle, and for the design and development of the International Space Station, Hubble Space

Telescope and numerous satellites, space probes and planetary landers. He retired in 2017.

WB Leland was initiated an Entered Apprentice in 2011, was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in 2012, all in Home Lodge No. 721. He is a Past Master of Santa Paula Lodge No. 291 (2016) and Home Lodge No.721 (2017). His Masonic memberships include: Scottish Rite Valleys of Pasadena and San Fernando Valley, York Rite Bodies of San Fernando Valley and Al Malaikah Shrine. He is a former Officers' Coach and assistant Officers' Coach of Van Nuys Lodge No.450 and Home Lodge No.721 and currently sits on Board of Directors of California Scottish Rite Foundation and serves as Inspector of the 709th Masonic District of California.

According to our Brother, "I am married to my own personal princess, Stacey. My family includes adult sons Jacob and Zachary, as well as Grandkids Zack Jr., Cecil and Delilah (who claims that only SHE is Granpa's personal princess)."

Our Lodge is privileged to have WB Leland as our Inspector. It's always a pleasure when he sits in Lodge with us.







## Public Schools Night Details

Please join us on Zoom, April 22, 2021, 7PM (login is on p. 1). After a half hour of Fellowship, our Public Schools Night Program will commence at 7:30PM PDT. This is a public event to celebrate our connection as Masons with the public school system in California, as decreed by our Grand Master.

During the event we will honor Alex Arellano, an English Teacher at Birmingham Community Charter High School, Lake Balboa, CA, whose Bio in his own words will be found below.

With our student essay contest underway, we hope also to spotlight the winner, whose essay we may publish next month. The students are writing about “any US government figure, past or present, who was/is also a Mason (whether president, senator, congressman, or jurist).”

Our honoree(s) will be awarded a small token of our appreciation as a part of our Public Schools celebration.

This is an opportunity also to show the public who we are as Masons and what we do. Please extend the invitation to your friends, family, and anyone interested in Freemasonry.



### CFS Daylight Lodge Officers for 2021

Worshipful Master Celso V. Cardano, Jr., P.M.

Senior Warden Edgar O. Yeghiazaryan

Junior Warden  
Fernando (“Jhonny”) O. Lebrilla, Jr.

Treasurer Barry Mann

Secretary Akram Alawar

Asst. Secretary Thomas (“Tom”) K. Sheehan

Chaplain Archimedes (“Kim”) S. Cabanig

Senior Deacon Spartak (“Spo”) Khachatryan

Junior Deacon Ihrahim Hannoun

Marshal Keith S. Cotton

Senior Steward Michael (“Mike”) J. Chavez

Junior Steward Rami Alawar

Organist Majd Fahma

Tiler William (“Bill”) C. Raddatz

Officers’ Coach Steven (“Steve”) A. Wolvek, PM

Candidates’ Coach Roger L. Soriano, PM

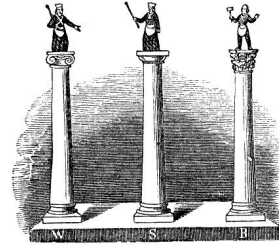
Inspector Leland H. Celestre, PM

## Our Public Schools Honoree – Alex Arellano, English Teacher

**E**ditor's Note: The following personal sketch has been provided by our honoree for April, Alejandro (Alex) Arellano, so we will know a little bit about him. Be sure to join us on Zoom as we honor him (and perhaps one of his students) on April 22, 7 PM. See the Trestle Board on p. 1 for the login information. Here are Mr. Arellano's words:

I was a first-generation college graduate, first in my extended family. My parents both immigrated from Mexico and did not finish grade school. I attended UCI, transferred to CSUF where I changed my major to English where I knew my true passion was. Matthew Andrews (HS English Teacher) and John Santia (HS Counselor) were monumental influences in my life to pursue Education. My major focus in teaching is really being able to connect as a human being first with my students and try to connect in order to build an inclusive environment. Growing up, my family really struggled to get by on a daily basis, so I understand a lot of the struggles my students are going through. The demographics of the high school I teach at are very similar to how I grew up, and choosing the right school was extremely important to me. I continued my education at CSUN and received my Masters in English Creative Writing and like trying to implement it into my teaching style as much as I can. I currently am in the Stanford Hollyhock Fellowship where some of my cohorts are focusing on creating and pushing for student voice.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alex Arellano, English Teacher  
Birmingham Community Charter  
High School, Lake Balboa, CA



## From the East

**B**rethren,  
The Grand Lodge of California has proclaimed April as Public School Month. Accordingly, Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge #866 will honor and recognize a public school teacher in appreciation for all that teachers do in education. This is extremely special: during a worldwide pandemic educators have stepped up to the plate to continue to teach students online while trying to deal with this crisis themselves. In learning new tools by teaching online, they continue to press forward to reach out to each student and to help propel these students forward in life. With this in mind, we take great honor in giving our recognition to an outstanding teacher. He represents all who have gone above and beyond to continue to educate students during these uncertain times.

Masons of California continue to support public education initiatives throughout the state by contributing more than \$630,000 to educational initiatives in 2020, part of a record year that saw more than \$2 million in overall giving. See, <https://freemason.org/homagetoservice/>.

Thank you to Brother David Karp, for chairing this event online.

Fraternally from the East,  
Wor. Celso V. Cardano, Jr., PM  
Master

## From the South

Brethren,  
As a member of Asian American group and our Masonic fraternity, it was very upsetting to me, and to many others, to learn of the killing of six Asian women, and two other people, in Atlanta in March.

In last month's column, I mentioned the increase in hate crimes and intolerance throughout our society over the past several years, especially towards Asian descent individuals recently. Now there have been these violent deaths to add to the list of examples. (We don't know for sure that the killings were racially motivated, but they fit the pattern.)

Diversity, inclusion, and respect are values that are deeply embedded in our Masonic Mission and our culture. These values guide how we work and how we interact with each other.

It is important that we let others know that we condemn all forms of bigotry, prejudice and hate, wherever it occurs and whenever we can.

I encourage all of us to give our support and our compassion to all who suffer from, and/or fear, the prejudice of others. Speak out or report incidents of hate that you witness if you are able to do so. Tell others that our Brethren and their families are safe among members of our Craft. Show them that, for Masons, Temperance chastens, Fortitude supports, Prudence directs us, and Justice is the guide of all our actions. Let them know that we promote peace, practice kindness and affability, and denounce all forms of hate, intolerance, or prejudice.

"A gem cannot be polished without friction, nor a man perfected without trials." - Lucius Annaeus Seneca, Roman statesman (5 BC - 65 AD).

Fraternally from the South,  
Bro. Fernando ("Jhonny") O. Lebrilla, Jr.  
Junior Warden.

## Bonus Article: John Kerr and South Pacific

John Grinham Kerr (November 15, 1931 February 2, 2013) was an American actor and attorney.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Kerr\\_\(actor\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Kerr_(actor)) .

If you know the film, *South Pacific*, the movie musical of the Rodgers and Hammerstein play, Kerr portrayed Lt. Joseph Cable (USMC). *Id.* See also,

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South\\_Pacific\\_\(1958\\_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Pacific_(1958_film)) .

*South Pacific* broke ground for its not-so-subtle criticism of racial bigotry, told in two parallel story lines:

"The plot centers on an American nurse stationed on a South Pacific island during World War II, who falls in love with a middle-aged expatriate French plantation owner but struggles to accept his mixed-race children. A secondary romance, between a U.S. Marine lieutenant and a young Tonkinese woman, explores his fears of the social consequences should he marry his Asian sweetheart. The issue of racial prejudice is candidly explored throughout the musical, most controversially in the lieutenant's song, 'You've Got to Be Carefully Taught'."

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South\\_Pacific\\_\(musical\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Pacific_(musical)) .

As the plot unfolds, "Cable arrives on the island from Guadalcanal, having been sent to take part in a dangerous spy mission whose success could turn the tide of the war against Japan. Bloody Mary tries to persuade Cable to visit 'Bali Ha'i', mysteriously telling him that it is his special island."

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South\\_Pacific\\_\(musical\)#Synopsis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Pacific_(musical)#Synopsis) . He visits Bali Ha'i where he meets and falls for Liat, Bloody Mary's daughter. "Believing that Liat's only chance at a better life is to marry an American officer, Mary leaves Liat alone with Cable. The two are instantly attracted to each other and make love" *Id.* And so the story goes.



Hanalei Bay, on the Hawaiian island of Kauai, served as the filming location for the film. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South\\_Pacific\\_\(1958\\_film\)#Cast](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Pacific_(1958_film)#Cast).

During the filming, John Kerr, who portrayed Lt. Cable (see above), had a foot injury. He was taken to see a doctor who was a Mason in Kauai Lodge F. & A.M., which Lodge was first Chartered under the Grand Lodge of California in 1924.

<https://kauai-lodge-hi.ourlodgepage.com/>.

Of course the minutes of the Lodge are silent on the subject, but the Doctor was so excited to provide foot care to “Lt. Cable,” he reported to his Brethren at that month’s Stated Meeting that, for the first time ever, he saw a Cable toe professionally.

Fraternally,  
Bro. Hiram Walker

## Coda: A Few Thoughts from a Sideliner

**T**he musicians among us know that a coda is an extra segment of music that brings a musical piece to an end.

There was too much blank space left over after the last article I hate that-- so I thought I would add a coda to this newsletter with a few thoughts of mine on the subject of enthusiasm.

This is my 30<sup>th</sup> year as a Mason and I have never been more enthusiastic than now about Freemasonry. Being a part of this Lodge has made me very happy, and enthusiastic about its future. However, lately I have the feeling that the pandemic has caused our Lodge and its members to stagnate. And that is not good.

Truly, the pandemic this past year has been a downer. We are all exhausted from being locked out of our usual activities. Our family lives, our business lives, our wallets, our health: all of it has been impacted. Hopefully, soon, we can resume our lives with extended family, and in business in-person and safely. And resume our Lodge activities, too, in-person, doing good

deeds, meeting on the level, seeing each other beyond the virtual experience of Zoom, and having fun.

As you know, I have been hosting regular Zoom meetings to keep up spirits. They have been enjoyable for me, and I hope for others. And we have had visiting Masons participate from other states Vermont, Louisiana, Nevada, Texas, Illinois, etc. as well as visits even from a Brother in Canada, making our Fellowship meetings all the more interesting.

However, I have seen a drop-off in participation by Brothers from our Lodge on Thursday nights. I see it as a sign of the times, really, a sign maybe of atrophy or apathy, all due to the depressing pandemic that has led us to the inertia we need to overcome with renewed enthusiasm.

There is hope on the horizon about the pandemic lessening in intensity in our area, as more and more of us are vaccinated and as we return to our normal routines. I am enthusiastic about that, although taking it in slowly.

For amusement this month, I have tried to highlight a lighter side of Freemasonry, to regenerate enthusiasm, with the spoof articles I have written. I really hope you enjoyed them. I had a lot of fun writing them.

So, how do we get past the boring isolation, the mundane routines of staring into a Zoom portal, the inability to see and greet each other in person, and all of the drudgery of the times?

I will tell you: I don’t know. But I do know this: Without seeing the good and embracing the positivity of Freemasonry, we won’t get there.

I learned a cheer from a Scouting leadership course at the Philmont Scout Ranch in NM, once, that went like this: [you have to picture a bunch of adult cub scout leaders in uniform on their feet and waving their arms, yelling: “ENTHUUUUSIASM! E-N-T-H-U-S-I-A-S-M! ENTHUUUUSIASM! I love my job.” Well, substitute “I love my Lodge” and try it at home. Maybe you’ll feel better and join in again with your Brothers.

Fraternally, David I. Karp, a Sideliner.