

In the



Daylight

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

August 2021

Masonry's Attraction, Inspiration, Enrichment.

Foreword ...

I think about Freemasonry a lot, especially lately as we have returned from pandemic isolation to our usual annual pattern of in-person Lodge activities, which include: degree meetings, business meetings, social events, and charitable endeavors.

One of those activities is our upcoming Open House/Information Meeting, which I have been helping to organize, scheduled for September 18, 2021, at 10AM at the Lodge. (Relatedly, I hope you will help, too, as it will be necessary for each of us to promote this sufficiently well, and well in advance like now! , for us to attract men who might be interested in petitioning the Lodge for membership ... on their own initiative of course.)

So, thinking about Freemasonry generally and the Open House in particular, I have been reviewing in my own mind how, personally, I have been attracted to the Craft, how inspired by it, and how enriched my life has been because of it.

This is my 30th year as a Master Mason. Initially, I was attracted to Freemasonry to honor a family history of membership including my dad, his father, even two great grandfathers and others (although I know of Masons who have been the first in their family to join). I was also attracted to Masonry because I wanted to meet good people who share my interests, who are friendly, family-oriented, have integrity, and come from diverse backgrounds.

I was inspired by the Masonic fraternity's long and storied past, its intersection with US history, its membership including so many famous people, even so many of our Founding Fathers, and so much more. Also, the rituals, values and ideals of Masonry inspired me to be a better person, more in tune with the needs and interests of others, more charitable and helpful, even more aware of the goodness of other people.

In my 30+ years of membership, my life has been enriched in so many ways by our Craft, including: opportunities for personal growth, continuing education about Masonry, warm and caring friendships, even the camaraderie of just getting together with the guys on a regular basis.

Aside from family, which always comes first, and my profession, Freemasonry has been a defining part of my adult life, and I wear my Masonic apron with pleasure to myself and honor to the Fraternity.

I hope you enjoy this edition. As you read through it, you will find, among other things, the reflections of others who have written about their attraction to Freemasonry and their inspiration and enrichment from joining the Craft.

Fraternally,
Bro. David I. Karp, Editor

August Trestle Board is on page 2.

The Attraction of Freemasonry

Editor's note: The following is quoted verbatim from the website of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon at

<https://freemasonry.bcy.ca/textfiles/attract.html> .

There are two questions that are often asked by freemasons and non-masons alike:

1. What attracts men to Freemasonry?
2. Once a man becomes a freemason what attracts him to become active and to devote so much time to its work?

There are probably as many answers to these questions as there are freemasons because there are so many facets to the organization, and its attractions so varied, that not all members have joined or become active for the same reason.

Nevertheless, there are certain basic tangible and intangible things which have made Freemasonry the largest and oldest fraternity, as well as the largest philanthropic organization, in the world.

Freemasonry has existed because it supplies the answer to many human needs. Man is a social creature and many a non-member is attracted to Freemasonry by the close friendship that exists between its members.

That elusive tie that binds all masons together actually exists. Notice how often freemasons who have never met before immediately become friendly. This is no accident but the result of knowing that each was recommended to membership by a good man, was subjected to an investigation, has taken part in ceremonies that obligates them to high moral standards and has taken the responsibility to be a conscientious and honourable individual as well as to be charitable in thought, word and deed.

Another factor is the number of great men who have been members of the masonic fraternity in all ages. But the most important element that commands the attention of the public is the charitable work that is done by the freemasons and the masonic family. The masonic family disburses approximately three and a half

million dollars a day to various charitable and research projects throughout the world.

The non-member is also attracted by the spirit of tolerance that exists in Freemasonry. The tenets of Freemasonry teach that every mason should espouse brotherly love, relief and truth. Brotherly love in the sense that all men are created equal; on this principle Freemasonry unites men of all nationalities and religious beliefs and conciliates true friendships amongst those who might otherwise remain at a perpetual distance.

Clearly Freemasonry is attractive to non-members for the many fine activities that are engaged in by its members as well as the quality of its membership. Freemasons spend time in working for the Craft because of its many personal satisfactions and the knowledge that Freemasonry does its part in making this a better world in which to live.

August Trestle Board

(We meet in person on 1st/3rd Saturdays at 10:00 AM at the Van Nuys Masonic Center, except as otherwise noted. See Masthead, p. 1 for address.)

August 5, 2021, 7PM Exec. Comm. Mtg.

August 7, 2021, 10AM Stated Meeting.

Tiled. In person. Dress casual.

August 12, 2021, 7PM --Zoom Fellowship.
Join Zoom Meeting

August 14, 2021, 10AM Possible 2nd Deg.
for Bros. Engstrom, Malaeb. Dress Formal.

August 21, 2021, 10AM Possible Double
First Degree. Dress Formal.



Leading and Inspiring

Editor's Note: The following is quoted from a webpage of the Michigan Masons at

<https://www.michiganmasons.org/>.

"Masonry is always ready to welcome good men into the fraternity. A man who becomes a ... Mason can expect to find the opportunity to learn and to lead; to be **inspired** and entertained; to be challenged and respected; to be involved with his family, his Brothers and his community; and be proud to be a member of an organization committed to making a difference."

DISTRESSED WORTHY BROTHER RELIEF FUND

DO YOU NEED MASONIC RELIEF DUE TO COVID-19?

Masonic Outreach Services is here to help those who find themselves in need due to COVID-19. Relief includes emergency financial assistance, case management, and information and referral services.

Learn more at masonichome.org

Or call (888) 466-3642 to speak with Masonic Outreach staff



Masonic Homes
of California

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 Ibrahim 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



Enriching Experiences

Here are some ideas, written in various websites, about Freemasonry and enrichment:

[Enrichment from philanthropy:] “Nationally, Masons contribute nearly \$2 million every day to relieve suffering and for the **enrichment** of mankind. Masons are the founding sponsors and supporters of the Shriners Burn Institutes and the Shriners Hospitals for Children, both of which offer their services free of charge; the Scottish Rite Childhood Language Program helps children with speech and language disorders throughout the United States, while numerous other Masonic affiliated organizations support worthy and needed causes.”

<https://www.masonic-oregon.com/faq/>

[Enrichment from participation:] “Brethren, you are Freemasons for a reason. Your Masonic journey should be one that charts a series of milestones that help to grow you as a person, filled with **enriching** memories along the way. Make the very best of your journey. Don’t wait for someone else to ask you to get involved. [¶] It’s your journey, so make the most of it!” From a piece entitled “From the Grand Master: A Journey of a Lifetime” October 14, 2019 at <https://www.nhgrandlodge.org/from-the-grand-master-a-journey-of-a-lifetime/>

[Enrichment as an overall result:] “As a fraternity, Freemasonry emphasizes self-improvement, personal study and the betterment of society through both **self-enrichment** and philanthropy.”

<http://kerakshrine.com/about/what-is-freemasonry>

(How are you enriched from being a Mason?)

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.





Open House / Information Meeting Upcoming

Our Open House / Information Meeting this year will take place in-person at the Lodge on September 18, 2021. Doors will open at 9:30AM with the program to begin at 10:00AM. Dress code: Tuxedos for the officers; suits for Brothers; business casual for guests.

As you know, we do not solicit members. Men must seek membership on their own initiative. But we do have events such as this to which the public is invited to learn more about our fraternity and our Lodge.

RSVPs are preferred. Send an email to davidikarp@karpmediation.com to reserve a seat. Also, more information is available at www.facebook.com/masonicopenhouse.

It is hoped that all seats will be filled for this event, by all Officers, Brothers, their friends and other guests. Such an attendance is more likely if each Brother does his best to invite one or more individual(s) who might be interested in learning more about the Craft.

In addition, Brothers should "like" the above Facebook page, so that, when posts are placed there, each member will see and be able to share those posts on his own page.

It will take the effort of all of us to publicize the open house event. Sharing posts from the above page, or creating your own, will give us better coverage to a wider audience. Moreover, sharing our flyer in your neighborhood or at local establishments will enable more people to know about the event.

This is a group effort, so do your best to help out. As in Field of Dreams, "if you post it, they will come."

Fraternally,
Bro. David I. Karp
Open House Co-Chair

PS. Member volunteers are needed for the day of the event, too, as greeters, presenters, etc. Please jump in and help. DIK



The Ties that Bind Us

Lifelong friendships among fellow Masons are among the goals, privileges and rewards of belonging to a Masonic Lodge. As with any group that meets regularly and frequently, Masons get to know one another well. These friendships are some of the ties that bind us.

There is no real hierarchy as all Masons treat one another without distinction, regardless of age, background, culture, religion, education, language or whatever.

Masons thus tend to be "on the level" with one another and like-minded when it comes to treating others with dignity, respect, morality, truth, justice and compassion. We have a common goal of philanthropy too. These too are ties that bind us.

At lunch the other day (my first time inside a restaurant in 15 months), I think I was the oldest [continues next page, see "Ties"]

["Ties, continued from page 5]

there (mid-60s). My children are grown and on their own. The youngest at the table was in his 20s with an infant at home. Across from me at the table was a Mason in his mid 40s who had just returned from a vacation with his wife and young children. Next to me sat a Mason somewhere in between in age. Each of us comes from a different cultural background. It is no matter; we are friends. Maybe more: we are Brothers.

Our lunch took place after our Lodge's business meeting. We call it a Stated Meeting. Joining us at lunch were several applicants to the lodge, I am happy to say. And, yes, they too come from different backgrounds, stages in life, business and professions, etc. This was an informal social event, which I so enjoy. We were all getting to know one another better and the applicants were also getting ready to embark on their journey in Freemasonry and in our Lodge, which brings me to another tie that binds us.

Freemasonry is not a religion; neither is it a secret society although we do have our secrets. It is a fraternity. Like all fraternities, our secrets are passed on to new members, like the applicants at the table yesterday, through our degree ceremonies and rituals.

Those ceremonies and rituals are very formal, historical, scripted and serious. They are put on for each applicant, and each applicant is given an opportunity thereafter to review what he has experienced so he can advance through the Degrees of Masonry, enjoy all the rewards of membership, and enrich his life.

These ceremonies create the strongest ties that bind, so much so that when we travel and visit other Lodges across the United States or around the world, we are certain that each Mason we meet has encountered substantially the same ceremonies, had the same experiences, and created the same ties to the Fraternity and to all Masons as we have.

These shared experiences create the instant affinity and friendship among all men who have

joined the Masons, and such has been true for hundreds of years.

Fraternally,
Bro. David I. Karp



“Why Did You Become a Freemason?”

Editor's Note: This is one of several relevant and interesting testimonials found on the website of "FREEMASONS South Australia and Northern Territory Inc. at <https://www.santfreemasons.org.au/become-a-freemason/testimonials>:

[Testimonial of] RT, Forestville, SA
When did you become a Freemason?
In 2006, I was 29
Why did you join Freemasonry?

It was always something that intrigued me, but I had never put much thought into it. I can't remember what then sparked my interest, but I started looking into it more and discovered what a special and unique organisation it was, concerned only with promoting good values and improvement of members and society. I felt it's values and my own were very similar and so contacted the Grand Lodge asking to find out more. I was contacted and met up with some members who were very accommodating, answering all my questions and giving me a tour of a lodge room. It felt right, so I petitioned a lodge.

What do you get out of being a Freemason?

I love the direct connection Freemasonry gives you to the past whilst still being completely relevant to today. The morals which are taught [continues next page, see “Why”]

["Why," continued from page 6]

make me think about how I lead my life and, I hope, improve me by helping me find my own path to being a better, more upright and good father and husband. Also important to me is the brotherhood which exists amongst members. I am delighted to have made so many new friends of men with similar outlooks on life as myself.

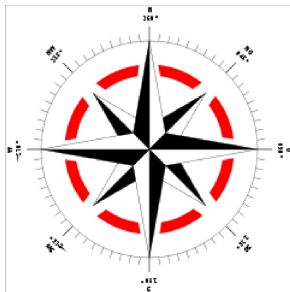
Would you recommend Freemasonry to worthy friends?

I certainly would and have discussed it with a number of people I know. Freemasonry does not suit everybody and as we never ask people to join, my discussions with friends has simply been a factual one, leaving them to seek out more information, if or when they see fit.

"I Have But One Regret"

By David K., Freemason posted at <https://grandlodgeofvirginia.org/why-i-am-a-mason/> [ed. note: this was not written by me.]

"I am always welcomed by the Brethren and am treated with dignity and respect. I have a feeling of belonging to something true and tried by history, a good something. I have but one regret and that is I did not take this step many years ago. Being a part of this Fraternity makes me look for the right path to take. It is becoming the compass to guide by, and I am glad to be a part of the oldest and greatest Fraternity ever to exist."



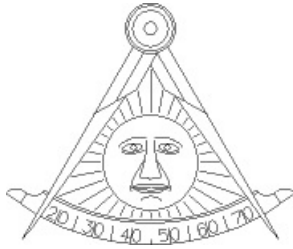
[Image attribution: Author: Vloeck. "Permission is granted to copy, distribute and/or modify this document under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later version published by the Free Software Foundation...." See, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Windrose.svg>]

What Masons Do ...

Imagine a dying Mason alone in a hospital, estranged and distant from family. Imagine further, a daughter, somewhere else in the country, having just learned of her father's imminent demise. What to do? She cannot arrange transportation fast enough. She calls the Master of a local lodge not far from the hospital. She explains that her father would want other Brother Masons at his side in his last moments. The Senior Warden takes up the task, driving three hours to be with the dying Mason. He reaches the hospital. The staff has placed a Masonic cap on the patient's head and a Masonic Apron at his waist. The visiting Brother reaches out and holds the man's hand, in a grip only a Brother Mason would know, as the latter nears entry to the Celestial Lodge above.

This is just a loose summary of the moving story told by Bro. Ken JP Stuczynski, PM, in his post to "The Midnight Freemasons" at <http://www.midnightfreemasons.org/2021/02/the-greatest-masonic-testimonial-i-ever.html> . You should read it; it will bring tears to your eyes. Ed.





Thoughtful Reflections from Two Past Masters in our Lodge

From **WB Steven A. Wolvek, PM** (our inaugural Master too):

Why did I become a Freemason?:

I was with my brother going to buy a car. The salesman came up to us and said “Brother let me show you how much these vehicles really cost.” I was confused did we have a brother I did not know about? My brother told me it was because the salesman saw his ring and identified him as a Brother Mason. Perhaps he was conveying trust and fidelity. I wanted to join almost immediately. I wanted to feel that connection with others.

How has Masonry enriched my life?

I love going to Lodge and love my Brothers. Masonry has given me a sense of belonging. The ability to be with people who can put aside their differences regardless of religion, status or politics and simply see each other as a Brother. The fraternal feeling of knowing wherever I travel there is a Brother nearby has been amazing and now traveling includes finding Masonic Temples wherever I may land. With our aim to help others in need and our charitable involvement as a fraternity, Masonry has made me a better person. I am so grateful that one day I reached out and asked one to be one.

From **WB Celso V. Cardano, Jr., PM** (our current Master, too):

Why did I become a Mason?

I sought membership to become a Mason because I saw that a lot of famous and historic

people were Masons and did fascinating things and help make the world a better place. People such as Benjamin Franklin and George Washington who are two of our country’s Founding Fathers. Also across the world in the Philippines there are National icons such as Dr. Jose Rizal and Andres Bonifacio who were also Masons who helped revolutionize the Philippines. The main fabric which tied these historic figures together was Freemasonry. Because of this I wanted to know what Masonry taught them so that I could learn how I could also use this knowledge to help improve and enrich my own life and my community as well.

How has Freemasonry enriched my life?

Freemasonry has enriched my life with the new friendships and bonds that I have made with the members of my Lodge. They have become part of my extended family and I often look to them for counsel and support to help on Lodge projects and to have meaning in discussions about life in general. Knowing that we share this common bond and trust, we are able to help each other and make a profound difference in our families and communities. It is also exciting to help bring new members to the Craft and just to hang out and have fellowship with the Brothers.





[First Degree Conferral for Messrs. Elvis Alvarez, Gerald Alvarez and Nestor Maloles (at center) pictured with members of our Lodge and visiting Brothers, 7/17/2021. Our first First-Degree meeting since before the pandemic shutdown. Congratulations to our new Brothers.]

Member News

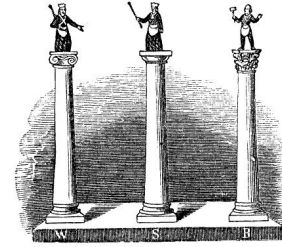
With sympathy and sorrow, we acknowledge the passing of Bro. Edgar's cousin. May his cousin's soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life, and may the family know of our care and concern.

Bro. Keith remains in our thoughts as he deals with his health concerns and a family loss too. The Brethren of our Lodge are helping out where and when possible. We take care of one another.

Our Brother, Jay Allen, has been unable to attend Lodge due to health concerns. Some of us know him from visiting him at home. He sent a nice donation to the Lodge. Thank you, Brother.

Worshipful Celso and his wife, Crisandra, and Bro. David and his wife, Geri, will celebrate their wedding anniversaries in August. Same day, too. Happy Anniversary!

Lastly, congratulations to our newly initiated Brothers, Gerald, Elvis, and Nestor. Ed.



From the East

Brethren,
In July we held our first First-Degree Conferral since the pandemic started nearly 17 months ago. It was an honor to see the officers perform the Degree as if we never skipped a beat. Congratulations to our newly initiated Brothers Elvis Alvarez, Gerald Alvarez, and Nestor Maloles. As of this writing, we also plan to have a (2x) 2nd Degree Conferral for Brothers Michael McQuaig and Nolando Sanchez. Glad to see you both progressing in your Masonic journey.

In August we will continue performing Degrees in which we plan to have (3x) First Degree conferrals for Mr. Axle DeVilla, Mr. Marc Manalo and Mr. Martin Manalo. Also if ready to advance, we will have Second Degrees for Brothers Raed Malaeb and Steven Engstrom.

This is exciting as we have more prospects applying for membership and affiliations. We will do our best to schedule these degrees; we have a limited number of Saturdays on which to perform them and we have a high number of degrees to exemplify. Also we need all the officers to start advancing to their 2022 stations. as we only have a few months to qualify. We will host practices when time permits.

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

From the West

Brethren,
 Congratulations to the three new Brothers who were recently initiated. I am sorry I could not be there for your First Degree conferral. We had a death in the family, and family comes first.

Preparation for the next Masonic Year is on my mind and I would like to remind the officers and degree candidates to work hard to be proficient as we move forward as a Lodge.

After a suitable period, my focus will again return to the business and activities of the Lodge. Thank you for understanding.

Fraternally from the West,
 Bro. Edgar O. Yeghiazaryan
 Senior Warden

From the South

Brethren,
 At our First Degree meeting on July 17, just before publication of this newsletter, we initiated three new Brothers, Elvis Alvarez, Gerald Alvarez and Nestor Maloles, who are now Entered Apprentice Masons.

Congratulations to them. It was such a pleasure to see them, and all Brothers, clad in the habiliments (attire) of a Mason.

Notwithstanding that the whole world was turned upside down from the pandemic, our Brotherhood persevered and even thrived. We have many new applicants and the Brethren, once stagnant in their advancements, are again moving through their degrees.

Immediately following the publication of this month's newsletter, Fellow Craft Degrees will be conferred and then even more degree meetings will take place.

It is an exciting time for our Lodge. We are building our Masonic community and using our time wisely and productively, even as we live our lives in preparation, inevitably, for that spiritual

building that house not made with hands eternal in the heavens.

As we re-start our Lodge, freed from the isolating constraints imposed by COVID-19, we continue to improve ourselves and the lives of others. It is what Masons do.

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

From our Secretary

Brethren,
 I read the message below and thought to share it with my Brothers in lieu of my monthly article:

"A beautiful message"

Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit;

The sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves.

Living for others is a rule of nature.

We are all born to help each other no matter how difficult it is...

Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you.

Let us all remember then that every changing colour of a leaf is beautiful and every changing situation of life is meaningful, both need very clear vision.

So do not grumble or complain.

Let us instead remember that:

Pain is a sign that we are alive,

Problems are a sign that we are strong and

Prayer is a sign we are not alone!!

If we can acknowledge these truths and condition our hearts and minds, our lives will be more meaningful, different and worthwhile!

Fraternally,
 Bro. Akram Alawar,
 Secretary