

In the



Daylight

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

January 2022

Selflessness: Mentorship

Foreword ...

Selflessness has been defined as “a tendency to regard the well-being of others as more important than one's own well-being.” See, “Selflessness.” Merriam-Webster.com Thesaurus, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/thesaurus/selflessness> .

Synonyms include: “amity, benevolence, brotherhood, cordiality, cordialness, fellowship, friendliness, friendship, gemütlichkeit, good-fellowship, goodwill, kindness, neighborliness” among others. Even charity and generosity are related words. *Ibid.*

Certainly, our charitable intentions as Masons add up to selflessness. Under the heading of “Relief,” our Grand Lodge says this: “Relief is one of our enduring and relevant values. We take responsibility for the well-being of our brothers, our families, and our communities. It's our obligation. Our philanthropic causes are supported entirely by our members' generous contributions.” See, <https://freemason.org/discover-masonry/what-we-do/> .

We “give of ourselves” in other ways too. (To “give of oneself” is “to use one's time and effort to help others.” See, “Give of oneself.” Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/give%20of%20oneself> .)

January is National Mentorship Month (<http://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-mentorship-month-January/>) and Mentorship is one way we give of ourselves. More about this in subsequent pages. It is a good topic.

In a Masonic Lodge, the coaching of degree candidates is one way we mentor. But it's not just about memorizing this or that. It's about enthusiastically sharing our knowledge and experience in Masonry with others in the Lodge, so to inspire and motivate our brethren to search out more Masonic “Light.” It's also about creating, nurturing, and maintaining our bonds of Fellowship and friendship, sharing stories over a meal (or an adult beverage!) maybe, and having a good time together.

Some of my more enriching experiences in this Lodge have included coaching and getting to know some of our degree candidates on a one-to-one basis. It has been a good experience for both the mentor and the mentee. I heartily recommend it to you.

I consider providing this newsletter to the Lodge as another form of mentorship. I have even been known to help write or edit some of it for others on occasion as a guide.

Happy New Year and please enjoy the January edition of “In the Daylight.”

Fraternally,
Bro. David I. Karp, Editor.

January Trestle Board is on page 2.

Selfless Giving

Editor's note: The following is excerpted from a web page of Mount Hope Lodge A.F. & A.M. (GL Massachusetts) at <http://mounthopelodgeafam.org/> :

“Membership in the brotherhood of Masons means many things.

“It means being part of an unbroken tradition that stretches back over 500 years to a time when guilds of freemasons traveled throughout Europe laying the stones of the great Gothic cathedrals, but Freemasonry is even older than that...

“It means sharing the values of our nation's founding fathers; the ideals of men who believed in the brotherhood of man are firmly rooted in the Constitution of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

“It means becoming a better person while helping to improve the quality of life for others. It means forming deep and lasting friendships that transcend the boundaries of race, religion and culture, as well as those of geography.

“But most of all, being a Mason means the kind of deep satisfaction that comes only from selfless giving; from doing for others without asking, or expecting anything in return.”

A Snippet from a write-up about MWB John L. Cooper III in a document from the 171st Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of California (2020), available at https://freemason.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/MOC_Proceedings2020_Final.pdf (at p. 19): “Since leaving office as grand master, Most Worshipful Brother Cooper’s work in the lodge has only increased. He holds office in multiple lodges and *selflessly* provides wise counsel to his brothers.” [Emphasis added.]

January 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.)

January 1, 2022 Dark. Happy New Year!

January 6, 2022 Executive Comm. Mtg.

January 8, 2022 Stated Meeting. Tiled.

Dress: Casual

January 13, 2022, 7PM Zoom Fellowship, Join Zoom Meeting

January 15, 2022 – Installation Practice or 3rd Degree

January 22, 2022 – Installation of Officers.

Lodge Contact Information (after 1/22/2022)

Worshipful Master
Wor. Edgar O. Yeghiazaryan

Secretary
Bro. Akram Alawar



What is a Mentor?

Editor's note: The following is excerpted from a blog post by Nicola Cronin, March 23, 2020, at <https://www.guided-ai.com/blog/what-is-a-mentor/>:

“So what is a mentor? “A mentor is a person who can support, advise and guide you. They typically take the time to get to know you and the challenges you're facing, and then use their understanding and personal experience to help you improve. [¶] This relationship is additional to a manager or boss, and benefits from a more personal and confidential structure. Mentors have the potential to become life long friends, or the relationship might only last until you've achieved a goal, there's no one size fits all. Many celebrities have publicly discussed the impact their mentors had on their success, including Christian Dior, Richard Branson, and Oprah Winfrey.

“Mentoring Definition: The act or process of helping and guiding another person to support their personal development. [¶] Note that we've said 'personal' development here rather than 'career' development and that's because ultimately, mentoring is about people. If someone helps you improve your confidence or self-awareness, that's going to translate beyond your day job.

“What is the purpose of a mentor? The purpose of a mentor is to help you grow as a person and become the best version of yourself. [¶] This may involve helping you achieve your personal or career goals, introducing you to new ways of thinking, challenging your limiting assumptions, sharing valuable life lessons, and much more.

“Why do people become mentors? People choose to mentor others because it's an incredibly valuable experience; seeing somebody grow and succeed as a result of your advice is highly rewarding. There are many benefits of mentoring for the mentor as well as the mentee, such as improving communication and developing

leadership skills. [¶] Harvard Business Review conducted a study researching the positive effects of mentoring, and found that people who served as mentors also experienced lower levels of anxiety, and described their job as more meaningful, than those who did not mentor.

“What makes a good mentor? ... Traits of a good mentor include: being a good listener; asking good questions; empathetic; encouraging; self-aware; personable; honest.”



Mentoring in a Masonic Context

Editor's note: The following is excerpted/adapted from the *Mentor's Handbook* of the Provincial Grand Lodge of East Lancashire, online at <https://www.eastlancashirefreemasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/19-PGLEL-Mentoring-Handbook-V1-01F.pdf>.

“When anyone embarks on a new phase of [his] life, be it starting a new job, living in a different area, or joining a Masonic Lodge there is much that is new or unknown. The uncertainties that rise can lead to feelings of insecurity, bewilderment and even alienation if not addressed very early on.

“Freemasonry presents its own unique set of challenges.... The rituals and traditions we all take for granted are complex and follow a unique set of rules which will seem very strange to an outsider if not properly explained.

[continues on next page, see “Masonic Mentor”]

["Masonic Mentor," ctd frm p. 3]

"It is therefore vital that from the very outset, [a] suitably experienced and knowledgeable Brother [as Mentor] takes ownership of ensuring that the new Freemason is introduced to the Order in a controlled and supported way so that his first few years in the Craft are an enjoyable and intellectually fulfilling voyage of discovery.

"Mentoring however is not just about new Initiates. The process of Personal Development which is an intrinsic part of the Masonic experience, poses continuously changing challenges to a Brother as he advances, firstly through the progressive offices, and then hopefully to the Chair of his Lodge as Worshipful Master. The needs to learn the ritual, acquire appropriate social and man-management skills, and ultimately to adopt a leadership role, require a Brother to grow and develop both as a Mason and as a human being. Mentoring has a vital role to play in ensuring that every member is supported and encouraged to achieve his own personal goals in a manner which recognizes his own personal aptitudes and balances his needs with those of the Lodge....

"... The bottom line is that the purpose of Mentoring is to retain members in the long term. Retention is achieved by ensuring that Brethren are encouraged to grow and develop at a speed and in a manner with which they are comfortable, so that they and their families enjoy Freemasonry to the full."



Some Hints for Masonic Mentoring

Editor's note: The following is also excerpted/adapted from the *Mentor's Handbook* of the Provincial Grand Lodge of East Lancashire, online at <https://www.eastlancashirefreemasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/19-PGLEL-Mentoring-Handbook-V1-01F.pdf>.

"Mentoring is nothing new. You can swap the word 'Mentor' and replace it with 'Brother' or 'Companion'. It simply requires you to do what you promised to do: be a true friend to all your Brethren/Companions. Listen when you need to and speak when actions are needed.

"Take nothing for granted. Remember the obvious.... A potential or new member does not know the questions, never mind the answers. Think how you felt and what you wanted to know. No question is too obvious. Just being there can be enough.

"Make every Mason count. Mentoring is not for one member to sort out and do. It is a matter for every member to get involved with [and to become a mentor].... [Inserted from another page:] [For instance,] mentoring can prove to be a great way of reinvigorating the interest of senior Brethren whose last active involvement may have been many years ago. Giving them the opportunity to pass on their years of hard won experience and expertise can often be the catalyst to a whole new awakening of their interest in Freemasonry. The simple pleasure of helping another Brother to develop and advance is a powerful motivator. Make a point of inviting all your members to participate, even those who may no longer attend regularly. You might be surprised at the results!]

[Continues on next pg., see "Hints"]

["Hints," ctd frm p. 4]

"Mentoring involves everybody. Each [member] must have a Mentor.... Each new member, be [he] an Initiate or Joining, should have somebody to look after [him] a Personal Mentor. That is ideally [his] Proposer or Second, but if not, it is the one with the Time, the Talent, and the Temperament to do the job. Put simply, a Personal Mentor cares to care....

"Masonry is unique. Remembering that keeps us focused on the special place Freemasonry has in the lives of its members and their families and we must not forget our families and ensure they are not left out or left behind. Mentoring ensures a Masonry/Life balance.

"Understanding is ... key.... Mentoring is about ensuring our brethren understand why they have joined Freemasonry, what they can do for it, how it can help them and vitally, the reasons why they should stay. Understanding our ritual and ceremonies is the fundamental of everything.

"Mentoring is not about numbers. Mentoring is not just about getting new men through the door. It is also about keeping who we have because they want to stay....

"If we make Mentoring work, we make Masonry work."



Happy Birthday Bro. Clarence Smith (1883-1918)

Editor's note: Although this has nothing directly to do with mentorship, Bro. Clarence F. Smith's birthday is in

January and perhaps he is our ultimate mentor and inspirer. And so we have this biographical sketch:

The son of Edward B. Smith and Flora Fairchild, Clarence Fairchild Smith was born on **January 18, 1883**, at Toledo, Ohio. At age 21, he married Susan May Lotta at Lucas, Ohio, on December 27, 1904.

According to the Grand Lodge of Ohio, Clarence Fairchild Smith was a member of Sanford L. Collin Lodge No. 396 in Ohio, originally chartered in 1867. That Lodge was consolidated with Northern Light Lodge No. 40 on November 1, 1995. Bro. Clarence was initiated an Entered Apprentice on November 23, 1905, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on February 25, 1906, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on March 5, 1906.

By 1912, according to the Grand Lodge of California, Bro. Smith had moved to California and affiliated with West Lake No.392 (now consolidated with Wisdom Lodge No. 202) having affiliated from the Sanford L. Collin Lodge No. 396 in Ohio on November 4, 1912.

Per the California War History Committee's WWI Soldier Service Card from about 1917, Bro. Clarence was living with his wife, Susan, and their son, Edward Lester Smith, in Los Angeles at 229 S. Alexandria Ave., Los Angeles, CA.

Bro. Smith laid down his working tools on about October 1, 1918. He is buried at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, in Loraine, France, Plot A Row 5 Grave 13. At the time of his death, his rank was Captain, U.S. Army Unit 361st Infantry Regiment, 91st Division.

From an obituary published in "Motor World for Jobbers, Dealers and Garagemen," Volume 57, Nov. 20, 1918, p. 40, we have this:

"LOS ANGELES, Nov. 14 [1918] The entire automobile industry here was depressed upon the receipt of news that Capt. Clarence F. Smith, a member of the firm of Smith Bros., one of the oldest and best known motor car firms on the coast, had been killed on the battle front in France. Only meager details have been received

by his brother Stanley Smith, but it is believed Capt. Smith met death in the Argonne forest charge. Clarence Smith was one of the most popular dealers in Los Angeles. He attended the first officers' training camp held on the coast and got to the front as soon as possible. He had been prominently identified with the Motor Car Dealers' Association, having served as an officer several times and at one time was captain of the drill team, the crack organization of the Shriners."

The "Santa Monica California Outlook," reported this on November 9, 1918:

"Captain Smith was an active member of the Shrine Patrol, Elks, Jonathan and Brentwood County Club, Chamber of Commerce, Merchants and Manufacturers' association, former president of the Automobile Dealers' association and was interested in civic improvements."

Although now a member of the Celestial Lodge above, we honor Bro. Clarence's 139th birthday on January 18 with this remembrance.

Happy Birthday Bro. Clarence.

Genealogical research by Bro. David I. Karp with the help of his wife, Geri.



Mentoring Lodge Leaders

In the Executive Message at page 4 of the Winter 2021-2022 *California Freemason*, our own Grand Master, Most Worshipful Jeffrey Wilkins, notes that his "theme for the year is crafting leadership."

He adds, "I want our members to practice leadership within themselves, their lodges and their communities. That takes showing up and working hard at everything we do."

Of course this ties in with mentoring in the lodge.

With this hint from our Grand Master, one need only look to iMember2.0 in the "Resources" area to find our Grand Lodge's take on mentorship. There one will find a resource entitled *From Leader to Mentor*. See, https://member.freemason.org/resource_attachments/125?download_0

In it, with no surprise, are ideas for mentoring the leaders of a lodge. In the introduction, this document says:

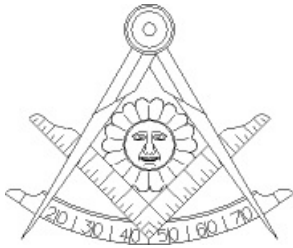
"All leaders need mentors, and ours are no different. By offering mentorship to leaders in the lodge, especially new one[s], we strength[en] the lodge, and create our personal legacy within it. [¶] This guide focuses on building and maintaining officers' continued growth as leaders and helping them smooth their ashlar of leadership. The act of smoothing the ashlar does not happen once a year at a retreat. It happens every day that masters, wardens, and other officers engage in lodge leadership. As a Masonic leader, you are like the common gavel a working tool that officers use to aid themselves along their own leadership journeys."

It is obviously the hope of our Grand Lodge that experienced members, particularly but not only Past Masters and other past officers, engage with the current leadership of the lodge to help with leadership growth and competency. And it is incumbent upon our newer leaders to seek out the advice and assistance on issues and instances that come before them, which is more than memorizing lines and choreographing moves.

With such a resource as this posted online for all to access, it is also a good idea that each of us should become familiar with its contents.

Our Grand Lodge encourages mentorship and menteeship to bolster the excellence of each lodge. As this newsletter suggests, Mentorship and Menteeship are acts of selflessness that help the Lodge go.

Fraternally,
David I. Karp, Editor



WB Wolvek Reflects ...

I would not be a Mason today if it were not for my Masonic mentors.

Masonry is like everything else in life. It's a learning experience. The path I traveled was anything but a straight line. It had curves, pitfalls, and obstacles. Some of my own making and others by circumstance. I was lucky to have two specific men in my life to help keep me on my path. The first man kept me in the fraternity when those pitfalls and obstacles seemed overwhelming. He was there to give me advice that caused me to reflect on my situation and to see it in a different light. He opened doors for me I did not know even existed. He caused me to reach out to others he believed would also assist me on my Masonic journey. When I saw nothing positive he nevertheless showed me my path in a clearer light. I am a Mason today only because of the mentorship of Worshipful Jeffrey Yates. I will be forever grateful for his helping hand.

Once I was placed back on the path, a new opportunity immediately arose. An opportunity that sought me out and offered me a chance to grow like never before. I was asked to help form our Clarence F. Smith Lodge. I was lucky to have the best of the best Brothers in Masonry with me on that journey. I was also lucky to have another one of my mentors join us on that journey. Worshipful Bruce Hawley, of Blessed Memory. Worshipful Bruce was my personal officer's coach. He was there when I was doing degree work at Granada Hills Lodge. He joined Clarence F. Smith as Senior Warden stepping into that void at the deadline for us to qualify as a new Lodge. Worshipful Bruce was someone I

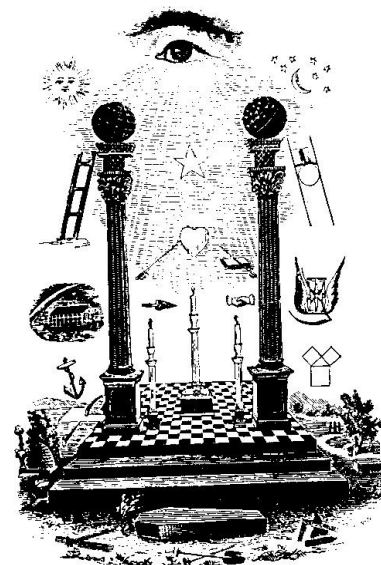
could always lean on when I needed support. His passing to the Celestial Lodge Above was hard on us all.

When I experienced the worst day in my Masonic life it was also the first day for our new inspector. He would be instrumental to the creation of Clarence F. Smith. He was and remains a source of inspiration for me today. He guided me during my two years as Master of the Lodge. I conducted my first Masonic funeral service with him. I talk to him as often as possible - especially when I need a helping hand. I count my blessings to have him as a mentor to this day. I owe so much to Worshipful Alberto Casanova.

Mentorship grows as we do and new people come into our lives who lend a helping hand to our success. I now count Most Worshipful David Doan and Most Worshipful Arthur Weiss as mentors as well as Worshipful Lynn Wallingford.

I urge everyone to step outside himself and to be there for a Brother. These men I mentioned probably have no idea how important they are, and have been, to me. Make a difference and be that person for someone else.

Fraternally,
WB Steven A. Wolvek, PM



Picture Gallery: Another Busy Time in Lodge: Nov-Dec 2021

Here are some images from recent degree meetings and a party too:



[Double First Degrees for Bros. Angelino Reyes & Mr. Mark Cano, November 27, 2021]



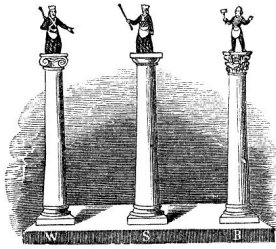
[Third Degree Conferral for Bro. Steven Engstrom, December 11, 2021]



[Double Third Degree Conferral for Bros. Gerald Alvarez and Elvis Alvarez, December 18, 2021]



[Posing again at the Christmas Party after the Degree Conferral, December 18, 2021. A great time was had by all who attended, Masons, family and friends.]



From the East

Brethren,
It is a busy time of year. Forgive me for not reviewing the past two years in the East in this edition. If you were there, you know how we got along during the pandemic. If not, I hope you have been keeping current reading our monthly newsletters. Suffice it to say, we managed, we endured, and notwithstanding the challenges, we have had a remarkable influx of new members, for whom we have been busily performing their degrees and setting them on the path to further light.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank the 2020/2021 officers line for their hard work. So, thank you.

I would be remiss too if I didn't congratulate the fine officers who are stepping up to new positions, or taking on new positions for the first time. Either way, congratulations. The Lodge will be in your hands and, if our past is anything like our future, we will surpass all expectations.

As some of you might know, I will be an inspector for the Grand Lodge this next year and will be visiting Granada Hills and San Fernando Lodges. I'll be around our unique Daylight Lodge too, so I will look forward to seeing you as and when we are together.

This edition publishes before the New Year, so I wish you and your family all the best during the holiday season and throughout the New Year.

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

From the West

Brethren,
There's always so much to do at the end of the year, including commitments to my family, to my business and to the Lodge, and not necessarily in that order. I want to take a moment, though, to inform you that the Lodge is now qualified on all three degrees, thank you very much. Barring anything unforeseen, installation of our 2022 officers will take place in January as planned. The new line will be announced then or before.

Since this will publish before the New Year... Best wishes to you and yours for the holidays.

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

From the South

Brethren,
As we wrap up 2021, I want to thank you all for your hard and excellent work and for the many contributions each of you has made to keep our lodge moving forward and continuing to serve the community. Through the ups and downs of this year, we managed to overcome many challenges including many of the impacts from COVID. Now the Omicron variant is on the rise; it is more important than ever to take the necessary steps to keep yourself, along with your families, colleagues and communities safe.

Wishing you all brethren and families a happy, healthy and joyous holiday season.

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

From our Secretary

Brothers, I have entitled this piece, "Harmony in Masonry." One dictionary defines musical harmony as "the combination of simultaneously sounded musical notes to produce chords and chord progressions having a pleasing effect."

Musical harmony doesn't mean that every musician is sounding the same note at the same time. Instead, it means that different musicians play different notes yet still produce a pleasing end result when all the notes are played together.

The same analogy applies to harmony in Masonry even when not all brothers are in full agreement on every detail. We are taught to strive for harmony in the lodge in order to work together to produce a pleasing end result.

On the other hand, harmony doesn't mean we are to stay silent about important issues for fear of offending someone, nor to stay silent when someone says or does something we believe is detrimental to the lodge. In fact, as Masons we are required to speak up in those situations.

Harmony is the ability to speak, to listen, and to disagree without being disagreeable.

When we speak, we should temper our words as much as possible, especially regarding a subject on which the listener might disagree. We should be clear in our speech and avoid inflammatory language. When offense is given inadvertently, we should recognize and make such amends such as we can.

As listeners, we should pay attention to the content of what is said, and do our best to ignore harsh words that may be unintended, or said in the heat of the moment. Before we take offense, let us pause long enough to ask ourselves "Just what did the other person mean by that?" It's always better to ask for clarification than to assume ill intent.

The best motives can often be obscured by a poor choice of words, or by using words that have different meanings for the speaker and the listener - especially in a multi-cultural lodge like ours. We should realize that not all offense is

intentional, and we should try to forgive those who trespass against us.

In other words, let us stop, think, and measure the situation and the intent before we stop, think, and measure our response. That way, like the musicians, maybe we can speak and act in harmony in our lodges and in our lives.

Fraternally,
Akram Al-Awar
Secretary

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)
Barry Mann (2021)
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.

Diversity and Awareness- An Editorial

In light of Brother Akram's thoughtful discussion of harmony in the Lodge, above, I write this.

One of the ideals of Freemasonry that I like best is our respect for diversity. Our Grand Lodge sets this in terms of "tolerance" by stating: "The fraternity transcends religious, ethnic, cultural, social, and educational differences. We respect others' opinions and strive to grow and develop as human beings." Also, "Freemasonry celebrates ethnic diversity and welcomes men of all racial backgrounds."

One of the things that I like best about our Lodge and that I always learn from is our open and obvious diversity. We have Masons in the Lodge who trace their roots, their cultures, traditions, languages and perspectives, from Southeast Asia (the Phillippines), the Middle East (Syria, Lebanon), Western Asia (Armenia), the Americas (North and Central), even Europe (at least one member has spoken to me recently of his Swedish roots). African-Americans are certainly welcome as well. In other words, we represent "the melting pot" of America. It's wonderful. This is one significant reason that I joined and continue my participation in Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge. I cherish the connections I have made, which go beyond the mostly homogeneous membership of the Lodge in which I was raised in 1991 (mostly Jewish at the time).

Moreover, my participation in such a diverse Lodge as ours has allowed me to have new experiences and to grow as a person and as a Mason, for which I am most grateful. This represents, for me, true Brotherly Love.

[Continues on next page, see "Editorial"]

CFS Daylight Lodge Officers for 2021 (Until Installation)

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

["Editorial," Continued from p. 11]

With diversity and tolerance come awareness and responsibility however. For all of us. Cultural differences can clash with choices that have unforeseen consequences. Food choices for instance might be at odds with cultural practices. Some cultures evident in our Lodge might avoid pork (Jews/Druze) while others might prefer the meat of a pig.

As Masons, we take responsibility for one another. We are not to wrong another Mason knowingly and intentionally. But what about unintentional consequences? How do we do what is right if we are unaware of the effect on others? Maybe it is best to ask first or to give due and timely notice in advance if uncertain..

Our responsibilities to one another force us outside of ourselves, to see the world from different perspectives. We cannot be myopic, seeing the world only through the lenses of our own cultural or religious backgrounds. It might unintentionally tend to disrespect others who are not like us. Our character and responsibilities as men and Masons demand no less.

What if, for instance, a whole roasted pig were offered for dinner at a lodge event? Certainly, it is a Filipino delicacy and we have a large group in our Lodge and who visit our Lodge who trace their roots to the Philippines. On the other hand, this is a multi-cultural Lodge and there are those of us from other cultural/religious backgrounds (i.e., Jews, Druze) who might see a whole pig for dinner as an affront.

This is why we must be conscious of our differences, celebrate them, educate one another or inquire, and not cause discomfort among our members and guests if avoidable.

We owe it to ourselves and each other to be sensitive to one another's cultural and religious nuances. Then we can more truly exemplify our commitment to the diversity and inclusiveness of our Lodge.

Please accept these comments in the spirit in which they are given, i.e., with kindness, courtesy and affability the same as any Master Mason is

charged to give to his Brothers and without criticism, negativity or judgment. In addition, please accept these words as a small attempt at mentoring, inasmuch as mentors are admonished (see p. 4, *ante*) to "listen when you need to and speak when actions are needed." Finally, let this be a simple reminder of who we are, who we want to be, and how we can best work and best agree to maintain harmony in our Lodge.

Fraternally,
Bro. David I. Karp, Editor

Bonus – Some Fun Facts for January

[Quoted from:

<http://bessel.org/datemas.htm>]

January 2 On this date in 1901, U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt received his 1st degree in Matinecock Lodge #806, Oyster Bay, New York.

January 7 On this date in 1808, the Grand Lodge of Ohio was established. And, on this date in 1785, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart received his 2nd degree.

January 8 On this date in 1844 or 1843, the Grand Lodge of Iowa was formed.

January 12 On this date in 1886 Quatuor Coronati Lodge #2076 was consecrated and constituted in London. It is considered by many to be the premiere masonic research lodge in the world.

January 13 On this date (or January 12) in 1818, the Grand Lodge of Indiana was formed.

January 17 On this date (or January 16 or 26) in 1865, the Grand Lodge of Nevada was formed. Also, on this date in 1872, the Grand Lodge of Utah was formed.

January 26 On this date in 1866, the Grand Lodge of Montana was formed. Also, on this date in 1887, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle received his 1st degree.