

In the



Daylight

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

July 2020

In the Pursuit of Happiness

Foreword ...

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

These are perhaps the most famous words of the Declaration of Independence, dated July 4, 1776, a day we celebrate annually (usually) with firecrackers, concerts, picnics, family, flag waiving and other effusive demonstrations of our patriotism.

So what *is* the pursuit of happiness? What did it mean to Thomas Jefferson who drafted the Declaration and to his contemporaries?

According to Professor Brent Strawn (see, https://news.emory.edu/stories/2014/06/er_pursuit_of_happiness/campus.html),

“Arthur Schlesinger should be credited with pointing out in a nice little essay in 1964 that at the time of the Declaration's composition, ‘the pursuit of happiness’ did not mean chasing or seeking it, but actually practicing happiness, the experience of happiness – not just chasing it but actually catching it, you might say. ... It's the difference between dreaming and reality.

Remember that the pursuit of happiness, in the Declaration, is not a quest or a pastime, but "an unalienable right." Everyone has the right to actually be happy, not just try to be happy.”

Do we find happiness in being Masons? Of course we do! And we express it in this way, among others: “Behold, how good and how

pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.”

Moreover, we are reminded by one of our working tools to experience happiness in the way we spend our time – in service to God and a distressed worthy brother, in our usual vocations, and in refreshment and repose.

In fact, Bro. George Washington is credited as saying: “The grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race.” See, <https://freemason-wa.org/freemasons/membership/why-become-a-freemason/>.

This month, even if we have not returned to the normal operation of the lodge, we continue as Masons to experience happiness nevertheless in every way we can – with our families and friends (at a safe distance), with our Brothers with whom we connect by phone or video conference, with the conduct of our usual vocations to the extent permitted by the situation, even with our inner selves as we try to find peace, harmony and balance in a difficult year.

As your editor, I hope you find happiness in the pages that follow. Happy Reading.

Fraternally,
David I. Karp
Editor

Trestle Board appears on page 2 of this edition.

Freemasonry and Happiness

The following entry is from Washington Masonic Lodge No. 46, A.F. & A.M., Portland, Oregon, by Ken Hall, August 4, 2017. See, <http://washington46.org/2017/08/04/freemasonry-and-happiness/>.

“One of the reasons that we have lifelong Masons is that we can be with Brothers who make us smile. Studies show that we are happiest when we are around those who are also happy. Most of our Brothers are happy, so stick close to those who are joyful and let their joy rub off on you.

“Hold on to your values. What you find true, what you know is fair, and what you believe in are all values. Over time, the more you honor them, the better you will feel about yourself and those you love.

“Accept the good. Look at your life and take stock of what’s working, and don’t push away something just because it isn’t perfect. When good things happen, even the very little ones, enjoy them.

“Imagine the best. Don’t be afraid to look at what you really want and see you getting it yourself. Many people avoid this process because they don’t want to be disappointed if things don’t work out. The truth is that imagining getting what you want is a big part of achieving it.

“Do things you love. Maybe you can’t skydive every day or take vacations every season, but as long as you get to do the things you love every once in a while, you will find greater happiness.

“Find purpose. Masons who believe they are contributing to the well-being of humanity tend to feel better about their lives. Most people want to be part of something greater than they are, simply because it’s fulfilling. Masonry does that for me.

[Continues on next page, “F&H”]

July Trestle Board

(We meet on 1st/3rd Saturdays at 10:00 AM except as otherwise noted..)

The Grand Master of Masons in California has directed that there be no Masonic gatherings of any kind in this state until further direction is received from him. The following are all off-calendar (note the **strikeout**) and are listed for information purposes only and only so you might know what we would be doing in ordinary circumstances. Everything is subject to rescheduling. **Notwithstanding, in the interim please note our informal Zoom gatherings, Fridays 7PM. Mtg ID and password via email.**

~~July 4 — Lodge Dark~~

~~July 9 — CFS Second Thurs. Fellowship @ Lulu’s 5:30PM~~

~~July 11 — Stated Meeting (Dress-Casual)~~

~~July 18 — Degree Mtg (TBD)~~

~~July 22 — OSI (Home Lodge, 1st Step Up), 7:30pm, Van Nuys Masonic Center, Main Lodge Room~~

~~July 24-26 Campout~~

Looking Ahead into August

~~August 1 — Stated Meeting (Dress-Casual); Hiram Award Reception~~

~~August 13 — CFS Second thurs. Fellowship @ Lulu’s, 5:30PM~~

~~August 15 — Degree~~

[Always check the Lodge App and Facebook page for any additions, deletions, or substitutions.]

["F&H," continued from previous page]

"Listen to your heart. You are the only one who knows what fills your desires. Your family and friends may think you'd be great at something that really isn't meant for you. It can be complicated following your happiness. Just be smart, and don't make drastic changes for the time being.

"Push yourself, not others. It's easy to feel that someone else is responsible for your fulfillment, but the reality is that it is really up to you. Once you realize that, you have the power to get where you want to go. Stop blaming others or the world, and you'll find your answers much sooner.

"Be open to change. Even if it doesn't feel good, change is the one thing you can count on. Change will happen, so make contingency plans and emotionally shore yourself up for the experience.

"Bask in the simple pleasures. Those who love you, treasured memories, silly jokes, warm days, and starry nights these are the ties that bind and the gifts that keep on giving.

"Happiness and fulfillment are within your grasp, but sometimes just out of reach. Understanding what works best for you is the first step in finding more of them.

"Happiness is what you find within a Lodge of Master Masons and between Brothers. Life has difficult times, but what can help get us through those times are the bonds of friendships, Brotherly love, support and for the most of life, Happiness...."



Red Skelton and Happiness

Attributed to Red Skelton: "Live by this credo: have a little laugh at life and look around you for happiness instead of sadness. Laughter has always brought me out of unhappy situations."

<https://www.inspiringquotes.us/author/3259-red-skelton/about-happiness#>

Our Brother, Richard Bernard "Red" Skelton (July 18, 1913 - September 17, 1997) was the son of a former circus clown, a vaudevillian, and a comedian. Red Skelton left home at ten to travel with a medicine show through the Midwest, and joined the vaudeville circuit at fifteen. He debuted on Broadway and radio in 1937 and on film in 1938. "The Red Skelton Show" premiered on NBC in 1951. For two decades, until 1971, his show consistently stayed in the top twenty, both on NBC and CBS. One stand-up comedy routine, "A wee dog", is reputed to be of especial interest to freemasons.

Skelton was a major supporter of children's charities, including the Shriners' Crippled Children's Hospital and the Red Skelton Foundation in Vincennes, Indiana.

Raised: September 20, 1939

Vincennes Lodge No. 1, Indiana

Source: Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon, at

https://freemasonry.bcy.ca/biography/skelton_r/skelton_r.html, citing Scottish Rite Journal.

Happy Days are Here Again, and FDR

According to Wikipedia, the song entitled “Happy Days Are Here Again,” was copyrighted in 1929 by Milton Ager (music) and Jack Yellen (lyrics). See

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Happy_Days_Are_Here_Again .

Some of the lyrics read as follows: “Happy days are here again / The skies above are clear again / Let us sing a song of cheer again / Happy days are here again.”

<https://www.lyrics.com/lyric/8383050/Annette+Hanshaw/Happy+Days+Are+Here+Again> .

Ironically, the song coincided with the onset of the Great Depression, which started in 1929 and lasted through the 1930s.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Depression .

Today it is usually remembered as the campaign song for Brother Franklin D. Roosevelt’s successful 1932 presidential campaign.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Happy_Days_Are_Here_Again .

Bro. Roosevelt served as our 32nd president from 1933 to 1945 (he died in office in his fourth term); he led us through the dark times of the Great Depression and then World War II.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franklin_D._Roosevelt .

FDR was a member of Holland Lodge # 8, New York City, New York.

<https://eb1870.org/project/franklin-roosevelt/> .

It is this writer’s impression that FDR’s apparent easy-going joviality in public (<https://www.nytimes.com/1932/07/11/archives/governor-and-sons-start-cruise-today-roosevelt-here-in-jovial-mood.html>) ; also,

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/style/longterm/books/chap1/fdryears.htm> [“conspicuous courage, cheerfulness, energy and resource”]) during some of the hardest times of the last

century, buoyed Americans’ otherwise gloomy outlook during those years.

Perhaps FDR’s Masonic affiliation, his fortitude that noble and steady purpose of the mind and his adherence to the tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, all led him to his optimism and good nature, exemplifying an outlook to which we too should aspire in this difficult year. If so, we too will be led to a recognition that, soon, happy days are here again.

Fraternally, David I. Karp

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)**

John T. Seletos (2017)

Thomas K. Sheehan (2014)

Rogelio L. Soriano (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.

Public Schools Night on Zoom in June Was a Happy Occasion

On June 5, 2020, Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866 celebrated Public Schools Night, an event which had been deferred from April due to the COVID-19 emergency.

At that time, the Lodge honored Lindsay Humphrey, an English teacher of many years and an inspiration to her students and Birmingham Community Charter High School.

Also lauded was Carmelita Antonello, a graduating high school senior who participated in our essay contest on “any of our Founding Fathers who was also a Mason.” She submitted a winning essay about Benjamin Franklin. Ms. Antonello will next attend the University of California at Irvine.

With tightened security because the public had been invited, the following Brothers registered for and attended our Zoom meeting:

Wor. Celso V. Cardano, Jr. PM, Master;
 Bro. Fernando (Jhonny) O. Lebrilla, Jr., JW;
 Bro. Barry Mann, Treasurer;
 Bro. Akram Alawar, Sec’y;
 Bro. Tom Sheehan, Asst. Sec’y;
 Bro. Michael J. Chavez, SS;
 Wor. Rogelio L. Soriano, PM
 Wor. Gani Hernandez, PM
 Bro. David I. Karp

In addition to our two honorees, the following guests also attended:

Ms. Charley Medigovich, teacher’s sister;
 Ms. Tasha Medigovich, teacher’s sister;
 Mr. Elvis Alvarez, Prospective Member

Each of the honorees received enthusiastic acclaim, a certificate and a gift card for her outstanding work. A good time was had by all.

Respectfully submitted,
 David I. Karp
 Public Schools Liaison

CFS Daylight Lodge Officers for 2020

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 Raffi Hovhannisyan

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

Member News

July Birthdays: Akram Alawar, Rami Alawar. Happy Birthday.

Third Degree Anniversaries: None.

The following image was photographed at one of our enjoyable Friday night Zoom fellowships in June:



Member Spotlight – Bruce L. Ewald, PM

Worshipful Brother Bruce L. Ewald, PM, is one of the founding members of Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866, but to say only that is to scratch only the surface of a much deeper family and personal Masonic history.

WB Bruce is a third generation Mason. Both of his grandfathers were Masons. His maternal grandfather was the Master of his lodge in Ill. . Bro. . Burl Ives' town, Newton, IL. His father and uncle joined the Masonic Fraternity after the Second World War.

Taking after his relatives, WB Bruce joined Granada Hills Lodge 378 where he was initiated passed and raised in 1988-89. Thereafter, he began a distinguished Masonic career, devoting his energies to his active membership, and to many leadership positions, in many lodges and related Masonic organizations.

Focusing just on the Blue Lodges he was: Treasurer in Granada Hills 378; Jr. Steward and Sr. Deacon in Beverly Hills 528; at Granada Hills 378, Jr. Warden, Sr. Warden, Master, then Secretary, Treasurer, finally, Chair of the Investment Committee. He received the Hiram Award from Granada Hills Lodge in 2011. He is also a member of our lodge, of course, and of Conejo Valley Lodge #807. Relatedly, he is currently the President of the Conejo Valley High Twelve Club #634.

WB Bruce has also devoted his energies, and served in many other Masonic leadership positions, in other Masonic organizations. Here are the highlights: Granada Hills Eastern Star (Worthy Patron); San Fernando Valley Scottish Right (Master of Kadosh, Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection, Wise Master of the Chapter of Rose Crux in 2020); Pasadena Scottish Rite; and the Al Malaikah Shrine. On December 20, 2003, Bruce received the KCCH (Knight Commander Court of Honor) in a ceremony at the Pasadena Scottish Rite; Signet Chapter 57 Royal Arch Masons (High Priest); Los Angeles Commandery #9 (Commander); Omega Council #11 (Illustrious Master); Van Nuys Chapter #135, Royal Arch Masons (Treasurer); elected to the Knights of York Court of Honor (K.Y.C.H.); Glenwood York Rite College (Governor); member of Brian Boru #38 and O'Brian #117 Knight Mason Councils.; San Fernando y San Juan Council of Allied Masonic Degrees (Sovereign Master and then Secretary-Treasurer). In 2019, he was appointed to serve as the Right Illustrious Grand Standard Bearer of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of California by Most Illustrious Eduardo Estrada, Most Illustrious Grand Master.

In this copious spare time, WB Bruce has devoted his professional energies as Senior Financial Manager - L.A.U.S.D. His wife is Ruth, and he has obviously enjoyed a busy 30 year career in Freemasonry with her support.

We are happy to have WB Bruce as one of our lodge members and to highlight his many Masonic achievements in this edition.

Some Thoughts on Happiness (This month's theme)

Here are some collected sayings about happiness for your amusement:

Happiness and moral duty are inseparably connected. George Washington.
(https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/george_washington_161339).

Happiness, not in another place but this place...not for another hour, but this hour. Walt Whitman
(<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/43868-happiness-not-in-another-place-but-this-place-not-for-another>).

Better an ounce of happiness than a pound of gold. Yiddish Proverb.
(<https://proverbicals.com/yiddish-proverbs/>).

Who is rich? One who is happy with his lot.
Pirkei Avot: Ethics of The Fathers, Chapter Four.
(https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/2032/jewish/Chapter-Four.htm).

Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go. Oscar Wilde (Rosten, Leo. *Leo Rosten's Carnival of Wit*. New York: A Dutton Book, 1994. Print. p 214 et seq., hereinafter "Rosten").

Happiness is good health plus a bad memory.
Ingrid Bergman. (Rosten).

If you wish to be happy yourself, you must resign yourself to seeing others also happy.
Bertrand Russell. (Rosten).

While we pursue happiness, we flee from contentment. Hasidic saying. (Rosten).

It is neither wealth nor splendor, but tranquility and occupation which give happiness.
Thomas Jefferson. (Rosten).

Too much fun is of all things the most loathsome. Mirth is better than fun, and happiness is better than mirth. William Blake. (Rosten).

Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family ... in another city. George Burns. (Rosten).

There is no duty we so much underrate as the duty of being happy. Robert Louis Stevenson. (Rosten).

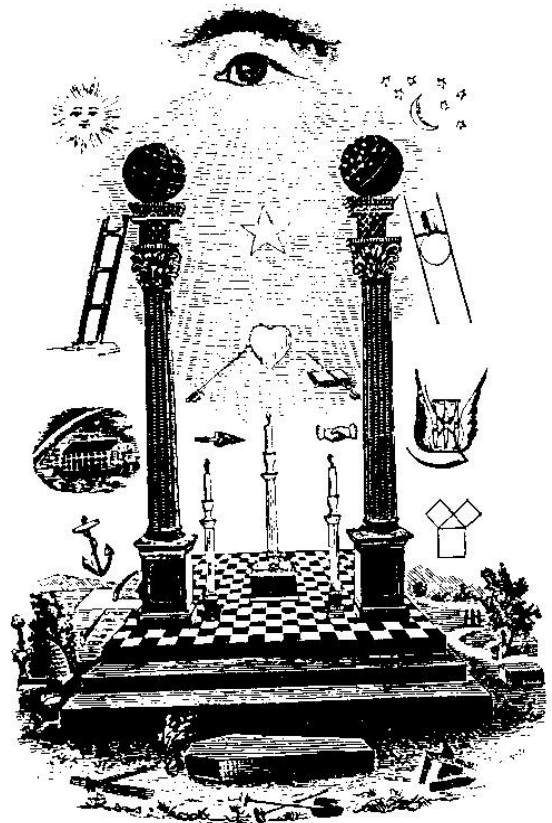
Happiness is not a goal, it is a by-product. Eleanor Roosevelt. (Rosten).

Whoever is happy will make others happy too. He who has courage and faith will never perish in misery! - Anne Frank in a March 7, 1944 diary entry. (Kolatch, Alfred J. *Great Jewish Quotations*. New York: Jonathan David Publishers, Inc., 1996, at p. 146.),

Don't worry, be happy. Bobby McFerrin, in the album *Simple Pleasures*, 1988.

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands. Editor's granddaughter, Eva.

Happiness is being comfortable with one's life. David I. Karp.

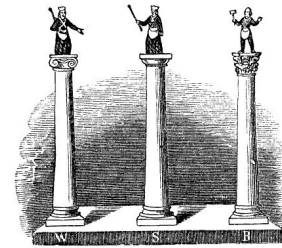
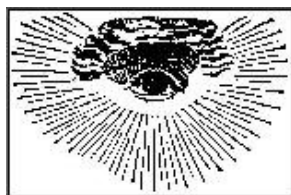


Images from June Distribution of Relief Goods in the Philippines

Below please find two pictures of the international relief project led by Bro. Jhonny Lebrilla, our Junior Warden, and funded by donations from members of our Lodge. It's what Masons do.



[Please also see a published news article on this event at <https://patch.com/california/encino/masonic-relief-philippines-provided-valley-masons>]



From the East

Brethren,
Happy 4th of July! As we celebrate our nation's independence, let us do it safely as we move through this new normal. Although we may not be able to celebrate in large crowds, the American spirit is still alive and more rejuvenated than ever as we will eventually surge past this health crisis.

Masons are the founding fathers of the United States and have greatly influenced the Declaration of Independence. Let us continue this great legacy and traditions set by our forefathers. Let us celebrate with our heads held high with honor and pride.

Happy Independence Day!

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

From the West

Brethren,
Because our theme is happiness which is a subject of great debate and open to interpretation, I have decided to add some more thoughts for your consideration:

“Happiness consists more in conveniences of pleasure that occur everyday than in great pieces of good fortune that happen but seldom.”

Benjamin Franklin

“To enjoy good health, to bring true happiness to one's family, to bring peace to all, [continues next page, see “West”]

["West, "continued from p. 8]

one must first discipline and control one's own mind. If a man can control his mind he can find the way to Enlightenment, and all wisdom and virtue will naturally come to him." The Buddha

"The greatest happiness you can have is knowing that you do not necessarily require happiness." William Saroyan

"Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort." F.D.R

"We all live with the objective of being happy; our lives are all different and yet the same." Anne Frank

As we each search for happiness in these difficult times, I wish you well and hope that you are safe in your daily lives.

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

From the South

Hello Brethren,
We hope you and your loved ones are healthy and well. As we continue these times of trials, uncertainty and injustice, regardless of what we hear and see around us, God is with us and will use all of this hurt for good. We are hurting with them and all those impacted by recent events. We are looking for ways to support and the actions we can take to make a lasting change to injustice.

Why it Matters:

Helping other people builds relationships and boosts your mood. Studies show that strong social connections help people lead happier and healthier lives. Please continue to join our weekly Zoom meeting every Friday at 7pm.

"The beautiful is in nature, and it is encountered under the most diverse forms of reality. Once it is found it belongs to art, or rather to the artist who discovers it." - Gustave Courbet, French artist (1819-1877)

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

From the Secretary

Editor's note: In lieu of Brother Akram Alawar's usual entry, the following is substituted to allow Bro. Akram to concentrate on two important business commitments at the time of publication of this issue. His submission to our newsletter will return next month.

Here is an article from Brother James Greer, Secretary of Friendship Lodge #210, F. & A.M., San Jose, CA, reprinted with his permission from <https://friendship210.org/imember-2-0-the-new-wave-of-masonic-communication/>,

iMember 2.0 The New Wave of Masonic Communication

You may be familiar with the Grand Lodge Website for all your Masonic Information in California. You may also be familiar with the "Lodge App." where you could find information about Friendship Lodge. And I know you are familiar with our lodge Trestleboard, because you are reading this article. But ...

There is a new and better way to find out information about all things Masonic in California and in 36 other jurisdictions. So if you are in a town in Louisiana and wanted to attend lodge or see if there are any Masonic events happening nearby, you could log on to your computer or smart phone and find it. You could have your dues card with you on your phone, etc.

This new program will replace the Grand Lodge website and the "Lodge App." They will no longer be available starting July 1st. iMember 2.0 will assume that role,

So, check out the following links to help you become familiar with this new information portal.

Test site. Go to <https://ca.grandview.systems/> This is a TEST site NOT the real iMember 2.0

Registration video. For a video walking you through these steps, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hx-WliihfcM>

[Continues next page, see "Visiting Sec'y"]

[“Visiting Sec’y, ctd frm p. 9]

Member Portal. Select Member Portal from the upper right hand corner.

Sign in page. Select the text reading Member Registration in the upper right hand corner of the screen.

Membership Registration. Input your lodge number, Member ID (on your dues card), and Last Name and then click the Check Membership Status button.

Register. Once your membership is verified, you will be asked for your email address, password and to confirm your password. When entered click the Sign up button.

[Additional Editor’s note: There is a training video available in which the last 10 minutes or so (start at 58:38) are devoted to the member’s portal, the preceding 50+ minutes are for lodge officers. See,

https://zoom.us/rec/play/65Asf7yrqm03EtWUuASDU_95W9Trffms0nRI-cNnke2UXkAYVaubNDZOBbnIVmpEWfmbgMyKXZDwT3?continueMode=true&x_zm_rtaid_y_a5TjfmTPm6OvRoYOUdFw.1592156999486.5dd33c5cd202d831e818b0680c25c4ed&x_zm_rtaid_538 .]

Bonus: On the Happiness of Life, by John Adams (a Signer of the Declaration of Independence)

Having recently watched the HBO miniseries entitled “John Adams,” I was interested in Adams’ views on Happiness.

At the website of the National Archives Founders Online, at <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Adams/01-03-02-0016-0002>, I found the following excerpt from John Adams’ diary, which reminds me of our discussion about “Temperance” in the lecture of the First Degree [i.e., “restraint” that “frees the mind from the allurements of vice”].

This excerpt illuminates Adams’ view of Happiness, our theme of this edition.

Here is the excerpt which follows after a long description of his attraction to the opposite sex and his constancy in never wandering:

“My Children may be assured that no illegitimate Brother or Sister exists or ever existed. These Reflections, to me consolatory beyond all expression, I am able to make with truth and sincerity and I presume I am indebted for this blessing to my Education. My Parents held every Species of Libertinage in such Contempt and horror, and held up constantly to view such pictures of disgrace, of baseness and of Ruin, that my natural temperament was always overawed by my Principles and Sense of decorum. This Blessing has been rendered the more precious to me, as I have seen enough of the Effects of a different practice. Corroding Reflections through Life are the never failing consequence of illicit amours, in old as well as in new Countries. The Happiness of Life depends more upon Innocence in this respect, than upon all the Philosophy of Epicurus, or of Zeno without it. I could write Romances, or Histories as wonderfull as Romances of what I have known or heard in France, Holland and England, and all would serve to confirm what I learned in my Youth in America, that Happiness is lost forever if Innocence is lost, at least untill a Repentance is undergone so severe as to be an overballance to all the gratifications of Licentiousness. Repentance itself cannot restore the Happiness of Innocence, at least in this Life.”

Respectfully submitted,
David I. Karp, Editor

