

# 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)

June 2020

## Perpetuating and Reinforcing our Masonic Ties

### Foreword ...

**W**e Masons are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection.

That link ties us to generations of Masons before us, even, as it is said, as far back as King Solomon. (Masonic tradition informs us that he was our first Most Excellent Grand Master).

That link ties us also to the oldest and to the newest members of our Lodge and to everyone in between. It ties us perpetually to one another, and all Masons..

These ties have been reinforced, in the recent past, by regular attendance at our lodge, at our fellowship meetings, and in other informal get-togethers. We have met for social service and philanthropic purposes. We have done many things together.

On the other hand, it has been much harder to keep in touch with one another in this time of closure of the lodge, social distancing and physical isolation due COVID-19.

Fortunately, we have found a virtual outlet to perpetuate and reinforce our Masonic Ties, through the use of Zoom online, and with the regularity of our Zoom fellowship meetings. They have been both enjoyable and meaningful in making sure that we are looking after each other, as it is said, relieving one another's distresses, soothing our unhappiness at being

apart, sympathizing with any misfortunes of the times, and restoring peace to otherwise troubled minds.

That is our great aim during this pandemic as it is our great aim always with our Brethren.

Besides it has been fun to meet via Zoom, although we each hope and pray that we will return to the lodge and to a more normal course of action once the current restrictions have been lifted.

In any event, we are doing our best under the circumstances. As editor of this newsletter, I continue to try to do my best to advance communication among us, to inform, and hopefully to entertain with this newsletter. And it makes me happy to do so.

In this edition, in addition to the usual inclusions, please find articles: celebrating the 200th anniversary of President Polk's admission to a Lodge of Freemasons; perpetuating the memory of George Washington as Mason with an article on the George Washington Masonic National Memorial; and reinforcing our allegiance to our country with an article on flag etiquette; the common thread of all of which is the month of June. There's more too, for Fathers Day and also Teacher/Student appreciation!

Fraternally,  
Bro. David I. Karp,  
Editor

Trestle Board appears on p. 2 of this edition.



## Celebrating Pres. Polk's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Becoming a Mason (June 5, 1820)

According to the website at <http://bessel.org/datemas.htm>, “[On June 5, 1820] James K. Polk (U.S. President 1845-1849) received his 1st degree in Columbia Lodge #31, Columbia, Tennessee.”

“11th President of the United States[,] Polk was born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. He later lived in and represented Tennessee. A Democrat, Polk served as the 13th Speaker of the House of Representatives the only president to have served as House Speaker and Governor of Tennessee. Polk was the surprise (dark horse) candidate for president in 1844, defeating Henry Clay of the rival Whig Party by promising to annex the Republic of Texas. Polk was a leader of Jacksonian Democracy during the Second Party System. His nickname was “Young Hickory” because of his close association with “Old Hickory”, Andrew Jackson.” See, <https://eb1870.org/project/james-polk/>.

Among other facts denoted by his lodge, Bro. Polk was initiated, passed and raised a Master Mason in 1820. He was Junior Warden in 1821 and Senior Warden Pro Tem in 1822. See, [http://www.columbialodge.org/?page\\_id\\_78](http://www.columbialodge.org/?page_id_78).

Congratulations to Bro. Polk on his 200th Anniversary of becoming a Mason.

### May 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 with this edition. Also please see the related important announcement on page 4.**

~~June 6— Stated Meeting (Dress Casual)~~

~~June 11— CFS Second Thurs. Fellowship @ Lulu's, 5:30PM~~

~~June 20— Father's Day Degree at the Masonic Homes in Covina (tentative)~~

~~June 20— Mason of the Year Program (eve.)~~

~~June 27— Golf Tournament~~

### Looking Ahead into July

~~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, 1<sup>st</sup> Step Up), 7:30pm, Van Nuys Masonic Center, Main Lodge Room~~

~~July 24-26 Campout~~

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



## Grand Master's Proclamation

**J**UNE 2020 IS MASONIC HOMES MONTH

California Masonry: Rooted in the Gold Country, Forged in Ideals

**Whereas** Masons have taken a pledge to support all brothers and their wives, widows, and children in their hour of need; and

**Whereas** for more than 100 years, the Masonic Homes of California has provided compassionate, relevant, and critical services to Masons and their families; and

**Whereas** that support exists through campuses in Union City and Covina, along with Masonic Outreach Services and the Masonic Center for Youth and Families; and

Whereas the Masonic Homes are adapting to the changing needs of elderly Masons and their families by expanding facilities for long-term and memory-related care;

As grand master, I **therefore proclaim** June 2020 to be Masonic Homes Month in California.

Since the founding of the Masonic Home for Widows and Orphans in 1898 by Grand Master Edward Myers Preston, California Masons have fulfilled their obligation to care for fellow members and their families. More than a century later, the fraternity is committed to delivering on that promise by offering crucial services to those in need.

This month, I call on Masons to support these important programs and to make sure that members are aware of the benefits they are entitled to as Masons. Share the Masonic Assistance Line (888-466-3642) with members in need, whatever that be; visit the Masonic Homes to see for yourself the services being offered; and of course make a gift to the Homes

through the Let's Write the Future campaign to ensure that this proud legacy endures into the future.

Sincerely and fraternally,  
John E. Trauner  
Grand Master

Attest:  
Allan L. Casalou  
Grand 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

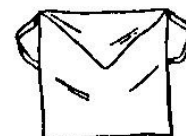
Demetrio C. Cahapisan, Jr. (2012)  
Celso V. Cardano, Jr. (2012)  
Alberto L. Casanova, Jr. (2014)  
Emmanuel D. Espiritu (2014)  
Bruce L. Ewald (2004-2006)  
Bruce L. Hawley (1984)\*\*  
Luc Paul, Jr. (2018)

#### 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)\*\*  
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.



## Special Zoom Presentation for Teacher/Student Appreciation, Friday, June 5 or 12, 7PM

If you can recall that far back, we were to have presentations in the Lodge for Public Schools Month in April. For obvious reasons that did not happen. However, we have been endeavoring to honor an outstanding teacher, an English Teacher at Birmingham Community Charter Hill School, named Lindsay Humphrey, and it will finally come to fruition.

We also suggested an essay contest for her students on the following subject: Essay on any of the Founding Fathers who were also Masons.

Finally, at long last, we have an essay contest winner and two possible dates for our presentation to the student and the teacher.

The winning essay, by Carmelita Antonello, 12th Grade, will be found on the last page of this newsletter. Please enjoy it.

The presentation, to celebrate public education, will be a part of our Zoom meeting of June 5 or 12, 7 PM. (Please check Facebook and the lodge app for any updates on this.)

The Zoom meeting will include the teacher and hopefully the student and possibly their respective family members, so we must conduct the meeting with due order and propriety during the time that the meeting may include these non-Masonic guests.

Thank you for your attention to this important announcement.

David I. Karp  
Volunteer Teacher/Student Liaison

## Member News

June Birthdays: Raffi Hovhannisyan; Tony Nader, William C. Raddatz; Steven A. Wolvek. Happy Birthday Brothers.

Third Degree Anniversaries: Alberto L. Casanova, Jr.; Bruce L. Ewald; Luc Paul, Jr.. Happy Anniversary to each of you.

### 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 Ibrahim Hannoun

Marshal Keith S. Cotton

Senior Steward Michael ("Mike") J. Chavez

Junior Steward Raffi Hovhannisyan

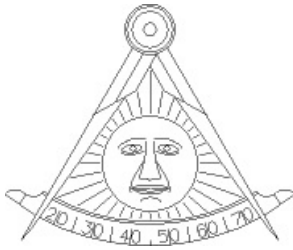
Organist Majd Fahma

Tiler William ("Bill") C. Raddatz

Officers' Coach Steven ("Steve") A. Wolvek, PM

Candidates' Coach Roger L. Soriano, PM

Inspector Leland H. Celestre, PM



## Member Spotlight: WB Steven Wolvek, PM — Officers' Coach

**A**ttorney at Law, Real Estate Salesperson, Entrepreneur, All Around Nice Guy Worshipful

Steven A. Wolvek is all of these things. Moreover, he loves his family, his dogs (he bakes them biscuits!), his synagogue, and his fraternal ties to all of us. And his birthday is in June!

Masonically, he brings to Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge a wealth of wisdom, intelligence, understanding, good judgment, courtesy, humor, and so much more. All of this emanates from his Masonic experiences as follows:

Initiated, passed and raised in 2013, Wor. Wolvek immediately jumped into leadership positions, first as Fraternal Support Services Ambassador, then as Trustee, followed by service as Junior and Senior Warden in Granada Hills Lodge 378, all of which gave him the strength of character, the background and experience to lead the newly formed Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge (U.D.) as its inaugural Master beginning on April 23, 2017 and continuing as a chartered Lodge through the next Masonic year.

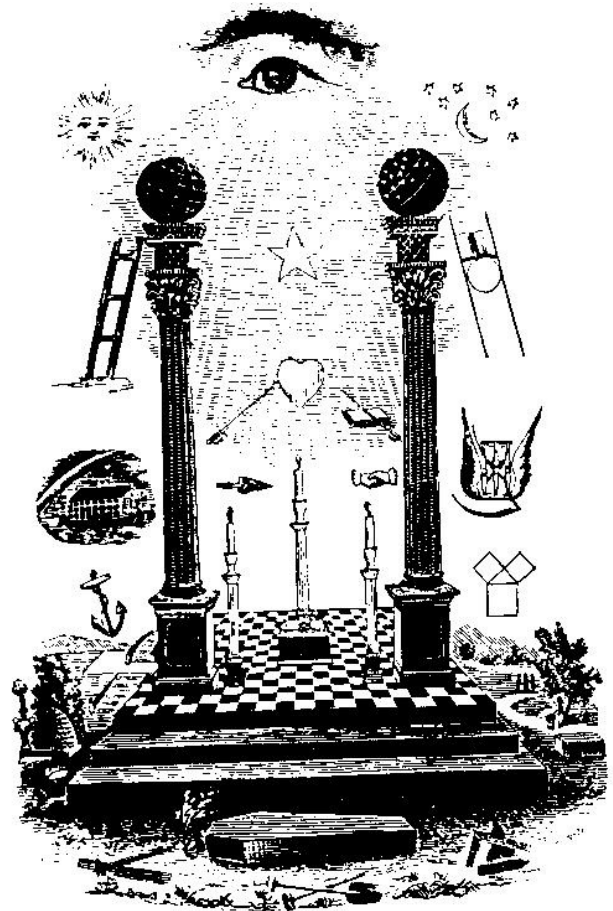
WB Steve, who received the Hiram Award in 2019, now serves as Officer's Coach for our Lodge and as Master of Conejo Valley No. 807, all the while serving as a professional and as a loving family man.

WB Steve has his Juris Doctorate from the University of La Verne and was admitted to the State Bar of California in 1990. His solo law practice includes family law, real estate litigation

and bankruptcy among other things. As a real estate licensee, he is affiliated with Century 21 Everest in Simi Valley. And as an entrepreneur he is now focused on internet marketing and advice.

As previously suggested, WB Steve was instrumental in bringing our Lodge into existence. His name is even mentioned in our charter.

We are proud to call WB Steve Wolvek a Brother of our Lodge. (And we enjoy seeing his lovely wife Shari from time to time, as well.)



## Groundbreaking for the George Washington National Masonic Memorial, June 5, 1922

**B**rother George Washington was likely one of the most famous Masons in American History. A lengthy Masonic history of our first president can be found among the pages of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial at <https://gwmemorial.org/pages/george-washington-the-mason>. Feel free to peruse it at your leisure.

The following material, about the Memorial erected in his memory is excerpted from the history page for the George Washington Masonic National Memorial at <https://gwmemorial.org/pages/history>.

“The two Lodges most closely associated with George Washington are Fredericksburg Lodge at Fredericksburg, Virginia (his Mother Lodge) and Alexandria-Washington Lodge at Alexandria, Virginia....

“On April 28, 1788, the [Alexandria-Washington] Lodge received a Charter from the Grand Lodge of Virginia as Alexandria Lodge No. 22. The Lodge asked Washington to be its Charter Master under the Virginia Charter and he agreed. Washington was inaugurated as the First President of the United States on April 30, 1789, while holding the office of Master of Alexandria Lodge. In 1804, the Lodge petitioned the Grand Lodge of Virginia to change its name to Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, in memory of Washington. That petition was granted in 1805.

“Through the generosity of Washington’s family and friends, Alexandria-Washington Lodge became the repository of many artifacts pertaining to George Washington and the Washington family.... [However,] A fire in the lodge in 1871 destroyed many the invaluable and significant Washington artifacts.

“... [O]n February 22, 1910, for the purpose of forming an Association to plan and build ‘a suitable Memorial Temple to George Washington, the Mason’, [and at the invitation of the Grand Master of Virginia,] [r]epresentatives from twenty-six Grand Lodges gathered ... to endorse the erection of the Memorial, and The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association was formed....

“Ten years after the first official meeting of the Association, the concept of a colossal building as a Memorial "lighthouse" to Washington was approved by the Grand Lodges of the United States. The site was selected because it followed the ancient tradition for the location of temples on hilltops or mountains. It was also located on land with which General Washington was familiar, as he spent a great deal of time in Alexandria [Virginia] and its environs.”

“The groundbreaking ceremony took place on June 5, 1922.

“On November 1, 1923, the Memorial’s cornerstone was dedicated in a Masonic ceremony. President Calvin Coolidge, former President and Chief Justice [Brother] William H. Taft and numerous other dignitaries performed the ceremony before a crowd of thousands of Freemasons from around the nation.”

The main page of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial indicates that the memorial is closed to the public in this challenging time. However, the Association notes that it is currently engaged in the first full-scale restoration of the Memorial since its original construction. You can go on the site to see how you can help if you are interested in doing so. The main page is at <https://gwmemorial.org/>.





## Flag Day is June 14. Here are Some Display Guidelines

In honor of Flag Day, June 14, here are some guidelines for displaying the US Flag, quoted from a publication of the US Dept. of Veteran Affairs. See, <https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/celebrate/flagdisplay.pdf>.

Traditional guidelines call for displaying the flag in public only from sunrise to sunset. However, the flag may be displayed at all times if it's illuminated during darkness. The flag should not be subject to weather damage, so it should not be displayed during rain, snow and wind storms unless it is an all-weather flag. It should be displayed often, but especially on national and state holidays and special occasions. The flag should be displayed on or near the main building of public institutions, schools during school days, and polling places on election days. It should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

When carried in procession with other flags the U.S. flag should be either on the marching right (the flag's right) or to the front and center of the flag line. When displayed on a float in a parade, the flag should be hung from a staff or suspended so it falls free. It should not be draped over a vehicle.

When displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, the U.S. flag should be on its own right (left to a person facing the wall) and its staff should be in front of the other flag's staff.

In a group of flags displayed from staffs, the U.S. flag should be at the center and the highest point.

When the U.S. flag is displayed other than from a staff, it should be displayed flat, or suspended so that its folds fall free. When displayed over a street, place the union so it faces north or east, depending upon the direction of the street.

When the U.S. flag is displayed as projecting from a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the unless the flag is at half-staff. When suspended from a rope extending from the building on a pole, the flag should be hoisted out, union first from the building.

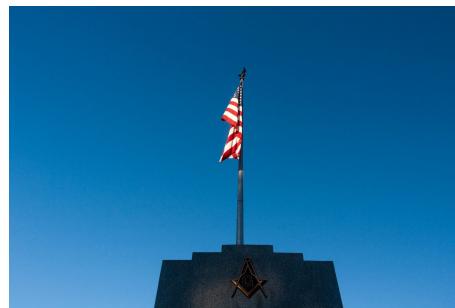
When flags of states, cities or organizations are flown on the same staff, the U.S. flag must be at the top (except during church services conducted at sea by Navy chaplains).

The flag should never be draped or drawn back in folds. Draped red, white and blue bunting should be used for decoration, with the blue at the top and red at the bottom.

The flag may be flown at half-staff to honor a newly deceased federal or state government official by order of the president or the governor, respectively. On Memorial Day, the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon.

During the hoisting or lowering of the flag or when it passes in parade or review, Americans should stand at attention facing the flag and place their right hand over the heart. Uniformed military members render the military salute. Men not in uniform should remove any headdress and hold it with their right hand at their left shoulder, the hand resting over the heart. Those who are not U.S. citizens should stand at attention.

When the flag is worn out or otherwise no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.



[Photo by Greg Wiefel at Valley Forge, PA]

## A Tribute to a Father – Fathers Day is June 21

I would like to share an historical account about my late father, Isagani T. Hernandez, Sr., a Master Mason and life member of Saragani Lodge no. 50, F. & A. M., Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

My Dad was a US-Philippine Scout during World War II. He was captured by the Japanese who made him a security guard patrolling the Garrison (concentration camp) at night. After about a month, Dad figured out the sleep patterns of the Japanese officers and he managed to escape. Luckily, he found a Filipino Guerrilla (Civilian Army) camp. He was welcomed by his comrades who even served him dinner. After fellowship, they all went to bed.

When the sun was up the following morning, he was still asleep on the ground when the Guerillas realized he was wearing a Japanese uniform. They hoodwinked him and took him to the Guerrilla's main headquarters in the deepest part of the jungle.

According to my Dad, he knew that he would be shot by a firing squad. During interrogation by the Captain of the Guerrillas, and as a last resort, my Dad thought to give a Masonic distress statement. The Captain responded and challenged him. After strict trial and due examination, the Captain removed my Dad's blindfold and told him to run as fast as he could, for, after an hour and as a ruse, they would fire shots to signify that he had been executed.

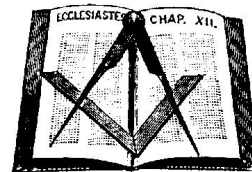
He ran for his life, heard the shots, fell and lost consciousness. When he awoke, he found himself at a friend's house.

Freemasonry saved my father's life. But that is not my family's only connection to the Craft. My younger brother is a Master Mason, too; he petitioned for the degrees in Allen Lodge No. 1435 A. F. & A. M., Grand Lodge of Texas Also, my grandfather was a 32nd Degree Mason and the Tiler and custodian of Saragani Lodge No. 50, my father's Lodge in the Philippines. I remember that, when I was about 10 years old,

my grandfather took me to the Lodge to sweep, mop, wax and scrub the floors, and during events there, I helped serve the members their food and refreshments. When I was 28, I joined Davao Lodge No. 149, which met at the same Temple building, which I kept secret from my Dad who lived far away. Coincidentally, he came to Davao Lodge one night to visit because he had a conference in the same city. It was a surprise to both of us when he showed up before the lecture on the Third Degree started. He congratulated me as his son and Brother, so I take this opportunity to thank my Dad and Brother, and my grandfather and Brother, and to remember them for Fathers' Day.

WB Gani R. Hernandez, Jr., PM  
Burbank 406

[Editor's Note: As Wor. Gani pointed out to me, this is a repeat of history, as there were many Masonic incidents like this in the American Civil War and in other conflicts. See, Roberts, Allen E. *House Undivided: The Story of Freemasonry and the Civil War*. Richmond: Macoy Publishing & Masonic Supply Co., Inc., 1990-1991.]



## More Thoughts for Fathers Day

For Fathers Day, these Brethren have this to say (their entries are presented in the order received):

**Bro. Rami Alawar** Father's Day is a special day to me not because I am a father but because I get to celebrate the day with my idol/role model. I've always looked up to my dad and couldn't imagine a day without him. Anything I need or want to do, I go to him first  
[continues next page, see "Fathers"]

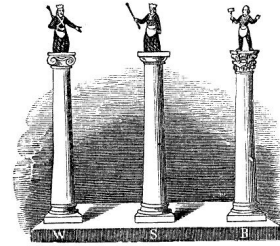


["Fathers," continued from p. 8]

for advice. He is so knowledgeable in so many ways I can only pray to be as knowledgeable as him one day. Being a Mason and belonging to the same Lodge has been one of my best decisions so far. We've gone to our first annual communication San Francisco trip together and went to the casino trip together. These are memories that can never be taken away and I will carry with me forever. I will always carry your legacy and continue to make you proud, dad. Happy Father's Day.

**Bro. David I. Karp** My father of blessed memory, Larry Karp, was a sweet, kind and gentle man and a furniture retailer who mostly struggled to support his family. He was initiated, passed and raised a Master Mason in the years 1973-1975 in Home Lodge 721 when things were going well for him. I didn't know it at the time but most of the friends he invited to our home at the time were Brother Masons as well. When I asked him for an application for the degrees in 1990, he grinned. We spent many meetings in Home Lodge together after I was raised a Master Mason. Dad was very proud that I had become a Mason. He was a 32<sup>nd</sup> degree Scottish Rite Mason and Shriner too, so I did that with him too. He loved his connection to the Masons, as he, his father, his brother in law, his son in law, and I, were all bound together by our Masonic ties as well as our family ties. A victim of Alzheimer's disease, he laid down his working tools on 12/25/2009 and entered the Celestial Lodge dressed in the habiliments that defined his life, including his Apron and his Tallit (Jewish prayer shawl). I miss him every day.

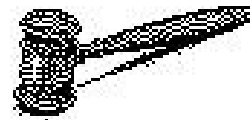
**Bro. Barry Mann** My father, Fred Mann, was a gentle soul. A pharmacist by profession, he owned his own pharmacy. He never made much money, but every summer he would hire a relief pharmacist to run the pharmacy every Friday, Saturday and Sunday so he could take his family on three day weekends. Those weekends were the best times of our kids' lives. Happy Father's Day everyone!!



## From the East

**B**rethren,  
I wish you all good health and prosperity during this challenging and uncertain time. As we all figure out and cope with this "new normal," let us strengthen our Masonic values by reaching out to those in need, especially our brethren who may have fallen on hard times. As we practice social distancing let us not neglect or confuse this with emotional isolation. Just a simple call, text, instant message or even a written letter will do to connect to those we have not seen for some time, simply to check in and see how they are doing. And as this is a small act in nature, it can cause a major reaction to help restore peace and harmony to those during this troubling time. Let us remember our obligation to help serve a worthy distressed brother. Just a few minutes of your time can go a long way to help build confidence and reassurance for a brother in need. It is our duty as Masons and our 2020 Lodge mission, to shine as a beacon of light, when all hope is lost.

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



## From the West

**H**ello to all my brothers. I hope you are doing well and trying to stay as active/safe as possible in these times of such seclusion as you may know an object in motion will stay in motion and an object at rest will stay at rest. We do what we can do now.

I know we haven't really seen much of each other and that saddens me but I want to see if we can possibly organize a socially distant and safe activity where all can participate. Although we have our zoom meetings on Fridays that doesn't replace our in-person interaction with each other.

Therefore I propose that we indulge ourselves with socially safe outdoor activities such as a round of golf or a picnic I would love to hear any suggestions you may have. It is a widely known fact that nothing can replace fresh air, sunlight and our more regular camaraderie/fellowship.

Once again I hope all are safe and doing well and I send my best regards to you all and your families.

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

## From the South

**B**rethren,  
Our steadfast and unwavering commitment as members of Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge is to be part of the larger inclusive society of Free and Accepted Masons at all times but especially now. During a crisis such as the world is now facing, we urgently need the most extraordinary efforts and perspectives to innovate and implement new, critical, life-saving ideas. We have delivered exactly that with compassion over the last few weeks, but we must do more.

In the larger sense, our communities around the world are grieving deep losses and struggling day-to-day. I am also aware how change of this

magnitude creates fear, fear which can result in racist behaviors, anger, and prejudice. I can only imagine the additional stress this must cause during a time already riddled with uncertainty and loss.

As a global organization and community, we must stand in solidarity and lead with empathy and compassion, and denounce these negative behaviors wherever they occur. Inclusion, diversity, and respect are deeply embedded in our Mission and our fraternal vision. These values guide the way we work, the way we interact with each other, and the way we deliver on our commitments to others and our members. This will never change.

Members of Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge #866 are planning, personally, to help 50-75 families, by supporting and providing relief goods to the poorest of the poor, and particularly families under the most abject circumstances in the Philippines. The situation is dire there. With this effort, our lodge will promote the inclusiveness to which we are committed, and stand together to address the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic there.

We as Free and Accepted Masons firmly believe that inclusion and diversity compel us to be a more innovative and creative organization. And we believe in the value of all members. You and I have a personal commitment to ourselves, our community and this country. I believe that our commitment goes beyond our borders too.

Let us all walk together as Brethren and cast our influence meaningfully among all who dwell under the canopy of heaven. In improving the lives of others, we improve our own lives as well.

"Clouds come floating into my life, no longer to carry rain or usher storm, but to add color to my sunset sky." - Rabindranath Tagore, Indian poet (1861-1941)

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

## From Our Treasurer

**B**rethren,  
 [Reprinted from May 2020]  
 The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act will let taxpayers deduct from their taxable income up to \$300 per taxpayer (\$600 for a married couple) if charitably donated to a qualified organization this year. The rule will apply only to charitable contributions made in 2020. Taxpayers will be able to claim the deductions on their tax forms submitted in 2021. According to Sarah Li at the California Grand Lodge, “Clarence F. Smith Lodge is a 501(c)(10) fraternal organization.” This deduction is “above the line,” which means it will come off your income whether you itemize or not. If you can, now would be a good time to donate to our Lodge, but double-check with your tax adviser first to be sure you can take the deduction. I have the federal EIN for you if you need it.

Fraternally,  
 Bro. Barry Mann,  
 Treasurer

## From Our Secretary

**B**rethren,  
 The world around us is changing very fast and we need to adapt to the new reality. The way we socialized and greeted each other, our friends, and family members, is gone with the wind. Now there is no hugging. It looks to me that we will acknowledge each other like robots by waving our hands. It is sad, at least for me, to see a cousin with whom I grew up and hadn't seen in a couple of years and yet I can't give him a hug.

I am not trying to be pessimistic, but coming from a culture that embraces closeness, warm greeting and hugging friends and family puts a lot of strain on individuals. Keep the Faith, We will get through this epidemic.

Fraternally,  
 Bro. Akram Alawar  
 Secretary

## Bonus: Student Essay

**B**y Carmelita Antonello, 12th Grade,  
 Birmingham Community Charter Hill School  
 “Man of Knowledge”

Influence is seen in people that hold money, power, or authority. Except, the most influential people are those that excel in many aspects and rise in ranks. The most influential of the Founding Fathers of the United States, who was also a Mason, was Benjamin Franklin.

The most famous role of Benjamin Franklin is his knowledge of electricity. The most famous story is his experimental tale of flying a kite with a metal key during a lightning storm. When the lightning struck the kite, the electricity conducted it. His discovery led to the invention of the lightning rod and the understanding of positive and negative charges (“Kite Experiment.”).

Benjamin Franklin helped the world understand the functions of electricity. Benjamin Franklin is known to be one of the Founding Fathers. His face is printed on the one hundred dollar bill. He is one of the few non-presidents on U.S. currency, and his bill is the U.S.’s largest amount of currency.

Being part of the Masons is to be considered one of their livelihood. Benjamin Franklin was with the Freemasons for over sixty years, and he was promoted to Grand Master (“Masonic Biographies: Benjamin Franklin”). The title of Grandmaster is the highest of ranks among the Masons.

The most influential Founding Father that was a Mason was Benjamin Franklin. He branched out to other knowledges such as the field of science. He, himself, was revolutionary.

Works Cited: “Kite Experiment.” *Benjamin Franklin Historical Society*, [www.benjamin-franklin-history.org/kite-experiment/](http://www.benjamin-franklin-history.org/kite-experiment/); Masonic Order of Universal Co-Freemasonry. “Masonic Biographies: Benjamin Franklin.” *Masonry*, [www.universalfreemasonry.org/en/famous-freemasons/benjamin-franklin](http://www.universalfreemasonry.org/en/famous-freemasons/benjamin-franklin).