

In the



Daylight

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

May 2021

Promoting Peace

Foreword ...

Outside our Lodge Room is a world filled with acrimony, divisiveness, violence and discord. It can be very upsetting to see the vitriol of some people against others, whether on social media or in the streets. It is worse to see, in-person or on the television, the street violence against others (whether AAPI or any group or individual), or to hear of bombings, shootings of innocent people, or even killing under color of law.

Inside the Lodge, we begin our meetings seeking guidance from the Great Architect of the Universe to help us “subdue every discordant passion within us” and/or to conduct our meetings “in peace.” Also, we are all familiar with these words: “Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.”

At the closing of our meetings we are reminded “to practice out of the Lodge [these] great moral duties.” How do we do that?

I think the answer is twofold:

First, I think we must be an example to others: practice civility in all that we do; engage in social discourse with respect; listen, and really pay attention, to others with different views, not with the idea of arguing but with the goal of understanding. Likely, we will not change one another’s minds, but we can honor differing views with “an attentive ear.”

Second, I think we should more visibly and vocally promote Freemasonry as a society that

teaches such wisdom and respects diversity. (Please see the Grand Master’s Proclamation this month for more on promoting Freemasonry.)

In many cultures, a traditional greeting wishes peace to another. Here are some examples (from <https://www.fluentin3months.com/international-greetings/>):

Arabic: م ك ي ل ع م ا ل س ل ا (al salaam aliykhum)

Korean: (an-nyeong-ha-se-yo)

Hebrew: ש ל ו מ (shalom)

Azeri (Azerbaijani): Salam

Chechen: Ассаламу Иалайкум or Салам (assalamu aliykhum or salam)

Hawaiian: Aloha (this is the word for “peace”, “affection”, “compassion”, or “mercy”)

I had a T-shirt once with the phrase imprinted on it: “Visualize Whirled Peas.” I still hope for the real thing.

Please enjoy this edition of our newsletter.

Fraternally,

Bro. David I. Karp, Editor



Trestle Board for May is on page 2.

Freemasons Who Received the (Nobel) Peace Prize

The following three brothers were

a identified as Nobel Peace Prize winners,

<https://freimaurer-wiki.de/index.php/En: Masonic Noble Prize Winners> .

--Dr. Alfred Hermann Fried (1864- 1921): 1911 Nobel Prize for Peace. Brother Alfred was a member of Lodge Sokrates Austria.

--George Catlett Marshall (1880 1959): 1953 Nobel Peace Prize. Brother George was made mason "at sight" on the 16. Dec. 1941 by The Grand Master of The District of Columbia.

--Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt (1858 - 1919): 1906 Nobel Peace Prize. Brother Roosevelt was a member of Matinecock Lodge No.806. Initiated: Jan. 2 1901. Passed: Mar. 27 1901. Raised Apr. 24 1901.

Alfred Fried was the "Founder of Die Friedenswarte (a peace publication), Journalist. Prize motivation: 'for his effort to expose and fight what he considers to be the main cause of war, namely, the anarchy in international relations.' See,

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1911/fried/facts/>

George Marshall was a "Delegate U.N., ex-Secretary of State and of Defense, General President American Red Cross, Originator of 'Marshall Plan.' Prize motivation: "for proposing and supervising the plan for the economic recovery of Europe." See,

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1953/marshall/facts/>

Theodore Roosevelt was a "Collaborator of various peace treaties, President of United States of America. Prize motivation: "for his role in bringing to an end the bloody war recently waged between two of the world's great powers, Japan and Russia." See,

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1906/roosevelt/facts/>

May Trestle Board

When we meet in person, maybe soon*, we meet on 1st/3rd Saturdays at 10:00 AM at the Van Nuys Masonic Center, except as otherwise noted. See Masthead, p. 1 for address. Otherwise, we conduct our Stated Meetings online, but subject to change per the information below...

May 1, 2021, 10AM, Stated Meeting. Tiled. On Zoom.

May 6, 2021, 7PM Zoom Fellowship**

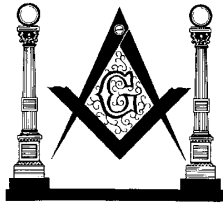
May 13, 2021, 7PM Zoom Fellowship**

May 20, 2021, 7PM Zoom Fellowship**

May 27, 2021, 7PM, Executive Comm. Mtg., on Zoom. Wor. Celso will provide link if not in person.

*If all conditions precedent to re-opening in person have been satisfied per the Grand Master's Directive (on pp. 6-7) and if our Master so orders, we may meet at Van Nuys Masonic Center for our Stated Meetings (1st Sat.) and/or Special Meetings (3rd Sat) starting in June.

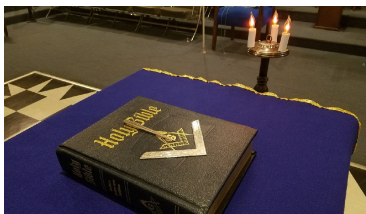
**Login for Thurs. Zoom mtgs, now through 6/24/2021 (except Thursdays preceding a Stated Meeting)



The Pillars, Themselves, Promote Peace

“The characteristics of the pillars present important symbolic lessons.... [¶] The ornamental detail regarding the network, lily-work and pomegranates denote unity, peace, and plenty, respectively. While the Biblical account does not provide a clear picture of what the capitals (chapters) looked like, it does indicate they were highly ornate. The purpose of the network was to provide a background and its intricate, interconnected arrangement suggests unity. **The lily-work represents peace**, the lily being a symbol of both peace and purity. Peace is a noble attribute we should strive for in our spiritual relationship with God and as Masons, we should promote peace between all men. The pomegranates must have been striking with two hundred on each capital. The pomegranate fruit, due to the exuberance of its seed, is an emblem of plenty, which was one of its ancient significances.”

Source: Richardson Masonic Lodge, No. 1214 A.F. & A.M. (GL TX) at <https://txfreemasonry.org/the-fellowcraft-pillars/>



CFS Daylight Lodge Officers for 2021

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

Senior Warden Edgar O. Yeghiazaryan

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

Treasurer Barry Mann

Secretary Akram Alawar

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

Chaplain Archimedes (“Kim”) S. Cabanig

Senior Deacon Spartak (“Spo”) Khachatryan

Junior Deacon Ihrahim Hannoun

Marshal Keith S. Cotton

Senior Steward Michael (“Mike”) J. Chavez

Junior Steward Rami Alawar

Organist Majd Fahma

Tiler William (“Bill”) C. Raddatz

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

Candidates’ Coach Roger L. Soriano, PM

Inspector Leland H. Celestre, PM

What is Freemasonry?

“Freemasonry is a social organization that promotes charity, esteem, and love for each Brother and their families. We build a network that is worldwide to support each other in time of need. We serve our country, **promote peace**, and help others in need.”

Source: <https://grandlodgeofvirginia.org/>

Promoting Peace: May 1865

Editor’s Note: The following is quoted from Roberts, Allen E. *House Undivided: The Story of Freemasonry and the Civil War*. Richmond: Macoy Publishing & Masonic Supply Co., Inc., 1990-1991 at pp. 263-264.

“On May 22, [1865,] John F. Houston, Grand Master of Missouri, pleaded with his members to be truly Masons during the trying days ahead:

“In December 1st, I visited Lafayette Lodge, No. 32, [Lexington].... I found a most unfortunate and deplorable feeling existing in consequence of a difference of political opinions. Members of the craft of one political party would not meet, nor affiliate with, members who differed with them in opinion. In fact, the estrangement was so great that they refused to speak with one another on the streets. In view of the unfortunate difficulties existing, I directed the Secretary to peremptorily summon every craftsman who had not been legally suspended or expelled, living in the county of Lafayette, to meet me in Lafayette Lodge Room, on the 3d Saturday in January. And, although the weather was very inclement . . ., the Lodge Room was filled.... [M]y humble efforts to restore peace and harmony ... [were] most ably and efficiently seconded and sustained by P.G.M. Ryland.... The result of the labors of that evening was, to use the language of a distinguished brother

present, a “regular old-fashioned love feast,” each brother plighting his faith anew, over our sacred altar, to live in future as a society or band of friends or brothers, “amongst whom no contention should ever arise, except that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who can best work and best agree.” However much we may differ outside the Lodge room, in our religious, political or other views, upon assembling there, within the sacred precincts of our Lodge, our feelings should be merged into the objects of Masonry. It matters not with us whether a man is a Jew or a Greek, American or German, Aristocrat or Plebian, Democrat or Republican, the moment he enters the Lodge, as a Master Mason, that moment he is equal; all are on a level, and the only strife or emulation ever allowed is, “who can best work and agree.” The ties of brotherhood are for life, and each member feels, or should feel, a common interest in the advancement and perfection of his brother in Masonic Light and knowledge.

* * *

“The prospect of a substantial and permanent peace becomes brighter every day, and it is not too much to say that in a few months at furthest, “swords will be beat into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks.” When this great blessing is bestowed on us, many, very many, of our absent Brethren ... will return to Missouri, broken in health and spirit, and may be utterly destitute, and scarcely able, from the wreck of their remaining property, to sustain themselves and families.... Do not, I entreat you, my Brethren, add to their misery by failing to recognize them as Brethren.... Let us bear with their infirmities..., pardon their errors, and be kind and considerate to them.... Then, my Brothers, let us do unto our returning Brethren all kind and affectionate acts as become Masons, and make them feel, if they never felt before, that the mysterious chain of Masonry, though tried in a thrice-heated furnace, is as strong and enduring as the immutable laws of truth and justice.”



Grand Master's Proclamation

MAY 2021 IS PUBLIC
AWARENESS MONTH
Embracing the Next Evolution

Whereas California Masons perform untold hours of service to improve their communities, and raise important funds to support the most vulnerable members of our communities; and

Whereas the next evolution of Freemasonry is predicated on the growth and vitality of our fraternity; and

Whereas misconceptions about Freemasonry endure in popular culture, which hamper the positive change we hope to make in our communities;

As grand master, I therefore **proclaim** May 2021 is Public Awareness Month in California.

An important aim of the 2025 Fraternity Plan includes increasing awareness in our communities of the fraternity and the work that Masons all over California do in their towns. Raising awareness of the fraternity means countering negative assumptions about Masonry; talking openly with friends, family, and colleagues about what membership in Masonry means; and showing the world why our organization is and remains relevant today. I encourage all members and lodges to consider ways that they can raise awareness of Freemasonry in their community through open houses, tabling opportunities, and simple conversations with friends and family. California Masons have much to be proud of. It's time we share that pride with more of the outside world.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Grand Master Arthur H. Weiss

Attest:

Grand Secretary Allan L. Casalou

Masonic Recognition

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

Steven A. Wolvek (2017-2018)
Rogelio L. Soriano (2019)

Past Masters by Affiliation

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

Hiram Award*

Demetrio C. Cahapisan, Jr., PM (2013)
Alberto L. Casanova, Jr., PM (2016)
Keith S. Cotton (2017)
Bruce L. Ewald, PM (2011)
Bruce L. Hawley, PM (2000)**
David I. Karp (2020)
John T. Seletos (2017)
Thomas K. Sheehan (2014)
Rogelio L. Soriano, PM (2018)
Steven A. Wolvek, PM (2019)

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

** Deceased.





Grand Master's Reopening Directive

Permission to Hold In-Person Meetings and Events, Subject to Limitations

April 13, 2021

Dear Brethren,

On April 2, 2021, the California Department of Public Health issued new guidance on gatherings, private events and meetings. This guidance updates California's COVID-19 Blueprint for a Safer Economy, also known as the state's reopening plan. The reopening plan assigns each county in California to a risk tier based upon the level of COVID-19 spread in that county. As part of these updates to the state's reopening plan, indoor private events and meetings will be allowed, with limitations, beginning on April 15 in counties assigned to the red, orange and yellow tiers, but not to the purple tier. (A description of the reopening plan's limitations on private events and meetings can be found in Exhibit A¹ of this directive.)

At a high level, the applicable limitations are:

1. Indoor private events and meetings are not permitted in counties assigned to the purple tier.
2. There must be a guest list and a seating chart for any meeting or event.
3. Attendees must show proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or proof of a negative test within the last 72 hours.

¹Exhibit A is not attached but can be reviewed at <https://freemason.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/GM-Weiss-Reopening-Directive-Final-04-13-2021.pdf>

4. The facility must create and implement a COVID-19 site prevention plan.

5. Under the California mask mandate, attendees must wear a face mask unless they are specifically exempted under the mandate.

Therefore, effective April 15, 2021, my October 2020 directives regarding in-person meetings are amended as follows:

(1) Masonic lodges may, but are not required to, resume holding in-person meetings and events, provided that all of the following requirements are satisfied:

Prior to the lodge resuming in-person, indoor meetings and events:

- The county in which the lodge holds its meetings is not in the purple tier of the state's reopening plan.
- The master of the lodge determines that the county in which the lodge holds its meeting permits in-person private meetings and events. Individual counties may issue limitations that are stricter than state restrictions, in which case the county limitations supersede the state regulations.
- The master of the lodge concludes that resuming in-person meetings and events can be done safely and in compliance with this directive.
- The hall association (in consultation with the lodge) conducts a risk assessment of the meeting site; prepares a written COVID-19 site prevention plan that includes on-site guidelines to be followed by lodges; and takes steps necessary to effectuate the prevention plan. (A template for risk assessment and prevention plans will be provided by the grand secretary for reference.)

• At each in-person meeting and event, the master must ensure that the event adheres to the limitations for private events contained in the state's reopening plan (see Exhibit A attached to this directive), the applicable county's orders and guidance, and the site's COVID-19 prevention [continues next page, see "Reopening"]

[Reopening, ctd. from p. 6]

plan. Lodges may also conduct outdoor events provided that the event complies with the state's

limits (see Exhibit A attached) and applicable county orders and guidance for outdoor events.

(2)Masonic Organizations may conduct in-person meetings and events under the same limitations and conditions set out above for lodge meetings (as applicable).

(3)Masonic Youth Orders may conduct in-person meetings and events provided that such meetings and events are permitted by the state and the applicable county and the Youth Order follows state and county restrictions and guidance.

(4)Pursuant to my October 2020 directives:

- Lodges may continue, at their discretion, to hold virtual stated meetings.

- Masonic funeral and burial services may be conducted consistent with the directions of a licensed funeral director.

- Masons and members of Masonic Organizations and Youth Orders may continue to attend events that are not sponsored by a lodge, hall, Masonic Organization or Youth Order.

Today's reopening directive is the first step in our return to in-person Masonic meetings and activities. As the state provides additional information on safe in-person meetings, I may issue further directives. I have asked the grand secretary to provide additional guidance, consistent with today's directive, regarding in-person meetings. This directive and additional guidance provided by the grand secretary including a template prevention plan ... can be found online at

<https://freemason.org/covid19>.

My directives have no force or effect after my term as grand master ends.

Sincerely and fraternally,

ARTHUR H. WEISS

Grand Master



Peace Quotes

“When the power of love overcomes the love of power the world will know peace.” Jimi Hendrix

"Imagine all the people living life in peace. You may say that I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us and the world will be as one." John Lennon

"Peace comes from being able to contribute the best that we have, and all that we are, toward creating a world that supports everyone. But it is also securing the space for others to contribute the best that they have and all that they are."

Hafsat Abiola

"Peace is not absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means."

Ronald Reagan

"Not one of us can rest, be happy, be at home, be at peace with ourselves, until we end hatred and division." John Lewis

"When I say it's you I like, I'm talking about that part of you that knows that life is far more than anything you can ever see or hear or touch. That deep part of you that allows you to stand for those things without which humankind cannot survive. Love that conquers hate, peace that rises triumphant over war, and justice that proves more powerful than greed." Fred Rogers

"When you make peace with yourself, you make peace with the world." Maha

Ghosananda

Source:

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/a27115824/peace-quotes/>

Fraternity and Brotherly Love

Editor's note: The following is excerpted from *Freemasonry and World Peace* an essay at

<http://www.mastermason.com/fmisrael/peace.html>

by Joseph E.A. Salem, SGC of Honor Ad-Vitam, Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite for the State of Israel, Reprinted from *The Israeli Freemason*.

“The greatest ideal in the world today is fraternity, not as mere sentiment, but as science, a practical philosophy and a way of life. If ever there was a generation eager and willing to try out the philosophy of brotherhood with wisdom and patience, it must be this generation. We have been shown in letters of blood and fire, what hate, envy and greed can do.

“I believe Freemasonry can do a lot towards building a better world, fit to live in, unstained by blood, undefiled by hatred. This is the challenge to our craft.

“Freemasonry binds us together in amity and respect. Our assemblies are **peaceful**, orderly, and obedient. By divine command, Moses proclaimed to all peoples on earth, present and future, how they should live as individuals and as nations. He condensed G-d's proclamation into 10 Commandments, and there he added to them: "Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself." This is the Commandment to which Freemasonry dedicated itself, to establish brotherhood among men so they can live in peace with each other in this world.

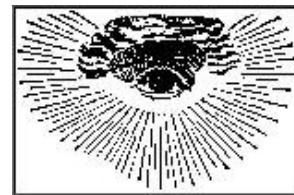
“The struggle of Freemasonry is the struggle of the human race against tyranny and oppression. From the beginning, Freemasonry has realized that religion, tradition, and habits of life can divide the peoples of the world into hostile camps. Freemasonry takes no part in these quarrels, rather it provides a common meeting ground where all men can meet on the level.”



[Image attribution: From Lodge St. Andrew #518 at <http://www.standrew518.co.uk/mas.php> .]

A Nonsectarian Prayer for Peace

Grant us peace, Your most precious gift, GAOTU and Eternal Source of peace. Give us the will to proclaim its message to all the peoples of the earth. May our country always be a stronghold of peace and its advocate among the nations. May contentment reign within its border, health and happiness within its homes. Strengthen the bonds of friendship among the inhabitants of all lands. And let us say: Amen. (Adapted from *Gates of Prayer*).





[Image attribution: The Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Maryland at <http://mdmasons.org/about-md-masons/famous-masons/ben-franklin/>]

Student Essay about Masonry and Benjamin Franklin

Editor's note: As a part of our support for Public Schools in April, high school students at Birmingham Community Charter High School were challenged by our essay contest to write about "any US government figure, past or present, who was/is also a Mason (whether president, senator, congressman, or jurist)." The following essay comes from our student essay contest winner, Angel M., in Mr. Arellano's American Literature class. It is offered for your enjoyment.

Here is the essay without change:

You may wonder what is a mason or who is considered as one. A mason is a person that has the responsibility of making the world a better place, while having other specific values as well. The specific values they have are ethics, tolerance, education, philanthropy, and family. Benjamin Franklin, one of our Founding Fathers, had been an example of someone who has been a mason due to impacting the world by making it a better place. He has had various other accomplishments as well that have impacted the world greatly. He is one of the greatest examples of a mason, he's had such an enormous amount

of responsibility towards impacting our time today and a learning opportunity for all of US History.

As one of our Founding Fathers, Benjamin Franklin was appointed to be one of the five members to draft the Declaration of Independence. Before the document was written, the Revolutionary War had broken out due to the thirteen American colonies being against Britain for demanding their independence. The Declaration of Independence had completely stopped the war and declared independence for the nations. Another important decision Franklin was involved in was drafting the U.S. Constitution after The Articles of Confederation, which was the first constitution made. The Articles of Confederation was a disaster for the U.S. as each state was operating like an independent country, there was no president, and it gave Congress a lot of power. The U.S. Constitution resolved these problems as it established fundamental laws, created three branches with equal power, and gave basic rights to citizens. Later on though, the basic rights were expanded in the Bill of Rights. Ten amendments were created that guaranteed civil rights and liberties to citizens. Benjamin Franklin contributed to these very important documents that have changed our world during problematic times.

Benjamin Franklin was also known as an inventor, where he got more recognition. His Franklin-Stove wasn't a success, but it was revolutionary. The stove produced more heat for less fuel compared to other stoves during the time period. Another extraordinary invention was the bifocals, which was a type of glasses that allows people to see from far and close distance. He was so tired of switching his glasses from time to time and his own eyes were aging, so he produced the glasses through trial and error. His most famous and known invention was the lightning rod. It was his unique and dangerous kite experiment that made him stand out. He flew

[continues on next page, see "Franklin"]

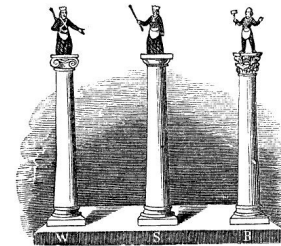
["Franklin," continued from p. 9.]

a kite into the clouds while there was lightning. He wanted to attract an electric charge to prove lightning was electricity. He successfully completed his experiment and theorized that lightning could be prevented by using an elevated iron rod. He also did this experiment to try to help protect people, buildings, and other structures from lightning. Lastly, he was the first person to create a fire and street lighting company. Many fire departments were soon made after he created the company, and the street lighting is still used today. His inventions had helped a lot of people with the same struggles he had, and also ensured people's safety.

Philanthropy is one of Masonic values, in which they make a difference in our world through community service, volunteerism, and charity. Although Benjamin Franklin didn't contribute more than \$1.4 million dollars a day, the amount of money he donated accumulated over time for education and individuals in need. His final bequest was 1,000 pounds sterling to both Philadelphia and Boston. Both cities were told by Benjamin Franklin to hold the money for 200 years and gather interest. Once the 200 years were over, they were able to spend the money on their own. Philadelphia spent \$2 million dollars on scholarships for local high school students. Boston spent \$5 million dollars to establish a trade school, which is known as the Franklin Institute of Boston. Also since 1960, the city has made loans to 7,000 medical students. Many students have benefitted from the opportunity Benjamin Franklin gave them, as his purpose for the money was for the in need.

Benjamin Franklin left an important impact on our world while he lived. We still benefit from the responsibilities he took on as of today. As well as still being taught about him and his accomplishments. He really defines what a true mason is as he valued the importance of this world, and his philosophy and values compare to a mason. As to why he should remain to be a

learning opportunity for all of U.S History for everything that he has done for us.



From the East

Brethren,
We have good news! The Grand Lodge of California has established reopening guidelines to resume in person Lodge meetings. See the Grand Master's Directive on pp. 6-7 above. This requires meeting the guidelines of the CDC and the Los Angeles County Department of Health, along with the Van Nuys Hall Association's facility plan. Per the Grand Lodge, any member who would like to participate in an in-person meeting will need to show a valid vaccination card or negative COVID-19 test results within 72 hours of entering the lodge. The indoor in-person meetings are limited to 100 guests and we will require seating charts. Also, all participants are required to wear masks and keep a social distance of 6-feet.

In addition, we will also decide on our own Lodge guidelines in order to ensure the safety of our members while having in person meetings.

It will take some time to establish these new guidelines and we are hopeful that we may have our first in-person meeting by the month of June.

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

From the West

Brothers,
It has been over a year since the beginning of the pandemic outbreak and we have all felt its wrath in one form or another. Even though the damage caused and all loses are enormous, humanity has managed to come together and lend a helping hand to our fellow man. In those high spirits and hopes we drive forward everyday looking for opportunities to improve ourselves and others. That is why, in my opinion, we have to stride and make our world a better place by stopping and lending a helping hand to anyone who might need it and in the process giving the next person an example or a guide of how to start treating each other not like people but like "family." To all Brothers: be positive, stay safe and take care of family. With all that said it will be exciting to get back into a normal routine; probably as of June we will be getting back to our meeting in person in the lodge.

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

From the South

Brothers,
We are acquainted with peace and harmony among our Brothers from our Masonic tradition. But let's look at these concepts in a larger sense.

Peace and harmony among all human beings means peace and harmony among all the nations, ethnic groups and religions. Reciprocally, the peace and harmony of each nation, ethnic group and religion constitutes peace and harmony of all human beings.

Consider the "Harmony Culture," an excellent tradition in Chinese civilization. It has lasted for thousands of years and has made a tremendous contribution to promoting the harmonious coexistence of various ethnic groups and the confluence of religious cultures. Thus it

has immeasurable enlightening significance to the peace and harmony of mankind in our age.

Consider also "Religious Culture" which epitomizes mankind's achievement of culture and wisdom. Promoting peace and harmony of all human beings is the common noble mission and great cause of all the religions.

May the leaders of all religions make a concerted effort to transcend the limits of their religions and religious sects, jointly shoulder the moral obligation of concern for the world and concern for mankind, and guide and prompt all human beings to join hands ultimately, to raise peace and harmony to a supremely good state among all religions.

If we are to promote peace and harmony among all cultures globally, we must also consider the concepts of absorption value and contribution value.

Absorption value means comprehensively examining the existence of other cultures as a reference and turning the advantages of other cultures into resources that are beneficial to perfecting one's own culture. Because different cultures complement each other so remarkably, conducting dialogue among them is critical. During such a process, each culture can enlarge its vision, enrich its content and elevate its status by understanding and learning the excellent fruit of other cultures.

Contribution value refers to making an in-depth summary of how one culture's positive values can contribute to other cultures and making appropriate constructive suggestions to other cultures. The more positive values one culture can contribute to other cultures, the more it can be respected and recognized by the latter, and the more it can contribute to the whole human culture.

[Continues on next page, see "South"]

["South," continued from p. 11.]

The underlying driving force of the improvement and progress of human culture comes from the gathering and integration of the positive value of all cultures.

"The greatest minds are capable of the greatest vices as well as of the greatest virtues."
- Rene Descartes, French mathematician (1596 - 1650).

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

From our Treasurer (in absentia)

Brethren,
In this space, your editor is pinch hitting for Bro. Barry Mann, our Treasurer, who is still dealing with back issues (relating to a small fracture in his spine, not to past editions of this newsletter). However, the prognosis is good in that it is expected to heal on its own, which is very good news. Notwithstanding the pain, Bro. Barry wishes us all the best and we wish the same for him. Get well soon Brother. DIK.

From our Secretary

Brethren,
Why should I refer to you as my "Dear Brother?"
Should I call you "dear brother" only because our rituals say so? Certainly, in Lodge, this is the way we address one another.

But that is not the only place or reason to call you "my dear brother."

When I call you "my dear brother,"...

... IT IS BECAUSE I understand that you are a human being, with faults and virtues, ready to change and improve, with ideas, different or similar, in religion, politics, race, knowledge, etc.; I accept all of that. You are still my dear brother.

... IT IS BECAUSE I see not one iota of hatred in your heart, and that, every day, you promote freedom, equality and fraternity.

... IT IS BECAUSE I trust you as much as I trust myself. If I make a mistake, I know that you will understand that I am only human too and you will not make a public issue of it.

... IT IS BECAUSE we are children from the same school. We walk the same paths, whether or not together. We have the same ethics. We meet on the level of equality, act by the Plumb of uprightness and part upon the square of virtue.

... IT IS BECAUSE you share the same values as I do. When I see you, I smile realizing that we will share the same goals for peace and harmony.

... IT IS BECAUSE I know you will never forget that we are children of the same mother, even though we are from different homes.

... IT IS BECAUSE your actions are always framed in science and virtue.

... IT IS BECAUSE you sat next to me and contemplated the end of mankind.

... IT IS BECAUSE with the little you have, you have enough for everyone.

... IT IS BECAUSE I know that your conscience always dictates your actions.

... IT IS BECAUSE I know you have always been by my side as a loyal friend.

When YOU call ME "my dear brother," I know that I have reached the highest degree in Freemasonry, which is to be like you.

Fraternally,
Bro. Akram Alawar,
Secretary





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Bonus: Take a Hike!

Malibu Creek State Park Walking Tour, Santa Monica Mountains, [Sponsored by the San Fernando Valley Scottish Rite]

Attention all Masons and Respective Family Members!!!

What: An introductory guided walking tour (light hiking) over easy terrain on two of the most popular trails at the park. You will learn about the indigenous history of the park, its colonization and ownership over the years, geology, flora and fauna, and film history (MASH, Planet of the Apes, How Green is my Valley, Pleasantville, etc.). We will also visit an ancient volcanic rock pool. If the Visitor's Center is open, we can tour its exhibits and attend a brief video screening that depicts the highlights of the park. This event is open to all masons and respective family.

When: Two Guided Tours: June 12, 2021, & June 13, at 8:45 a.m. The duration of the tour is approximately 2 hours. Upon completion of the tour, you are welcome to remain at the park at your leisure. Each tour will be limited to 15 persons. You are encouraged to register early to ensure a spot.

Where: 1925 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, Lower Parking Lot (Picnic Tables and bathrooms). Parking is \$3/hr. or \$12/day: To carpool (Recommended), meet in front of

Albertson's Super Market, 26521 Agoura Road, Calabasas. We will depart from the parking lot at 8:30 a.m. sharp and form a caravan to the park entrance kiosk, which is staffed by park rangers.

Donation: \$25/person/tour

Registration: Your check is your reservation-First come, first served. Make your check to "SFVSR," and mail it to: Bro. Eduardo Estrada, 4507 Park Cordero, Calabasas, CA 91302. Your check must be received by May 28, 2021. A Release of Liability form will be made available to you by email once you are registered. It must be signed by each participant prior to entering the trailhead. The applicable COVID-19 guidelines will be determined at a later date. Include one application per person. Include the following information for each person with your check for each person: name, mailing address, email address, cell phone number, emergency contact name and phone number.

