

In the



Daylight

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

November 2021

Improving Ourselves

Foreword ...

When we Masons talk about the aims of Freemasonry, we often speak of personal growth and the improvement of the lives of others. Through our adherence to the ideals and tenets of Freemasonry, we strive to improve our own lives, our relationships with family, friends, neighbors, business colleagues, etc., and to act in our everyday lives with honesty, reverence, kindness, justice, respect and so forth. Through our charitable endeavors we seek to improve other people's situations in life and thus to create a better world for them and us. All of these salutary efforts are rewarding and help us grow as individuals.

Yet, how do we grow and improve as a Lodge that already excels? Maybe with more:

Engaging activities which focus on the varied interests of the members;

Enthusiastic and active participation at all levels (not only just officers but including side liners as mentors / coaches / committeemen / friends);

Interesting meetings and opportunities for social interaction among members and non-members;

Frequent engagement with the public (individually or collectively) to let them know who we are and what we do;

Inspiration for and inclusion of newer members and applicants, as appropriate;

Exceptional ritual and ceremonial practice.

November is a good time to think about all of the foregoing, as we elect and appoint new officers, and as new opportunities to be involved become available.

Moreover, we should not overlook the Grand Lodge's 2025 Strategic Plan and its suggestions, much of which we are already doing intuitively. Nevertheless, the Plan contains many good ideas to help us with our goals. They include:

Focusing on the true friendships that arise from belonging to a Lodge and sharing that focus with the public;

Focusing on the Craft's ideals of diversity, inclusiveness, and harmony and letting others in the community see and know that we affably welcome men of all races and backgrounds; and

Proudly sharing our Masonic experiences, so that the public understands our contributions.

For me, the most important take-away from the Strategic Plan is its emphasis on "talking-up" (my phrase) the fraternity with friends, family members, neighbors, business and personal associates, and the public in general. The plan emphasizes that "California Masons are free to discuss the principals, philosophies, and purposes of Freemasonry, so long as they do not divulge [any] portion of the ritual that is written in cypher."

Our Lodge is already so outstanding in so many ways. Can we do better? Sure. Why not? Please let our leadership know how you can help.

Fraternally, Bro. David I. Karp, Editor

November Trestle Board is on page 2.

Just What Do Masons Do to Improve?

Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from the web page at <https://pagrandlodge.org/just-what-do-freemasons-do/>.

“Freemasonry, at its core, is unlike any other social or fraternal organization. While many groups work to improve their community, such as Rotary, Kiwanis, or Elks, Freemasonry takes a different approach. Whereas most organizations help their community as a group, Freemasons start with the individual. We believe that by improving and educating our members, they will become better citizens, which will naturally lead to them wanting to take an active part in improving themselves and their communities.

“This is accomplished through moral lessons provided during the Masonic degrees and reinforced at each meeting. There is an old adage that says, “Freemasonry makes good men better.” While it’s certainly a nice phrase, it doesn’t tell you much. Perhaps a better definition is, “Freemasonry provides its members with a philosophical outlook on life by conferring degrees and reinforcing these values through Lodge activities.”

“Let’s give an example. Freemasonry teaches the importance of helping others, especially those that cannot help themselves. This idea is inculcated at each Masonic meeting, during the opening and closing ceremonies. It is also reinforced when members support charitable projects on their own or within their Lodge. Charity is not forced upon our members. Instead, they choose to support charity because they believe it’s the right thing to do.

“But, remember, we’re not just a fraternity of charity. This is but one example of how our strategy of individual improvement leads to a larger change. Just as charity is a natural occurrence stemming from the lessons taught in Freemasonry, so is brotherly love and the importance of truth. Freemasons take their

commitment to aiding their Brothers seriously and work hard to live true to their word.

“What do Freemasons do? We make ourselves better men by learning that service is the greatest gift of all.”

November Trestle Board

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

November 4, 2021 Exec. Comm. Mtg.

November 6, 2021, 10AM Stated Meeting. Tiled. Dress: Casual. Elections.

November 11, 2021, 7PM Zoom Fellowship, Join Zoom Meeting

November 13, 2021, 10AM Hiram Award Ceremony for Bro. Barry Mann

November 19, 2021 - poss. golf tournament

November 20, 2021, 9AM 1st Degree Conferral(s). Dress: Formal.

November 27, 2021, 9AM 1st Degree Conferral(s). Dress: Formal

Looking Ahead to December

December 2, 2021 Exec. Comm. Mtg.

December 4, 2021 Stated Meeting. Tiled. Dress: Casual.

December 11, 2021 Third Degree Conferral(s). Dress Formal.



A True Story (Submitted Anonymously)

A teenage son saw that his father was very close with another gentleman. They were very good friends. They spent time together; they joked; they shared confidences, successes and disappointments; they met for lunch and their families became close, visiting at each other's home, and sharing holiday times together. Their wives became good friends. The son observed and admired the mutual affection among them.

Years later, the son joined his father's Masonic Lodge, where he learned that his father's very close friend was also a Mason in that Lodge. Time passed. The son became a Master Mason. He sat in Lodge with his father and his father's buddies including this particular close friend. At this time, the son was building a modestly successful business career.

One day, the father's friend reached out to the son. It became clear to the son that his father's friend was in desperate straits. He did not have the money to put food on the table. Without equivocation or any reservation, the son sent his father's friend the most money the son could manage without imposing financial hardship on his own family. There was no expectation of repayment or anything else in return.

Did the son send the check to his father's friend because the friend was a Mason? No, the son sent it, and never regretted doing so, because *the son was a Mason*.

That is what Masons do who have internalized the lessons of Freemasonry and its charitable values and have thus improved their lives and the lives of others.

Masonic Recognition

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

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

Past Masters by Affiliation

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

Hiram Award*

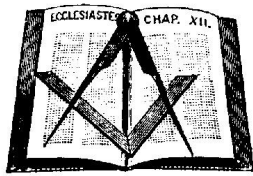
Demetrio C. Cahapisan, Jr., PM (2013)
Alberto L. Casanova, Jr., PM (2016)
Keith S. Cotton (2017)
Bruce L. Ewald, PM (2011)
Bruce L. Hawley, PM (2000)**
David I. Karp (2020)
Barry Mann (imminently in 2021)
John T. Seletos (2017)
Thomas K. Sheehan (2014)
Rogelio L. Soriano, PM (2018)
Steven A. Wolvek, PM (2019)

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

** Deceased.

DUES NOTICE

Per our Treasurer, 2022 dues will be \$158.00. To avoid an online processing fee payable by the Lodge, send your dues via Zelle directly to the Lodge bank account. Email address is Cfsjuniorwarden@gmail.com. Or mail a check, payable to Clarence F. Smith Daylight No. 866, directly to the Secretary. His address is in iMember2.0 if you don't have it.



Masonic Education: The Key to Unlocking Self-Improvement

Editor's Note: The following is quoted from <https://freemasonryart.com/blogs/blog/masonic-education-the-key-to-unlocking-self-improvement>.

"When we joined Freemasonry, most of us did it for the opportunity to improve ourselves. You have probably heard the claim made by some Masonic Organizations "We make good men better" and it is quite attractive, but one thing we insist in ignoring is, the word "Self" in Self-Improvement.

"Yes, Freemasonry contains lessons that have been passed from generation to generation, making Men around the world better. However, this improvement must begin from within; From a genuine desire to acquire new knowledge and the desire to help others in the process.

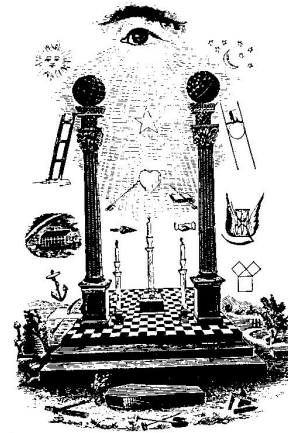
"What good is it to attend a Stated Meeting, and leave feeling exactly the same as when you walked in. Although fellowship before and after the meeting is irreplaceable, we can do a better job at imparting knowledge on our Brethren. Instead of just going through the motions of the meeting, with a tolerant attitude, let us become energized and share some bits of Light with the Brothers. If you read something the night before that you found helpful, would it not be helpful to your Brethren? Of course it will! Take the initiative to offer your contribution to the W:.M.: and ask to share it with the Brothers.

"Attending the meeting is not enough, we have to become active participants of this great organization, which can do great things when its members are actively contributing. Just Listening

to the meeting minutes is not enough to help you grow. Masonic Education must play an integral role in the meeting's agenda.

"So, I encourage everyone to join me in taking one of those Masonic books from the bookshelf. Dust it off a bit and begin to rekindle a burning desire for Light. Knowledge attracts knowledge. Therefore, if we do a little to improve our minds today, we will be better men tomorrow, which is the reason we joined this great fraternity after all.

"Improve thyself and through instructive tongues, inspire others to follow."



"Masons seek to improve themselves and to help others, not because they think they should, but because they want to. Because of this crucial distinction, Masons give freely of themselves and ask nothing in return. Nationally, Masons give away more than \$3 million every day to relieve suffering. When you're a Mason, the satisfaction derived from selfless service is immeasurable, for it is in helping others that one most helps himself." <https://massfreemasonry.org/what-it-means-to-be-a-mason/self-improvement-2/>



Understanding Leadership

As men and Masons, each one of us is a leader in one way or another. It may be at home, at work, in the community, or in an organization like ours.

If in a choir, one may be the conductor, or the principal soloist in the various sections, i.e., soprano, alto, tenor or bass. In a choir too, there are many singers, and probably a piano accompanist.. Each, though, understands his or her role and the role of others, works with the others to sing in harmony, and produces a marvelous sound, the result being greater than the sum of its parts.

Leadership in a Lodge like ours takes different forms as well, whether we are elected or appointed as officers or we volunteer for a specific task. Or even if we just participate in Lodge meetings or activities as "team members." The result should be the same, each one of us understanding our roles and the roles of others, working in harmony, and producing a marvelous experience, the result being greater than the sum of its parts.

In the view of this writer, leadership equates to responsibility. And in a small Lodge such as ours, each one of us is responsible for the Lodge's growth, maintenance, and longevity. In other words, each of us is responsible for the success of the Lodge, whether as leaders or as "team members" supporting and cooperating with the leaders of the Lodge.

In thinking about how we can improve ourselves as a Lodge (see "Foreword," *ante* at p. 1), we should also think about our understanding of leadership and leadership development. This is

consistent with the goals of the Grand Lodge of California:

"We are committed to engaging and retaining members and their families through an enhanced, sustaining, and relevant membership experience. Fellowship, family, and lifelong learning are important to us. Leadership development and Masonic education are offered in a variety of formats to assist members in their continuous pursuit of knowledge, helping them excel both inside and outside the fraternity."

<https://freemason.org/discover-masonry/what-we-do/> .

In searching the internet about leadership, the following article came up, from the website of the University of Rochester at <https://www.rochester.edu/emerging-leaders/15-qualities-that-make-a-great-leader/> . It is entitled *15 Qualities That Make a Great Leader* by Phil Sennett. For us, this is instructive and useful as guidance whether here, in business, at home, or in the community as we strive to improve ourselves.

In order better to understand some of the qualities of leadership, in whatever context, here is the article's list of those 15 qualities:

"Accountable: Leaders must hold themselves and their teams accountable for the work each are responsible for. Ownership is a key part of leadership.

"Courageous: Leaders must have courage in many various instances, such as correcting behavior or making unpopular decisions.

"Effective communicator: Communicating in a clear, positive way creates a path for the rest of the team, project, or meeting you are leading.

"Empathetic: Leaders need to understand how the people around them are feeling about projects, decisions, morale, and more.

"Flexible: Working with a team of people means tasks, goals, and responsibilities will shift. A flexible leader can adjust and maintain ownership of the team, project, or meeting at hand.

[continues on next pg., see "Leadership"]

[“Leadership, ctd. from p. 5]

"Focused: Being clear on goals will help the rest of a leader's team be efficient and focused.

"Humble: Great leaders admit their mistakes and elevate those around them. Humility is essential when leading a team.

"Innovative: Leaders should be able to develop ideas, filter the ideas of others, solve problems and complete many other tasks that require innovation and creativity.

"Passionate: Teams are motivated by a drive towards a common goal. The leader of this team should be passionate about a goal, creating unity among their team to work together.

"Patient: Mistakes, miscommunications, and failures are inevitable. Leaders need to be patient through these times.

"Problem-solver: Developing problem-solving skills allows teams to move past roadblocks with minimal disruption.

"Resilient: Leaders must also bear the burden of pushing through to improve what they own. This might mean creating new processes, hiring new people, or changing the status quo.

"Respectful: Great leaders treat their teams with respect, gaining respect in return.

"Transparent: Being open and honest makes work more efficient and enjoyable.

"Trusting: Leadership requires delegation trusting their team to complete what they are assigned with excellence produces positive morale and mutual respect."

To improve ourselves in Masonry, individually and as a Lodge, is to understand these qualities and how we may develop and apply them in our own lives, and in the life of our Lodge. In such a way, we may thus help ourselves and each other to excel both inside and outside the fraternity.

Fraternally,
Bro. David I. Karp

CFS Daylight Lodge Officers for 2021

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

Senior Warden Edgar O. Yeghiazaryan

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

Treasurer Barry Mann

Secretary Akram Alawar

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

Chaplain Archimedes (“Kim”) S. Cabanig

Senior Deacon Spartak (“Spo”) Khachatryan

Junior Deacon Ibrahim Hannoun

Marshal Keith S. Cotton

Senior Steward Michael (“Mike”) J. Chavez

Junior Steward Rami Alawar

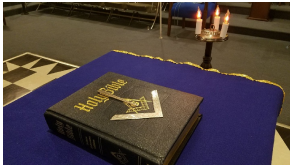
Organist Majd Fahma

Tiler William (“Bill”) C. Raddatz

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

Candidates’ Coach Roger L. Soriano, PM

Inspector Leland H. Celestre, PM



Why Don't More Masons Attend Lodge?

I “googled” the question, “Why don't more Masons attend Lodge?” On a web page at <https://www.quora.com/If-you-are-or-were-a-Free-Mason-what-made-you-stop-attending-your-lodge>, I found this response from M. B. Moore, Past Master, 32° Scottish Rite Mason, Shriner:

“I am an active member of the lodge, but I'll give a few examples from what I've seen during my years as a Mason.

“Involvement. Many new brothers get into the lodge and hope to get involved and be an active member. Sometimes, the problem is the leadership doesn't give new members enough responsibility and they ultimately fade out.

“Lack of Masonic Education. In some lodges, when a [new] Mason can finally attend a meeting, he finds himself disappointed to discover that the lengthy meeting is nothing but a long and drawn out process of paying bills and grumbling over fund raisers. No interesting discussions on symbolism. No practice on floor work. Nothing productive to make him a better Mason. Many masons who see that it's nothing but a business meeting tend to lose interest and cease to attend lodge.

“Drama. Nothing turns brothers off more than drama going on in the lodge. While we are a tight group, we are not immune to conflicts between individuals. We are human, after all. After hearing all [about] brotherly love and affection, and looking forward to harmony in the lodge, a conflict may arise that sends them the other way. It's very rare, but it's not out of the realm of possibility.

“So, what can we do to increase attendance in our lodges?

“Involvement. The leadership in the lodge (usually the Master) has plenty of options when it comes to getting men involved in the lodge. There are many committees that the Master can use to help him run the lodge. Appoint a newly raised brother into these leadership positions and make him feel important.

“Masonic Education. Have masonic education every meeting night. Have a masonic education committee to put together educational programs at each stated communication. This keeps the membership interested and keeps them coming back.

“Keeping the Harmony. While I know good and well that we will have conflict, we must learn to compromise. Remember a certain working tool that reminds us that we are a ‘... society of friends and brothers among whom no contention should ever exist, but that noble contention, of who can best work and best agree.’”



[Our Open House/Information Meeting of September 18, 2021, with Members, Masons from other Lodges, Scouts, Applicants, and invited Guests. Just another way we are improving ourselves. Photo by Bro. Steven Engstrom.]



Proven Self-Improvement Tips from Freemasonry

Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from a web page of Illinois Freemasonry at

<https://ilmason.org/our-blog/2020/10/5/five-practical-tips-for-self-improvement>.

“We all want to be better. We want to be better at our job, better in our social lives, and better in our homes. The question is, how? How do you find a practical course of action? How do you stick to it? How do you know it works? You may be surprised to learn that Freemasonry offers solid self-improvement tips to help you be successful in life. Here are five tips for self-improvement that have been field-tested by Freemasons for more than 300 years. They may not be your keys to success in life but they are proven steps to getting you onto the road to success.

“1. Believe in something bigger than yourself.... [Find] a sense of awe and wonder in the face of something that exceeds the self. A glimpse, perhaps, of the eternal.

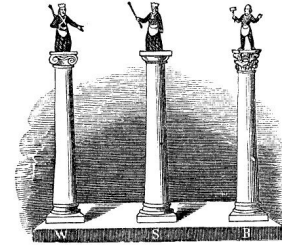
“2. Be optimistic.... Being optimistic is a choice and a discipline. It's practical because you have to consciously engage optimism every day.... Hopefulness means that even when you are suffering, you trust that your circumstances are temporary. In that hopeful trust lies an enduring, functional optimism that will see you through.

“3. Serve your community.... The important thing is to do something, even a small thing, purposefully. It's important to know that belonging to a community to a neighborhood, a

township, a group of people, a religion means you are also one of its stewards.

“4. Choose mastery over mindlessness.... Everyone has a bad habits list. And everyone has a list of healthy habits to start. Habits form because we are creatures that rely on establishing routines to kind of automate our days.... [¶] But what if you made a promise to yourself to remember to snap out of [your routines] and live in the moment.... [When] you're really participating in your day, those moments are almost thrilling. Right there in your regular day, you're suddenly aware of the details of your environment.

“5. The final tip is be kind. This is the logical result of all the tips above. If you believe in something bigger than yourself, then you also think everyone you see, everyone you meet, lives under the umbrella of your belief. Which surely leads you to be more optimistic, since all circumstances are temporary under the constant of that eternal thing you believe in. This shows you to value your fellow-creatures' lives enough to serve them humbly and sincerely, which reminds you that life is a limited resource and maybe you should pay closer attention to every moment. Which means you see the many, many small, seemingly insignificant opportunities to change the tenor of a moment. It means you have the motivation and presence of mind to choose, in those moments when others are casually cruel, when others are insufferable, when others are indifferent, when others are afraid to act to render a kindness. [¶] Kindness is a Freemason's superpower. I like to call small acts of kindness 'micro heroics' because there is a slim chance that engaging in a daily practice of being kind may save the world.... [I]magine the accumulated effect of hundreds of acts of micro-heroism building up day after day, week after week, year after year. At some point, all that accumulated kindness will tip the balance in someone's life, and it'll be like a miracle. You'll have done the right thing at the right time to, with a single, seemingly insignificant act, change their life. [¶] And yours.”



Bro. Barry's Hiram Award Ceremony Upcoming on November 13, 2021.

Please join Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866 on November 13, 2021, 10AM, in-person, as the Lodge honors Brother Barry Mann with the Hiram Award. The event is open to the public. Formal attire and masks please.

After the ceremony, lunch will be co-hosted by Hiram recipients Bro. Barry Mann (2021) and Bro. David I. Karp (2020, on Zoom), but only if permitted by the COVID situation.

Bro. Barry was our inaugural Chaplain in 2017, and has been our Treasurer since 2018 (He is retiring at the end of this year.) He has given exemplary continuous service to our Lodge since its inception and to other Lodges before then. He was initiated on November 8, 2007, passed on April 10, 2008, and raised a Master Mason on May 29, 2008, all at Hollywood Lodge No. 355, where he also served as Chaplain in 2008 and 2009. He has also served on the Building Associations for two Lodge properties.

The Hiram Award is presented to a Master Mason who has served the Lodge and the Masonic Fraternity with devotion over and above the ordinary. It is the highest honor (other than being Master of the Lodge) that can be bestowed on a member of a Masonic Lodge.

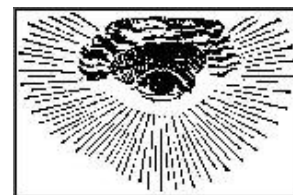
Congratulation to Bro. Barry.

From the East

Brethren,
As we enter November let us give thanks for all our blessings that we received this year, notwithstanding the pandemic, which blessings include our good health and our intact livelihoods. Let us reflect back and remember all the struggles and uncertainty that filled this year, and be grateful that we were able to endure and continue the year on a strong note.

As we wind up this year, the 2022 Officers have been hard at work practicing to qualify for their respective stations next year. Please, join us at the November Stated meeting as we hold our Annual Election of Officers. Let us all hold steadfast in this joyful transition as we get our Officers ready to tackle the 2022 Masonic Year. If any members are interested in becoming an Officer, feel free to reach out to myself, or our Officer's Coach WB Steve Wolvek or our Senior Warden Brother Edgar.

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



From the West

Brethren,
 There is an Armenian Proverb which says, "Spring will not come with one flower."
https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/14123903.Armenian_Proverb. Which reminds me of another saying: "Many hands make light work." In other words, none of us can go it alone and we must act together to keep up the excellence of this Lodge and improve it. Think of a way that you can help in 2022 and let me know. I'd be happy to hear from you.

Fraternally, Bro. Edgar O. Yeghiazaryan, SW

From the South

Brethren,
 "Aanhin ang palasyo kung ang nakatira ay kuwago? (What good is a palace if only owls live in it?)
 "This is one of the Filipino proverbs that emphasizes what is truly valuable in life, and that is relationships and family, not money. Owls tend to inhabit abandoned structures, hence signifying emptiness or loneliness. The palace signifies wealth..." See,
<https://www.esquiremag.ph/long-reads/features/filipino-proverbs-list-a00293-20191220>.
 Each of us is very lucky to have such valuable relationships, within the Lodge and without. It would not surprise me to know that this is the result of Masonic self-improvement.

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

From our Treasurer

Brethren,
 Lodge dues for this coming year will be \$158.00. Please make your payment directly to the Lodge and DO NOT pay through the Grand Lodge portal.

Fraternally,
 Bro. Barry Mann, Treasurer

From our Secretary

Brethren,
 Ever since we were young, we were told to excel in academics, and to get good grades, in order to get better opportunities in life. Never were we told about self-improvement and personal development, which play an equally important role in our lives.

As we grow older, we come to realize that each of us has two "selves:" our Ego self and our Core self. I want to focus on the Core self in this discussion.

Our Core self is our true self, our natural soul self -- our essence. It is our passion, joy, gifts and talents, our ability to love and to be creative. Self-improvement must be targeted on our Core self. It starts with being more self-aware, getting to know ourselves better.

Core Self-awareness is an ongoing journey: as life progresses, we are met with different experiences and challenges, which make us more aware of our personalities, thoughts and feelings. So, in order to be on the path of self-improvement, it is important never to lose touch with our self.

Self-improvement lets us identify our personal strengths and play on them. It gives us a better understanding of what we are seeking - goal setting - and where we are likely to thrive and excel.

Self-Improvement means that we overcome our weaknesses and we become able to step out of our comfort zone. It lets us face our fears, try new things, take risks and challenge ourselves.

We can improve our Core Selves only by winnowing out the old false beliefs about our adequacies and worth. All our efforts to self-improve must bring us more of the joy and inner peace that we are seeking; otherwise it will be doomed to failure.

Fraternally,
 Bro. Akram Alawar, Secretary