

In the



Daylight

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

April 2022

Fun and Freemasonry

Foreword ...

April is a many-faceted month, full of: religious observances (Ramadan [begins 4/2 at sundown and lasts a month], Passover [begins 4/15 at sundown and lasts 8 days], Easter and related observances [4/17 or 4/24 and certain preceding Holy Days]); tax return submissions (4/15); Holocaust Remembrance Day (4/28); April Fools' Day (4/1). Some are joyous and/or fun, some somber, some downright unpleasant (tax day if you have to pay).

April also happens to be designated as National Poetry Month (<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-poetry-month-april/>). That can be fun for some, like me. As an English major in college, sometimes fun, I studied plenty of poetry, some of which actually referred to the month of April, for example:

Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* written in Middle English in the 14th Century ("Whan that Aprille with his shoures sote / The droghte of Marche hath perced to the rote..." [for translation, see <https://www.sparknotes.com/nofear/lit/the-canterbury-tales/general-prologue/>];

T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*, which actually alludes to Chaucer's *Tales* ("April is the cruellest month, breeding / Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing / Memory and desire, stirring / Dull roots with spring rain."

[<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/47311/the-waste-land>].

I've even written some poetry which is very rewarding for me

(<https://karpmediation.wordpress.com/category/poetry/>), even fun sometimes (see below).

But the most fun for me is writing essays, articles, stories, poems, whatever as you can tell from these editions, and especially this one.

I hope you enjoy the April edition of "In the Daylight." It puts some fun into Freemasonry, I hope. (FYI, the serious stuff starts on page 7.)

Fraternally,
Bro. David I. Karp
Editor

Guilty of Attempted Poetry

There once was a lodge named for Clarence.
Its goal was to build self-assurance
A place you could go
For your character to grow
A good place to make an appearance

In the Lodge we learn lessons of life
And spend time away from the wife
There's a few without spouses
At home in their houses
Either way we join in without strife

If you want to find a good friend
Come to lodge where we all attend
As our fellowship grows
And your involvement shows
It's a good way to spend a weekend.

Masons Suggest Renaming Donner Pass

Donner Pass, located between San Francisco CA and Reno NV has long suffered from the myth that some of the immigrants in George and Jacob Donner's group in 1846-1847 cannibalized deceased companions to stay alive as they attempted in winter to cross the pass en route to the Sacramento Valley. "(After examining remains from the campsite, researchers in 2010 announced that they had been unable to find any human bones or other physical evidence of cannibalism.)" See, Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Donner Pass." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Invalid Date.

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Donner-Pass> .

Despite the fact that the pass, rising to an elevation of more than 7,000 feet, is the most important transmontane route (rail and highway) connecting San Francisco with Reno (*id.*), the stigma of the name remains.

The stain on the name of the pass recently came to the attention of the Grand Lodges of California and Nevada, inasmuch as both Reno and San Francisco are historic hubs of Freemasonry: Reno 13 is the oldest Freemason's lodge in Reno, Nevada, chartered on September 23, 1869 (<http://reno13.org/>) and California 1, founded in 1848, maintains a presence in San Francisco (<https://www.facebook.com/californialodge1>).

Allegorical figures from Freemasonry came to mind, and the matter was put to a vote on what to rename Donner Pass.

The name chosen, of course, was "King Solomon's Pass."

The matter now goes before various state and federal authorities for approval.

April Trestle Board

(We meet in person each month on four Saturdays at 10:00 AM at the Van Nuys Masonic Center, except as otherwise noted. Always subject to change. See Masthead, p. 1 for address.)

April 2, 2022 Lodge Dark
(Master/Wardens Retreat)

April 7, 2022 Executive Comm. Mtg.

April 9, 2022 Stated Meeting. Tiled.
Dress: Casual, Inspector's Official Visit.

April 14, 2022 Zoom fellowship
discontinued.

April 16, 2022 Degree, Special Mtg. or
not

April 17, 2022, Egg Hunt at Balboa Park,
lunchtime. For additional details, contact Bro.
Jhonny Lebrilla, SW.

April 23, 2022 Degree or Special Mtg.

Lodge Contact Information

Worshipful Master
Wor. Edgar O. Yeghiazaryan

Secretary
Bro. Akram Alawar

Grand Lodge to Recognize the Very First Woman Mason

Our Grand Lodge, realizing its neglect for more than 150 years, has decided to recognize the very first woman Mason. A ceremony will be held at the next Annual Communication. A statue is to be erected in her memory. We can thank societal progress, the Grand Lodge's entry into the 21st Century, and our recently installed forward thinking leadership for this innovation.

It has been a secret, shrouded in mystery since time immemorial, that there actually *was* a woman who was made a Mason. Her name was Fran. Unfortunately her last name has been lost in the ages. However, every Master Mason should realize her importance. Furthermore, it is about time the Grand Lodge acted on it.

Curiously, she has shown up in many Masonic writings over time, although, for ages, she has been hidden in plain sight.

Her story is timeless and dates back to the era when King Solomon's Temple was building. She had stowed away on an outbound ship sailing across the Red Sea, but was called back because it was discovered that she was pregnant.

Below is an image of the forthcoming statue. Officially, to protect her unique identity, the words were changed at the base of the statue to obscure her name and condition.

But originally the words were to state, as in a memo left on the Grand Master's desk (but misread): "Called Fran. Some Labor."



CFS Daylight Lodge Officers for 2022

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Worshipful Master | Wor. Edgar O. Yeghiazaryan |
| Senior Warden | Bro. Fernando ("Jhonny") O. Lebrilla, Jr. |
| Junior Warden | Bro. Spartak ("Spo") Khachatryan |
| Treasurer | Bro. Ramiel Malabanan |
| Secretary | Bro. Akram Alawar |
| Asst. Secretary | Bro. Thomas ("Tom") K. Sheehan |
| Chaplain | Bro Christopher "Toby" Robles |
| Senior Deacon | WB Archimedes ("Kim") S. Cabanig., PM |
| Junior Deacon | Bro. Ibrahim Hannoun |
| Marshal | Bro Hamood Hamood |
| Senior Steward | Bro. Elvis Alvarez |
| Junior Steward | Bro. Gerald Alvarez |
| Organist | Bro. Michael Chavez |
| Tiler | Bro. William ("Bill") C. Raddatz |
| Officers' Coach | WB Steven ("Steve") A. Wolvek, PM |
| Candidates' Coach | WB Roger L. Soriano, PM |
| Inspector | WB Leland H. Celestre, PM |



[Pictured above: Masonic Light]



An Old Masonic Meeting Hall Is No More

In the 19th Century, two wannabe entrepreneurs, Abe Wein and Jake Korn, built a two story building for their startup oil company. The Korn-Wein Oil Co. would office on the first floor. The men, both Fellowcraft Masons, intended the second floor as a meeting hall for their Masonic Lodge, accessible from a stairwell at the side of the structure.

The oil company commenced doing business and thrived at first, and the Masonic Lodge gratefully moved in above and began conducting its meetings and conferring degrees.

Years passed. Jake Korn and Abe Wein continued to manage their business, providing heating oil for the community in this cold and dreary wintry community. The business never did that well though. Nevertheless, the meeting hall on the second floor was used by the local Masonic Lodge as planned, until one year, when membership declined precipitously due to absent leadership. At that point, the Lodge room fell into disuse and was abandoned. The Lodge, with just a few older members remaining, merged with another Lodge nearby, as sometimes happens.

As customers of the Korn-Wein Oil Co. would visit over time, to make arrangements for their deliveries or to pay their bills, they would ask Korn or Wein, whoever was working the counter: "WHAT is that noise?" "We keep hearing moans and whines and other eerie sounds emanating from the building."

Regrettably, Korn and Wein both knew of these sounds, and feared that the second floor

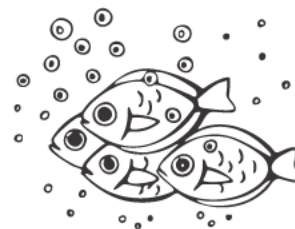
had become haunted. In particular, these scary awful sounds were coming about more frequently, apparently from the stairwell leading down from the lodge room. The whines and wails might have been the echoes of past masters, long gone, bemoaning the decline of the Lodge.

The sounds continued to frighten customers and scared them away. As a result, the Korn-Wein Oil Co. collapsed and closed its doors. The building became dilapidated and a public nuisance.

It was a sad day years later when the building was razed by master masons and others for new construction on the site.

And it was all because of the fright of whining stairs.

The real reason the Deacons and Stewards carry rods today: only to commemorate the fact that, in the Middle Ages, the Deacons and Stewards were fishermen. These were fishing rods, no more no less. The remnant of this tradition is that the Stewards still help the Junior Warden provide food for refreshment. The Deacons gave that up to carry messages instead of fish. And those gavels in the South and West? Nutcrackers, for the garnish to go with the fish.





An Unlikely Acquisition

In an effort to diversify, Pernod Ricard USA is looking to acquire a tire company. This has not yet come to the attention of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission but it has come to the attention of this investigative reporter.

“Pernod Ricard USA (the acquirer) is the premium spirits and wine company in the U.S., and the largest subsidiary of Paris, France-based Pernod Ricard SA.” See, <http://www.hiramwalker.com/about.php>.

Pernod Ricard USA's leading brands include Hiram Walker® Liqueurs, among others. *Id.*

“Pernod Ricard USA urges all adults to consume its products responsibly and has an active campaign to promote responsible drinking.” *Id.*

The target company for this acquisition is The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. See, <https://www.goodyear.com/>.

This may or may not be a hostile takeover. See, <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/h/hostiletakeover.asp>.

If this is a friendly acquisition it will be because both companies believe that one should not drink and drive.

If the acquisition succeeds, hostile or friendly, the company name will be changed.

It will become “Hiram’s Tire.”

Submitted anonymously with the moniker,
“The Attentive Ear”

Masonic Recognition

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

Steven A. Wolvek (2017-2018)

Rogelio L. Soriano (2019)

Celso V. Cardano, Jr. (2020-2021)

Past Masters by Affiliation

Demetrio C. Cahapisan, Jr. (2012)

Celso V. Cardano, Jr. (2012)

Alberto L. Casanova, Jr. (2014)

Emmanuel D. Espiritu (2014)

Bruce L. Ewald (2004-2006)

Bruce L. Hawley (1984)**

Luc Paul, Jr. (2018)

Hiram Award*

Demetrio C. Cahapisan, Jr., PM (2013)

Alberto L. Casanova, Jr., PM (2016)

Keith S. Cotton (2017)

Bruce L. Ewald, PM (2011)

Bruce L. Hawley, PM (2000)**

David I. Karp (2020)

Barry Mann (2021)

John T. Seletos (2017)

Thomas K. Sheehan (2014)

Rogelio L. Soriano, PM (2018)

Steven A. Wolvek, PM (2019)

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

** Deceased.





The Masonic Castle

In Appleton, Wisconsin, there stands a Masonic Castle. “[T]he origin of the brick castle dates back to the 1850s, when the Fox Valley area freemasons began meeting in the area. [¶] But it wasn't until 1924, when their numbers grew, that the freemasons were able to raise \$100,000 to build the castle that still stands at 330 East College Avenue, across from Lawrence University.... [¶] The masonic lodge at the time known as the Waverly Freemasons used the castle as their base of operations until membership and dues dropped, forcing the freemasons to sell the castle in 1985. See, <https://www.postcrescent.com/story/life/events/2021/11/24/mysteries-about-appletons-history-museum-castle/6299349001/> .

It is now a museum. See, <http://www.myhistorymuseum.org/about.html> .

“The Museum's architectural style is Norman Revival, characterized by the use of rough hewn stone and other features reminiscent of medieval castles and churches such as vaulted ceilings, heavy beams and leaded windows.... [¶] The [Masonic] Temple had been a lively community center. It hosted Masonic lodge meetings and events and was used by local churches and other organizations for dances, school proms and banquets - just as today. The Museum today is used as a venue for community and private events.” *Id.*

There is not much public information about the argument that ensued when the castle was being built. Masonic hearsay informs us, however, that a great hullabaloo took place

among the members at one of their Stated Meetings.

The argument was over how realistic the construction should be. The elder members insisted that a moat, at least a dry ditch, be constructed around the castle as an historically accurate “preliminary line of defence.” See, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moat> . The younger members, of which there were fewer in number, thought the idea insane and old-fashioned, which they privately thought of the elders of the Lodge as well, though they kept a tongue of good report about them.

The debate lasted long into the night. Finally, someone called the question and the matter was put to a vote.

The Worshipful Master pronounced that the seniors of the Lodge, who had the majority, had won.

He exclaimed, “So, moat it be.”

The ditch was filled in after many years.



Rumor has it that Kraft Foods will take over the Grand Lodge of California and change the spelling of “the Kraft.” Also the emblem will be modified as shown above.



[Second Degree Conferral, 2/26/22, for Bros. Joseph Chavez and Axle deVilla, both passed to the degree of Fellowcraft. Congratulations!]



[Stated Meeting, 3/5/22, with RW Ivelin Kichukov, Grand Inspector of the Grand Lodge of Russia in attendance. Timing is everything, but Masons transcend political differences and seek a world in harmony, building peace and understanding through friendship and fellowship.]



“All we are saying is give peas a chance.”
John Lemon.

Seriously Now ...

Courtesy of the work of Brother Spartak (“Spo”) Khachatryan, JW, we have a new **website**. Check it out at <http://clarence smith.org>. It’s great. Among other things, birthdays of the Brothers are listed on the calendar page of the website; so they will not be repeated here.

Bro. Fernando (“Jhonny”) O. Lebrilla, Jr., SW, announced that there will be an **Egg Hunt** on April 17, 2022, around lunchtime, probably at Balboa Park. Fun and Freemasonry, like this edition’s title. Please contact Bro. Jhonny directly for additional event information.

Your editor, Bro. David I. Karp, has been publishing **articles at patch.com** to create public awareness for the Lodge. The latest is about our Russian visitor (see at left). You can read it at: <https://patch.com/california/encino/warm-welcome-russian-mason-even-difficult-times-nodx>.

Our Children’s **Book Drive** yielded more than 225 books destined for the LAUSD Homeless Education Program. Donations were made by Brothers of the Lodge, neighbors, friends, and family.

Since our Lodge is now meeting in person four times a month and attendance has fallen off for our zoom fellowship programming, our WM has determined that we are **discontinuing these zooms** in April and in future months. Maybe we can restart a monthly happy hour gathering in the future, instead, if someone wishes to arrange it.

Finally, Wor. Edgar has established the date and time of our next **Open House** and has appointed Bro. David I. Karp as event chair. It will take place on May 21, 2022, 11AM-2PM, with lunch included for our visitors. Attire: Business Casual, masks optional. Brothers may have to pay for lunch, undecided. Details and RSVPS: Go to the Facebook event page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/655750339083380>. No formal presentation planned, but *many* Brothers should attend to chat with our visitors before, during and after lunch. See the WM’s article for more.



[Third Degree Conferral upon Bros. Joseph Manalo and Martin Manalo who were raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, 3/19/22.]

Scottish Rite First Degree Demonstration, April 29, 2022

Here's something from outside our Lodge!

All Masons are cordially invited to join Archimedes Lodge No 871 and Pasadena Scottish Rite as we demonstrate the Scottish Rite version of the Entered Apprentice Degree.

Tickets Required Tiled Meeting Open to EA, FC, and MM; Must be a member of the Grand Lodge of California or recognized jurisdiction.

Date & Time: Friday, April 29, 2022 with Dinner at 630pm, Degree at 730pm

Location: Pasadena Scottish Rite, 150 N. Madison Ave, Pasadena, CA

Reservations and Tickets:

<https://2022ArchimedesScottishFirstDegree.BPT.me>

Facebook Event: <https://fb.me/e/11k0qXOI9>
(Please Share)

Questions: Call (626) 768-3448 OR Email archimedeslodge@gmail.com

Reserve your seat TODAY, Limited Space and Ticket Sales CLOSE Friday, April 22..

Shriners' Walk & Run 2 Heal Kids, September 18, 2022

Another event from beyond our doors. This information comes from the website at

https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/VanNuys/WalkRun2HealKids5K10K?rsus_100-200-643358b2-932d-4803-a729-3abff4c6f3a6 :

Shriners Children's is celebrating their 100th year of helping children. We are proud to announce that you have helped bring Walk & Run 2 Heal Kids 5K 10K to our 6th year. We were virtual in 2020 and cancelled in 2021 due to coronavirus restrictions, but we are back by popular demand for 2022 to celebrate Shriners 100th year!

The event is to take place at Woodley Park [6350 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys, CA US 91406] as runners run along park paths through beautiful Lake Balboa Park on Sunday, September 18, 2022.

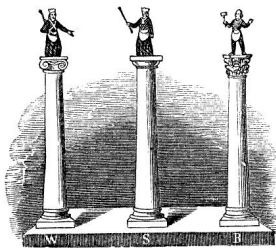
Proceeds from the event will go to provide exceptional pediatric specialty care at Shriners Children's Southern California. Shriners experienced team provides compassionate, innovative treatment to children with orthopedic conditions, burn scars, cleft lip and palate and other complex medical needs regardless of their family's ability to pay. Their personalized approach allows children to rise to their full potential. This event helps spread awareness to families in need.

The event expects to draw 700-800 participants and is open to the entire community. This is a morning of exercise, food, drink and live entertainment for the entire community.

Additional race information can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/Walk-and-Run-2-Heal-Kids-5k-10k-264596933884243>



[2019, the last time we participated in the Shriners' 5K/10K, when we passed water to the Runners at a water station . It was fun!]



From the East – About our Open House in May

Brethren,
As you probably already know, I have established the date and time of our next Open House as suggested by the Grand Master for Public Awareness Month. It will take place on May 21, 2022 from 11AM to 2PM at the Lodge. I have appointed Brother David I. Karp as event chair for the Open House. He has suggested the following for the event:

Our visitors will be offered lunch at no charge, with the Brothers to donate \$10.00 for their own lunch and any shortfall to be paid by the Lodge or the Junior Wardens fund.

If possible, lunch can be a BBQ at the back of the Lodge so long as we have good weather and permission to use it. Bro. David asks that

one of the Pillars obtain such permission. If a BBQ, Bro. David suggests hot dogs (Hebrew National of course, all beef, no pork products please) and hamburgers and all the fixin's, cold drinks, etc. If not a BBQ, he suggests Subway sandwiches (turkey, tuna). The Lodge can decide on something else to serve if it so desires. If a BBQ, maybe we can move tables and chairs outside, otherwise indoors will be fine in the upstairs dining room. Brothers will need to volunteer for food service, as Bro. David will be otherwise occupied (see below). Perhaps Bro. Jhonny or another volunteer or several can arrange and oversee food procurement, BBQ-ing, and clean-up, as Bro. David will be handling other segments of the event and Bro. Spo is busy getting ready for his wedding (Congratulations Brother)!

Bro. David does not plan a formal presentation for the Open House this time. Instead, he and a few other Brothers will be stationed in our Lodge room during the event. Outside and/or in our dining room, Brothers may meet and greet our visitors as they arrive, visit with them over lunch, show them around, and ultimately escort our visitors, one or two Brothers per visitor, to the Lodge room. Bro. David will happily show them around the Lodge room with explanations that do not reveal any secrets and he will provide some written material, as in past years, for the visitors to take and review then or thereafter.

As you probably already know, Bro. David has already begun advertising this event. He is donating the first \$50 of advertising cost, and will ask at the April Stated Meeting for an additional sum of up to \$150.00 for advertising, photocopying and other materials.

We will also vote a budget for food for the visitors if necessary. If the Lodge wants the Brothers' lunch to be "no charge" too, we can decide that as well.

Be sure to attend the Stated Meeting for the above decisions and a review of the plan for the Open House.

[Continues next page, see "East"]

["East" continued from page 9]

Bro. David asks that Brothers who are willing to participate in the event should contact him, preferably by email, and let him know of their willingness and availability. He would also like to have a planning meeting on Saturday, May 14, 10AM, in our upstairs dining room for the event. (Unfortunately, I will not be available on that day as I will be on vacation; but I will be back in time to attend and take an active part in the Open House.)

The Open House serves many purposes: creating public awareness of course, so that the public better understands who we are and what we do (the Brothers can chat up Freemasonry and the Lodge informally at the Open House); allowing an additional opportunity for fellowship among us; satisfying our obligation to Grand Lodge for the month of May; and giving us a goal that we can all prepare for, get excited about, and participate in, for the betterment of the Lodge in general and ourselves in particular. It does not matter if the event does not produce many or any new applicants, as we do not solicit membership anyway. And if Bro. David advises that there may be a poor turnout, well, we can always cancel the Open House and do something else that is productive.

I hope that you will appreciate this opportunity and that we will have a good showing of Brothers and visitors. I think the event will be good for the Lodge. And probably fun, too.

Fraternally from the East,
Wor. Edgar O. Yeghiazaryan
Master



From the West

Brethren,
“The Senior Warden's primary duty is to assist the Worshipful Master in opening and closing the Lodge. In the absence of the Worshipful Master, the Senior Warden presides over the Lodge.”
<https://www.masonic-Lodge-of-education.com/senior-warden.html> .

My tasks this year as Senior Warden are varied, and time consuming, and the responsibility is demanding at times. It is what it is. On the other hand, this is great training for the time when I may become Master. I also see my part in the management of the Lodge as a long range project to prepare the Lodge for its future, planning for future events, anticipating and “seeding” the future officer line, strengthening the friendships and fellowships among us, overseeing membership retention and helping the Lodge in its charitable work.

I am so thankful to the past masters and present officers and members who regularly attend and ably assist in making the Lodge the success that it has become. There are others I appreciate as well, who assist behind the scenes and in the Lodge itself, especially but not only our newest members, and even our applicants, many of whom have “jumped in with both feet” and taken on responsibilities that greatly enhance our fraternal experience. You know who you are; thank you.

The Lodge will be dark on the first Saturday of April due to the Masters and Wardens Retreat. Our Stated Meeting will take place on the second Saturday, April 9, at 10AM. It is unclear whether we will meet on April 16 as it is part of the holiday weekend; the Master will decide and let us know.

[continues on next page, see “West”]

["West," continue from page 10]

On Sunday, April 17, we will have an Egg Hunt at Balboa Park around lunchtime. It is a family event; spouses and children are welcome! I will have more details about the Egg Hunt either at the Stated Meeting or via social media, or both.

April is filled with holidays as Bro. David pointed out in his Foreword to this edition. My family and I send our best wishes to all who celebrate.

Fraternally from the West,
Bro. Fernando ("Jhonny") O. Lebrilla, Jr.
Senior Warden



From the South – About Our New Website and More

Brethren,
The new website for our lodge is now up and running. You can visit it by going to <http://clarencefsmith.org>.

If you have any suggestions on content that we could add, remove or change, please feel free to let me know. The website is built with Wordpress through cPanel. If any brother has experience with Wordpress, or would like to learn, you may contact me and I will look into setting up a user account for yourself.

Although I am still a beginner at building websites, I thought this could be a fun opportunity from which to learn while providing a website which could be beneficial for the lodge, our charitable events, and our public

image. Think of what you like to do for fun and with a little bit of imagination, you could have fun in a way that contributes to our flourishing lodge.

Please join us for our monthly stated meetings on the first Saturday of every month, unless otherwise scheduled. We are fortunate enough to have a professional chef Brother as a member of our lodge, who does what he loves by preparing some the most delicious lodge-cooked foods for refreshment.

Fraternally from the South,
Bro. Spartak Khachatryan,
Junior Warden



From our Secretary – On Friendship

Friendships are ties formed between two or more people who want to interact. It entails a shared interest in each other's feelings, thoughts, and experiences. Friendships are built on mutual respect, trust, emotional support, and admiration.

According to Degges-White in a study that was cited by Hellman¹, there are four categories of friendship: acquaintance, friend, close friend, and best friend. Friendship develops and strengthens over time as mutual respect grow.

[Continues next page, see "Secretary"]

¹Hellman, Rick. "How to Make Friends: Study Reveals Time it Takes" The University of Kansas. March 28, 2018 (Aug. 23, 2018)

[“Secretary,” continued from page 12]

"Friendships grow when each individual exposes a little more about themselves, and the 'friend-in-the-making' responds with your own self-disclosure. It's how people gain confidence by revealing increasingly intimate or personal information with one another “. According to studies, it takes roughly 50 hours of face time for an acquaintance to become a casual friend, and then a normal friend after another 90 hours. After then, it takes another 200 hours of engagement to create a "close friendship”.

Quality friendships are, without a doubt, critical to our overall pleasure. According to a 2017 study published in the journal *Personal Relationships*², having great friendships in old age is more revealing of general health and happiness than even family engagement and support. Friendship, on the other hand, has long-term rewards. According to studies, those who have good friends are happier, less worried, and feel more like they belong than those who do not. Having a strong network of friends boosts self-esteem and provides much-needed emotional support through difficult times such as illness, the loss of a loved one, or divorce. Healthy relationships play a pivotal role in general happiness. People are healthier, happier, and less stressed when they have good friends to lean onto.

It's worth noting that in today's social media-obsessed environment, people frequently become perplexed regarding their friend status. "The method of 'making sincere friends' has remained unchanged. What has changed, according to Degges-White, is the blanket categorization of acquaintances, acquaintances of acquaintances, and intimate friends with the same title, 'friend.' "Not all of your followers, FB

²Mayo Clinic Staff. “Friendships: Enrich Your Life and Improve Your Health” Mayo Clinic. Sept. 20, 2016 (Aug. 23, 2018) <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/adult-health/in-depth/friendship/art-20044860>

friends, etc. are going to be 'real friend candidates,' because you probably don't have much in common with them, rarely (if ever) see them in person, and can't count on them for much in the way of support."

Friendship and its importance has been discussed in Masonic literature extensively. The importance of friendship was also clearly recognized in the orations published in the late 1740s, which declared that “Masonry is a sanctuary devoted to friendship” and that “every Mason must necessarily be a good friend.”³ A Mason from Épernay also possessed a poem devoted to fraternity that described the Masons as “new but true friends.”⁴

Throughout the century, the maintenance of friendship remained the firm ambition of Masonic sociability, as astronomer Jérôme de Lalande explained in an oration of 1779: “I will, my dear Brothers, speak to you of the excellence of Masonry?... It is Masonry?... that produces that unvarnished politeness?... It is the mother of Friendship?... everything here demonstrates the return of those happy times when men united by the bonds of fraternal friendship knew not the distinctions since introduced by ambition, pride, and fortune.”⁵

Fraternally, Bro. Akram Al-Awar, Secretary

³Kenneth Loisel Associate professor of history at Trinity University, Texas. In 2014 he published *Brotherly Love: Freemasonry and Male Friendship in Enlightenment France* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press). “New but true friends”: Freemasonry and friendship rites in the eighteenth century In *Dix-huitième siècle* Volume 39, Issue 1, 2007, pages 303 to 318. See, https://www.cairn-int.info/journal-dix-huitieme-siecle-2007-1-page-303.htm?contenu_article

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*