

In The



Daylight

Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No.866, F. & A.M.
14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA 91405
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2022 Special Edition

Learning about Masonry and our Lodge

Editor's Note . . .

This special edition has been prepared for use in “information meetings” and at other times when someone has indicated an interest in Freemasonry in general and in our lodge in particular. Many of the ideas expressed herein, and even some of the text, come from the Grand Lodge of California and are included without further reference.

On behalf of the Master of Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866, and the members, we thank you for your interest, we hope the following information illuminates our fraternity, and we welcome any additional questions that you might have.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
David I. Karp, Editor



What is Freemasonry?

It is neither a religion nor a secret society. Rather, Freemasonry, a.k.a. Masonry, is the world's first and largest fraternal organization. It is open to men, 18 and over, of all religions who have a belief in a Supreme

Being. It is important to note that, in lodge, we do not discuss religion or politics, as we are a society of men who strive to find compatibility, friendship and fellowship together, and to strengthen our fraternal bonds with one another. Also, we do not solicit new members; we say: “To be one, ask one.”

Masonry is not a secret society. We make ourselves known with visible meeting places and Masonic Centers, with public ceremonies like the laying of cornerstones. George Washington, one of our most famous Masonic figures, was famous for laying the cornerstone of the Capital building in Washington, D.C. -- , with participation in parades and public events, with our shirts, pins, Masonic rings, service projects, and so forth. We do not hide from the public.

Of course, as a fraternity we have our secrets, too. They include the rituals of our three degrees, known as Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason. Our secrets also include the meanings of the various emblems, symbols and fixtures of a lodge, which one learns about in our ritual ceremonies.

Suffice it to say, that many -- but not all -- of our symbols relate to architecture and geometry because of our history and they are used as representations of certain moral virtues, ethics, ideals, and concepts for living a good and honest life.

For us, Masonry becomes a way of life. Making good men into better men: better for the individual, his family, his work, his lodge, and his community. We believe in helping to make the world a better place.

Ultimately, we are a brotherhood of like-minded men who genuinely care about each other. We develop lifelong friendships with fellow Masons and their families, and we are welcomed at Masonic lodges throughout the United States and the world.

Origins of Freemasonry

In the Middle Ages, the term “freemason” was awarded to highly skilled stonemasons who were hired as free agents to build castles and cathedrals in England and Scotland. Because of the inherent danger of their work, stonemasons formed local organizations, called lodges, to take care of sick and injured members as well as the widows and orphans of those who were killed on the job. Eventually, men who were not skilled stonemasons wanted to join the group for the many advantages it offered. These men were known as “accepted masons.” This is how the group began to shift from a craft guild to a fraternity.

The first Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons was established in 1717 in London. In 1718, English Freemasonry spread to France and Spain, and after 1729, to India, Italy, Poland, and Sweden. Freemasonry spread to other parts of Europe and eventually made its way to the American colonies. In 1733, the first American lodge was established in Boston, under the authority of the Grand Lodge of England. The United States now has grand lodges in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.



[Image attribution: <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/11417>]

Colonial Period

You might know that many of our founding fathers were Masons and integral in the formation of our country. Some familiar names include Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, John Hancock, Paul Revere and so many others. Many signers of the Declaration of Independence were Masons and a significant number of signers of the Constitution were too. Some of the principles of liberty, and representative democracy, embodied in the Constitution, can be traced to the manner in which early Masonic Lodges in the colonies conducted themselves.



[Editor’s personal photograph at the Assembly room in Independence Hall where the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were signed. On the dais is the “Rising Sun” Chair where Washington sat during the Constitutional Convention.]



Freemasonry in California

Masonry has been an integral part of California for more than 150 years. During the Gold Rush of 1849, thousands of settlers came to California in search of fortune. Many of these men were Masons and brought with them Masonic values and traditions. Not surprisingly, some of California's first Masonic lodges were established in the mining towns of the Gold Country. In 1850 - the same year that California became a state - the Grand Lodge of California was established in Sacramento. The fraternity has grown since then by leaps and bounds. Today there are more than 50,000 members and about 330 lodges, making the Grand Lodge of California one of the largest in the world.



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

Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge, in some respects, is the reincarnation of a lodge that existed in the early 20th Century which merged into another lodge and then became a freestanding, reconstituted lodge

once again in the last few years. The lodge is named in memory of Clarence F. Smith who was a prominent businessman, community leader and Mason in Los Angeles and a Captain in the US Army who fought and died in France in WWI.

Originally, the predecessor lodge was comprised of members of the military, but that is no longer a restriction and anyone who meets the requirements for Masonry in general can join. Our lodge is one of only a few that meets during the daytime, to accommodate those who otherwise cannot, or choose not to, attend lodges that meet on weekday evenings. It is a vibrant new lodge and diverse in so many ways: national origin, culture, ethnicity, language, religious affiliation, age, education, background, experience, profession, occupation. It is a true cross-section of Los Angeles, and these are men who might not have met in any other setting.

Because our lodge is new, we are small group of men. Consequently there is a much better opportunity to form friendships and to enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie that comes from familiarity, frequency and congeniality. And families are included, even some of the members' little children.

We have fun and we do good deeds. For instance, before the pandemic, we had a golf tournament (and we hope to have one again in 2022). Also, we have collected clothing and other items for the homeless. In November 2019, we had a service project at the Midnight Mission serving a meal. During the pandemic, we collected funds, which were sent to the Philippines to help provide food and safety materials for the poorest of the poor there. Some of our Brothers went too. We had a children's book drive this year for the benefit of homeless students.

We generally meet on the first four Saturdays of the month at 10AM in the upstairs lodge room at the address given in the masthead at the top of the first page.

Freemasonry Today

As Freemasons, we make a profound difference in the lives of our members and in California communities. We are engaged in the worldwide principles and fellowship of Freemasonry.

Our values, and we live by those values, include Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, defined as follows:

Brotherly love. We value respect, freedom, kindness, tolerance, and our differences religious, ethnic, cultural, social, generational, and educational and strive for harmony in our individual lives, in our lodges, and in the global community.

Relief. We take responsibility for the well-being of our brothers, our families, and the community as a whole. We provide relief through philanthropy, community involvement, and delivery of excellent care.

Truth. We stay true to our personal code of conduct and ethics honor, integrity, personal responsibility, and the continuous pursuit of knowledge.

Benefits of Being a Mason

Some of the benefits of being a Mason include:

1. Building deep and lasting friendships through the fraternity;
2. Having a community of brothers who share your morals and values;
3. Having the opportunity to build friendships with men of diverse backgrounds;
4. Feeling satisfaction from giving back within the fraternity and without;
5. Finding a means for personal growth and for making a difference in the lives of others ; and ultimately,
6. Having a great time on a regular basis with a great group of men.

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. Ibbrahim 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

Lodge Contact Information

Worshipful Master
Wor. Edgar O. Yeghiazaryan

Secretary
Bro. Akram Alawar

Requirements and Procedures for Membership

Any applicant for the degrees of Masonry must be male, over 18, have a belief in a Supreme Being and good moral character. He must submit a petition of his own free will, complete with the signatures and contact information of two recommenders from the lodge and two references. There is an application fee of course. It is best if the applicant also visits with the members a few times, before a meeting or at lunch, so that he will become known to the members.

After the application is submitted, the Grand Lodge of California will conduct a background check, and a few of our lodge members will interview the candidate. Then the membership will vote on the applicant, and after approval, will invite the candidate to appear on a date certain for his initiation as an Entered Apprentice, which is the First Degree of Masonry.

After initiation, a portion of the ceremony will be committed to memory by the new member, with the help of the lodge, so that he can progress through the ceremonies of the Second and Third Degrees, ultimately becoming a Master Mason who can participate fully in our fraternity and even visit other lodges.

The Larger Masonic Family and Some of our Charitable Work

For Men Scottish Rite, York Rite, Shrine, and others. These groups allow for further learning about Freemasonry, more fellowship, and a greater exposure to all that the fraternity has to offer.

For Women Eastern Star, Amaranth and others

For Youth Rainbow for Girls, Job's Daughters, DeMolay

Masonic Charity We support the Masonic Homes in Union City and in Covina, public

education, literacy programming, college scholarships, and so much more.

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)

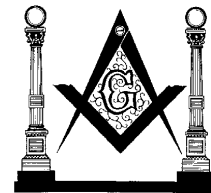
Thomas K. Sheehan (2014)

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.



Some Famous Masons*

Here is an abbreviated list of some Masons whose names you might recognize:

George Washington
 Theodore Roosevelt
 Franklin D. Roosevelt
 Harry S. Truman
 Andrew Jackson
 Benjamin Franklin
 Norman Vincent Peale
 Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr.
 John Jacob Astor
 Christopher Wren
 Henry Ford
 Arnold Palmer
 Denton True "Cy" Young
 Cecil B. DeMille
 John Wayne
 Irving Berlin
 Louis Armstrong
 Ludwig van Beethoven
 Harry Houdini
 Mark Twain
 Oscar Wilde
 Sir Alexander Fleming
 Winston Churchill
 Edward VII, King of England
 Frederick the Great, King of Prussia
 Francis II, Holy Roman Emperor
 George VI, King of England during W.W. II
 Marquis de Lafayette, French Supporter of American Freedom
 Alexandre Mitterand, President of France
 Peter the Great, Emperor of Russia
 And so many others

***Attribution:** This list comes from the Grand Lodge of Maryland at <http://mdmasons.org/about-md-masons/famous-masons/>, included herein with permission granted August 12, 2019. See also, <https://eb1870.org/famous-freemasons/#>

Manning the Water Station for the Shriners' Run

On April 28, 2019, before the pandemic, the following Brothers of our lodge supported the Shriners For Children Medical Center's 5K/10K Walk & Run 2 Heal Kids at Woodley Park Lake Balboa, Van Nuys, passing water for the runners as they went by: Akram Alawar, Rami Alawar, Jun Cahapisan, Celso Cardano, Mike Chavez, Joel Coronel, Roland Cortel, Keith Cotton, David Karp, Jhonny Lebrilla, Roger Soriano. Apologies for any errors or omissions. A lodge picnic followed. Here is a picture of some of the volunteers:



Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866 meets usually on the first four Saturdays of each month at 10 AM at 14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA 91405. See the contact information on p. 4 for more information.

