

In the



Daylight

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

May 2023

The Music Edition

Foreword...

This is the “Music Edition” of our newsletter. Loads of information about Masonic Musicians and Masonic Music will be found on the internet. Some will be found below and in the following pages just for a taste of this subject.

For example, here is a snippet from Wikipedia regarding Masonic music:

“Masonic music has been defined as ‘music used in connection with the ritual and social functions of freemasonry’.[fn.] Two major types of music used in masonic lodges are lodge songs, played to keyboard accompaniment before or after meetings, or during meals; and music written to accompany specific masonic ceremonies and events.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masonic_music .

As suggested by the Grand Lodge of California at <https://freemason.org/music/> , “[m]usic can play an enormous role in adding emotional depth to any occasion. That’s especially true when it comes to Masonic events like officers’ installations, degree ceremonies, and even regular lodge meetings. And yet for many Masonic organizations, the lack of a regular organist or musician makes it difficult to tap into the power of musical accompaniment to heighten the impact of the ritual.” For that reason, free music for download has been provided by the Grand Lodge.

As the reader probably knows, there is a Lodge officer’s position devoted to the music of

the Lodge. “The 'Organist' or 'Director of Music' provides musical accompaniment to lodge proceedings, although there is no set form. Many lodge rooms are equipped with a pipe organ or electronic organ, and in others, there is provision for a wider range of instruments. In other places, the Director of Music operates recorded or digital music systems, such as at the Grand Lodge of Austria in Vienna.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masonic_lodge_officer .

In our Lodge, we have a member, Bro. Majd, who is a professional musician who served as our Organist at the piano for a time. Sometimes we use recorded music. At other times, we have been entertained, as we were at this year’s installation, by some of the children of a Brother, accomplished pianists in their own right. Our Grand Lodge’s Grand Organist, WB Stephen Richard Miller, PM, has been a Lodge Organist in San Dimas 428 and Destiny 856. Currently, Bro. Mark serves as our own Organist. On occasion, even this writer will play the piano in the Lodge room for recreation, and probably there are more musicians in our Lodge than is presently known by this writer.

In any event, music is a part of Freemasonry, and that’s the point of this edition. Please enjoy reading it, maybe even with some music in the background as you do.

Fraternally,
Bro. David I. Karp
Editor.



Grand Master's May Proclamation

MAY 2023 IS PUBLIC
AWARENESS MONTH
Fulfilling Our Obligations

Whereas Masonry has for far too long been subject to misconceptions that endure in popular culture, which hamper the positive change we hope to make in our communities; and

Whereas California Masons perform many admirable acts of charity and volunteerism in the communities they call home, providing much-needed leadership and support for all around us; and

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

As grand master, I proclaim May 2023 to be Public Awareness Month in California.

An important aim of the 2025 Fraternity Plan is increasing awareness in our communities of the fraternity and the good work that Masons all over California do in their towns. Raising awareness of the fraternity means talking openly with friends, family, and colleagues about what membership in Masonry means; countering negative assumptions about Masonry; and ensuring the continued relevance of our organization. I encourage all members and lodges to consider ways that they can raise awareness of Freemasonry in their community through open houses, tabling opportunities, online and over social media; and especially simple conversations with friends and family. Our fraternity is not a secret; it's important we share it with the world so that we can make an even bigger difference in our communities.

California Masons have much to be proud of. It's time we share that pride with the outside world.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Grand Master Randall Brill

Attest: Grand Secretary Allan L. Casalou

Our Lodge's Public Awareness programming includes our Open House and Information Meeting on June 10, 2023.

May 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.)

May 4, 2023, 7PM – Exec. Comm. Mtg. on Zoom

May 6, 2023, 11AM – Stated Mtg. Dress: formal. Lunch donation \$10.

May 13, 2023 – Degree meeting

May 20, 2023 – Dark (Masters/Wardens Retreat)

May 24, 2023, 6PM – CFS Dinner Group at Lulu's, 16900 Roscoe Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91406. No-host, for Masons and Non-Masons

May 27, 2023 – Dark (Memorial Day weekend)

Looking Ahead to June

June 1 2023, 7PM – Exec. Comm. Mtg. on Zoom

June 3, 2023, 11AM – Stated Mtg. Lunch donation \$10.

June 10, 2023, 8AM – Breakfast 7-11AM; 11AM – Open House/Information Meeting
June 15, 2023, 7PM– OSI, Reseda 666

June 17, 2023, 10AM – Golf Tournament, etc.

June 24, 2023 – Family Day

Not yet determined – CFS Dinner Group at a restaurant – will be announced via Facebook

Masonic Musicians

Many musicians have been recognized as Freemasons, and vice versa, throughout history and in our current era. A web page at <http://www.ashlar3.com/music-and-masons/> sets forth a good compilation of them, some of whom include: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart of the Enlightenment Era, and American musicians of the 19th and 20th Centuries like John Philip Sousa, Irving Berlin, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Oscar Peterson, Nat King Cole, Lionel Richie, among many others.

Here are three excerpted bios of some of the above mentioned Masonic Musicians from the website of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon and cited sources at <https://freemasonry.bcy.ca/biography/index.html>

“Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart [January 27, 1756 - December 5, 1791]. Mozart composed a number of masonic pieces. When his father received his masonic Second Degree Wolfgang wrote "Fellow Crafts Journey (Op. K468) to honour the occasion. For lodge Zur Wohltatigkeit he wrote "Opening Ode" (Op. K483) and Closing Ode (Op. K484) His last masonic work (Op. K623) was written for the dedication of a masonic temple in Vienna on November 15, 1791.

Mozart was essentially an operatic composer. His last stage work, "The Magic Flute", an opera with strong hermetic themes, was running with success at the time of his death. Initiated: December 14, 1784 lodge Zur Wohltatigkeit; Passed: January 7, 1785; Raised: before April 22, 1785, Lodge Zur Wahren Eintracht. https://freemasonry.bcy.ca/biography/mozart_a/mozart_a.html.

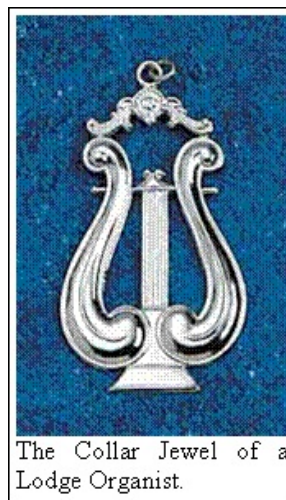
Irving Berlin [May 1888 - September 22nd 1989] “Born Israel Berlin in May 1888, he had his first major international hit, Alexander’s Ragtime Band in 1911. Irving Berlin’s music defined American popular song for much of the century: White Christmas, Anything You Can

Do, I Can Do Better, There’s No Business Like Show Business, Puttin’ On The Ritz and God Bless America being only a few of his pieces.... Initiated: May 12, 1910; Passed: May 26, 1910; Raised: June 3, 1910; Life Member: December 12, 1935, Munn Lodge No. 190, New York.”

https://freemasonry.bcy.ca/biography/berlin_i/berlin_i.html

Oscar Peterson [August 15, 1925 - December 23, 2007] “First playing Carnegie Hall in 1949, Oscar Emmanuel Peterson is best known for Canadiana Suite of 1964, his score for Fields of Endless Day, a film tracing the history of the Underground Railroad, and his special waltz for the city of Toronto, City Lights. His compositions include Hallelujah Time, Blues for Big Scotia, African Suite, Easter Suite, Royal Wedding Suite and Hymn to Freedom. [¶] He has received seven Grammy awards, a Juno Hall of Fame Award in 1982, the Glenn Gould Prize in 1993 and a Genie Award in 1978 for Best Film Score for the film, The Silent Partner. https://freemasonry.bcy.ca/biography/peterson_o/peterson_o.html.

The internet is replete with information about the above musicians and other Masons famous for their contributions to the music arts. One needs only to search on “Masonic Musicians.” Try it, if interested in further study. DIK.



The Collar Jewel of a
Lodge Organist.

CFS Daylight's Officers for 2023

Worshipful Master
Wor. Fernando ("Jhonny") O. Lebrilla, Jr.
Senior Warden
Bro. Spartak ("Spo") Khachatryan
Junior Warden Bro. Gerald J. Alvarez
Treasurer Bro. Ramiel Malabanan
Asst. Treasurer Bro. Ely Ayao
Secretary Bro. Akram Al-Awar
Asst. Secretary
Bro. Thomas ("Tom") K. Sheehan
Chaplain Bro. Virgilio ("Virgil") A.
Maravillas, Sr.
Senior Deacon
WB Archimedes ("Kim") S. Cabanig., PM
Junior Deacon Bro. Elvis L. Alvarez
Marshal Bro. Hamood Hamood
Senior Steward Bro. Raffi Hovhannisyan
Junior Steward Bro. Joseph R. Chavez
Organist Bro. Mark G. Cano
Tiler Bro. William ("Bill") C. Raddatz
Officers' Coach
WB Steven ("Steve") A. Wolvek, PM
Asst. Officers' Coach --
WB Archimedes ("Kim") S. Cabanig., PM
Candidates' Coach
WB Roger L. Soriano, PM
Inspector WB Leland H. Celestre, PM

Contact information:

Master: Worshipful, Jhonny Lebrilla

Sec'y: Bro. Akram Al-Awar

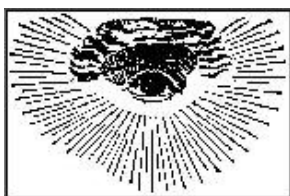
Freemasonry and Masonic Symbolism in Mozart's "Magic Flute"

Editor's Note; The following is
excerpted from a web page of the
English National Opera at
[https://www.eno.org/discover-opera/eno-engage/
learning-resources/explore-the-magic-flute/the-c
ontext/](https://www.eno.org/discover-opera/eno-engage/learning-resources/explore-the-magic-flute/the-context/)

"The Magic Flute is not set in a particular historical period, but the opera is strongly influenced by the ideas of Freemasonry. Both Mozart and Schikaneder [the librettist] were Freemasons, an organisation that taught self-improvement and philosophy through participation in a progression of ceremonies. These ceremonies inspired the trials of silence, water and fire in the opera.

"Sarastro's cult based on wisdom and the male pursuit of knowledge represents this Enlightenment ideal of a learned world order only available to men at this time. [Sarastro is a character in the opera.] Mozart's representation of the female characters of the Queen of the Night and Pamina can also be said to contradict traditional eighteenth-century gender politics. For example, the powerful force of the Queen's music demonstrates her independence and her domination in contrast to the subdued male choruses of Sarastro's followers, and it is only through Pamina's choice to enter the trials alongside Tamino that their happy ending is ultimately ensured.

"The symbol of the number three, significant in Masonic symbolism, is peppered throughout in the opera, for example, by the use of Three Ladies, Three Spirits, three trials, and the three chords first heard in the overture. The overture is also written in the key of E flat which has three flats in its key signature."



CFS Daylight's 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)
Edgar O. Yeghiazaryan (2022)

Past Masters by Affiliation

Archimedes ("Kim") S. Cabanig, (2021)
Celso V. Cardano, Jr. (2012)
Alberto L. Casanova, Jr. (2014)
Omar Cervantes (2021)
Emmanuel D. Espiritu (2014)
Bruce L. Ewald (2004-2006)
Bruce L. Hawley (1984)*
Luc Paul, Jr. (2018)

Past Masters who are "Honorary Members"

Jovito ("Jovi") R. Rivera (2017)
Timoteo ("Tim") Zuniga (2020)

Hiram Award (for dedicated Service)

Archimedes ("Kim") S. Cabanig (2022)
Celso V. Cardano, Jr. (2022)
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)

* Deceased.



[A Sousaphone]

Bro. John Philip Sousa, "The March King"

Editor's note: The following article first appeared in the March 2019 edition of this newsletter and is reprised here due to its relevancy.

'Brother John Philip Sousa (1854 - 1932) was a musician, composer, band leader, patriot, and Freemason. He was known as "The March King."

According to Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_march_music#John_Philip_Sousa_revolution], citing *John Philip Sousa: American Phenomenon* (Donald Hunsberger Wind Library) May 31 1973, by Paul E. Bierley:

"Sousa's marches were known for simplicity and understatement, with rousing counterpoint and overall energy. Sousa also is said to have standardized the traditional march form. His *Stars and Stripes Forever* is the official march of the United States."

Sousa, "was born in our nation's capital in a section then known as the 'Navy Yard.' As he put it, his home was 'in the shadow of the
[continues on next page]

[continued from p. 5]

Capitol dome,' and as he witnessed the sights and sounds of Civil War activities, his love of America grew. He enlisted as an apprentice in the U.S. Marine Band at age 13 and eventually spent a total of 19 years in military service." See,

<https://www.muratshrine.org/bios/sousa.php> .

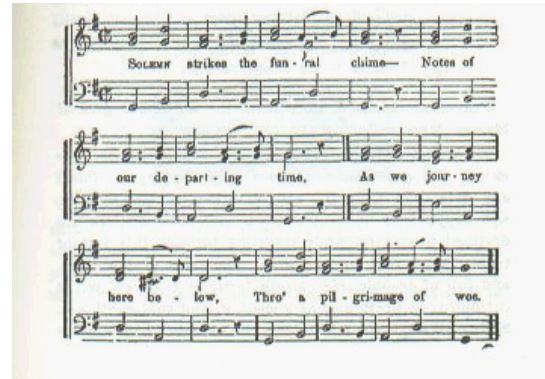
"Some of Sousa's marches have strictly military titles, but his colors show through clearly in his patriotic titles. Consider these examples: 'America First,' 'Hail to the Spirit of Liberty,' 'The Invincible Eagle,' 'The Messiah of Nations,' 'Liberty Bell' and, of course, his most famous composition, 'The Stars and Stripes Forever.'" *Ibid.*

"If we take a look at other titles, we'll see that he was actually telling the story of his beloved country through his music: 'The American Maid,' 'The National Game,' 'Boy Scouts of America,' 'Washington Post,' 'High School Cadets,' 'New York Hippodrome,' 'Northern Pines,' 'Dwellers of the Western World,' 'Fairest of the Fair,' and 'Daughters of Texas.' The list goes on and on." *Ibid.*

Sousa's Masonic history is as follows:

- 15 July 1881, Initiated, Hiram Lodge No. 10, Washington D.C. (never transferred);
- 2 September 1881, Passed, Hiram Lodge;
- 18 November 1881, Raised, Hiram Lodge;
- 16 September 1886, Received Capitular Degrees and exalted in Eureka Chapter No. 4 (later Eureka Naval Chapter);
- 3 December 1886, Received Order of Red Cross, Malta, and Temple;
- 10 December 1886, Knighted in Columbia Commandery No. 2, Knights Templar, Washington, DC;
- 21 April 1922, Initiated in A.A.O.N.M.S., Almas Temple, Washington, DC, named honorary leader of Almas Temple Band;
- 10 March 1932, a Masonic memorial service was held at the grave site in Congressional Cemetery, Washington, DC, after

Sousa's death. This band has performed several ceremonies at Sousa's grave. *Ibid.*



[Image attribution: The Ahimon Rezon or Book of Constitutions of The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina, seen at <http://www.angelfire.com/tx/masonmusic/pleyel.html>]

Pleyel's Hymn

Editor's note: This article appeared in the October 2020 edition of this newsletter. It was excerpted from the July 2016 Trestleboard of Fidalgo Lodge #77, Anacortes, WA, available at <http://anacortesmasons.org/july-2016-trestleboard.pdf> [sources cited therein].

"The 'Masonic Dirge,' sung [on certain occasions in Lodge]..., originated in a melody written in 1791 by Brother Ignaz Joseph Pleyel. Brother Pleyel was a student of another Masonic brother, Joseph Hayden.

"The melody appears in a number of church hymnals, and it was even used as the church recessional in the movie Mrs. Miniver.

"The lyrics for the 'Masonic Dirge,' were written in 1813 by another mason, Brother David [continues on next page]

[continued from page 6]

Vinton, an itinerant American masonic lecturer, who was known to have taught the York Rite degree work in North Carolina and Georgia.

“Apparently there is little evidence of this hymn’s use outside the U. S., with the exception of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and in American Lodges overseas, particularly in George Washington Lodge No. 585 A.F.&A.M. in Vicenza, Italy.

“Georgia, Mississippi, Texas and parts of Alabama use another hymn, ‘Hark From the Tombs a Doleful Sound,’ which is sung to the tune of ‘Auld Lang Syne’ written by another Mason, Brother Robert Burns.

“Originally, the Masonic Dirge had eight stanzas....”

[Editor’s Note: My 1989 version of the Monitor and Officer’s Manual shows only three stanzas in use in California. Even so, we do our best to sing harmoniously when called upon to do so.]



Fund-raising Breakfast, Precedes the Open House, June 10

Put this on your calendar for June 10, 2023. Our Lodge will have a fund-raising breakfast on that day, 7AM - 11AM, preceding the Open House. Volunteer to help. Tell your friends. Enjoy a breakfast yourself. DIK.



Open House and Information Meeting Also on June 10, 2023 – A Public Awareness Program

Our Open House / Information Meeting is scheduled to take place on June 10. Every Mason in this Lodge can help even before then.

So, what can you do? Talk to others, promote Freemasonry and our Lodge. Invite these people to our Open House: friends, family members, business associates, even strangers on the street who ask you about your Masonic ring, jacket, hat, car decal, or pin. Give them a copy of the flyer for the event. Share the flyer on social media. To do so, download the flyer from this Facebook page :

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Visiting-with-Clarence-F-Smith-Daylight-Lodge/100081085024328/> . Or ask Bro. David to send it to you via email.

What else can you do? Attend the Open House, help with putting on the event, ask for and distribute copies of Grand Lodge’s booklet called “Opening the Door,” and above all, enjoy the fellowship, camaraderie, and good deeds that make us who we are.

All of it promotes our Lodge and contributes to our Positive Awareness Campaign.

Fraternally, Bro. David I. Karp, Event Chair.

Children's Book Drive is Underway

Begun at the April Stated Meeting, our 2023 Children's Book Drive continues through August, culminating with our Public Schools Program, September 9.

If you haven't already done so, please bring two NEW children's books for elementary school age readers at the next or subsequent Stated Meetings. You can also order online and have them sent to David I. Karp, 6311 Van Nuys Bl. 409, Van Nuys, CA 91401 (my business mailing address). Thanks.

Bro. David., Book Drive Coordinator.



Golf Tournament – June 17

The Lodge's 2023 Golf Tournament will take place at Knollwood Country Club, 12040 Balboa Blvd, Granada Hills, CA 91344, on June 17, 2023, starting at 10:00AM.

Green fee \$100. Hole Sponsorship \$100, suggested donation \$100, but all donations welcome. As in prior years, a portion of the net proceeds of the event will be directed for charitable purposes and the rest to support Lodge activities and events. For any other information, please contact the Master, Wor. Jhonny, or the Event Chair, Bro. Ely. at 818-335-5919 or elyayao@gmail.com.



[Stated Meeting, April 1, 2023]



Congratulations!

Congratulations go to the following for significant events in March:
To WB Celso's daughter, Lorraine, on becoming a member of Job's Daughters Bethel #289; and

To Bro. Ibrahim and his lovely lady, Berola, on the birth of their son, Frederick.





Music Touched This Mason: A Remembrance.

This is a roundabout story of my father, Bro. Larry Karp, of Blessed Memory, who was raised a Master Mason in Home Lodge No. 721 and who introduced me to the Craft, and to music (but not in that order).

In high school and in college, my father played the trumpet and took many music classes. He loved music. He introduced me to classical music at a young age, which he and I both enjoyed together and which I continue to enjoy.

When I was nine, I learned to play my father's trumpet. For my Bar Mitzvah at age 13, my parents bought me my own horn, which I played throughout junior high and high school. My father was so proud.

Much later, after marriage, my wife and I had a daughter and a son. When my son, Sam, was in second grade, I taught him to play my trumpet. He played throughout school and in college. Following my father's example, I gave my son my trumpet. I was very proud of my son's musicianship. My Dad would have been too, but by then my father had become a victim of Alzheimer's Disease and had lost his mind, his personality, his memory, his ability to speak, and so much more. He had become a resident at the Jewish Home for the Aging's Alzheimer/Dementia Care Unit. (As an aside, outside the door to his room was a "memory box" to help him find the room. In it were his Home Lodge name badge, his Shrine Fez, and a few other items to trigger his memory.)

Before Sam was in college, I met two of his concert band friends, a young woman named Robin and a young man named Parker. Both were clarinetists. Robin and Parker approached me about playing clarinet together, for community service credit, and offered to play for my father and some other residents at the Alzheimer/Dementia Care Unit.

It is an amazing thing to think that music appreciation is so deep in our minds that dementia patients could enjoy hearing music of any kind. Writing this, I looked it up; one writer says this:

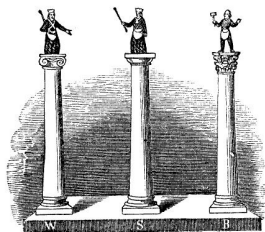
"Musical perception, musical emotion, and musical memory can survive long after other forms of memory and cognitive function have disappeared.... In dementia it can improve mood, behavior, and in some cases cognitive function, which can persist for hours and days after the music stops. Music also does not need to be familiar to exert these improvements and one does not need to have any formal knowledge of music or be musically inclined to enjoy music and respond to it at the deepest level." See, <https://practicalneurology.com/articles/2017-june/music-and-dementia-an-overview>

I saw this first hand when Robin and Parker played for my father and a few of the other patients one day. It brought tears of joy to my eyes, as I saw my father tapping his foot in time, smiling, and gesturing to them as they played their duets. He was really engaged. The music reached to a depth in my father's mind and consciousness that penetrated the fog in that moment. It is something I will never forget. The music really touched him, thanks to Robin and Parker.

My father (our Masonic Brother) relished that moment, and so did I. Not long thereafter, my father entered the Celestial Lodge above. Who knows if there's music there? Regardless, this is a good memory and I am happy to share it with you.

Fraternally, Bro. David I. Karp

PS Happy Birthday Dad (May 25, 1929).



From the East

Brethren, The month of May is approaching so let's get everyone involved to support all of our Lodge projects and activities.

May 6 is our monthly stated meeting. Our Lodge is dark on May 20 due to the Masters and Wardens Retreat.

Heads up for our activities coming soon in the month of June:

Saturday, June 10, 7-11AM we will have our annual fund raising breakfast, \$15/person and kids are free, followed by our Open House/Information Meeting at 11AM.

Saturday, June 17, we will have our third annual golf tournament at Knollwood Golf Club. Registration at 9AM, tee time at 10AM.

These events will be very successful and will benefit our Lodge greatly if we all participate. Please do so if you can.

Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth,
Wor. Fernando (Jhonny) O. Lebrilla, Jr.
Master

From the West

Brethren,
The year is quickly passing, and we have a busy summer ahead of us. Thank you to all who are working hard to organize our fundraisers and charity events.

On June 10th, we will be hosting our breakfast fundraiser followed by our Open House and Information Meeting that same day. Our Third Annual Golf Tournament will be held on June 17th.

Qualifications will be here before we know it, and I'd like to remind the 2024 officers to continue working on qualifying for your offices for the upcoming year. Don't hesitate to reach out if you need help. We are lucky to have many great coaches, past masters, and brothers who will be happy to help.

Lastly, congratulations to our two newly initiated Brothers, Earl and Arman. We look forward to being a part of your Masonic journey and having you be a part of our Lodge.

Fraternally,
Bro. Spartak ("Spo") Khachatryan
Senior Warden.

From the South

Brethren,
This coming May Stated meeting we will prepare "Mexican food" for our lunch in observance of "Cinco de Mayo". On April 8th we had a practice for 1st degree with Officers' Coach WB Steve Wolvek, PM, and Asst. Officers' Coach WB Archimedes "Kim" Cabanig, PM, and the rest of the officers. Everything went well. We will have cake for March, April and May birthdays celebrants, since we forgot last stated meeting. And also to those Brethren who want the new T-shirt (\$30.00), it is still available. A portion of the sale will be donated to the Lodge. Brethren don't forget to bring some books for the "children's book drive" and let's support and thank Bro. David for coordinating it. Again thank you Bro. David for your hard work and your dedication to the Lodge and to our Fraternity. Reminder to all brethren to advertise or spread the flyers for our "Annual Breakfast" and our "Open House" on June 10, 2023.

Also I would like to share an article that I read online from Richardson Masonic Lodge No. 1214 A.F. & A.M. (GL TX), published at <https://txfreemasonry.org/masonic-minute-april-2018/> :

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“Someday you may be asked the question by a Mason, who[m] you do not know, ‘Are you are a Traveling Man?’ The reference is as old as the Craft of Masonry. In the ancient world of Operative Masonry, masons were often required to move from job to job and locality to locality much as in our modern times. First class masons were more likely to travel great distances than those of lesser ranks, i.e. Fellowcraft and Entered Apprentices. Because of their experience, like today’s union membership, they could move freely from job to job. Those doing so were usually members of a Masonic guild, whose members would, if known, vouch for the qualifications of another ‘traveling’ mason.

“In speculative masonry we as Master Masons may move freely from Lodge to Lodge either as a visitor or by moving our membership and upon providing the proper documents or by being tested, we can be found to worthy to attend another Master Mason Lodge. Essentially this is the same as moving from one job to another or from one ancient Masonic guild to another.

“Additionally, a Master Mason is a traveler from west to east, as east is where the sun comes up and the source of light. This is why the Master sits in the East. Thus, being a traveling man represents our journey from darkness to Masonic light or enlightenment....”

Respectfully and Fraternaly yours,
Bro. Gerald Alvarez
Junior Warden

From Our Secretary

Editor’s note. The following was translated from the Arabic and submitted by our Secretary:

A college professor decided to challenge his students by asking them: “Is it God who created everything that exists?”

One student replied: “Yes, He did.”

“Really?, everything?”

“Yes, everything.”

The professor said: “So in this case, God also created evil, right? Because the devil is there!!”

The student remained silent and did not answer.

The professor was looking for an opportunity to prove to his students that faith is just a myth.

Suddenly, another student raised his hand and said: “May I ask a question?”

“Sure,” the professor replied.

“Does cold exist?”

“Of course, didn't you ever feel cold?”

“In fact, sir, cold does not exist, based on physics; cold is the complete and absolute absence of heat. The elements are studied based on their ability to transfer energy, which generates heat, and without this ability to transfer energy, the studied element is non-reactive, so we created the term cold to express the absence of heat.”

The student continued and said: “What about the darkness?”

The professor replied: “it exists.”

“Again you are wrong sir, darkness is the complete and absolute absence of light, we can study light and luster but we cannot study darkness, Nicholas's prism proved that light decomposes into its basic compounds according to the difference in wavelengths, so darkness is a term we created to express the absolute absence of light.”

Finally, the student asked: “And evil, sir, does it exist?”

The professor did not answer.

The student said: “God did not create evil, evil is the absence of God in the hearts of human beings, it is the absence of love, humanity and faith; love and faith, like heat and light, exist and their absence leads to the worst.

The doctor only had to finish the lecture and admit his defeat as against that deep faith.

Fraternaly,

Bro. Akram Al-Awar
Secretary.