

In the



Daylight

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

October 2023

Masonry, Civics, Citizenship

Foreword...

In September our Lodge celebrated public education. This month we go further to discuss Civics Education among other things, because October 27 happens to be National Civics Day. See, <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-civics-day-october-27/>.

National Civics Day "celebrates the importance of civic education all across America." *Id.* "Civic education is a social science that studies the rights and obligations of citizens in society. Students benefit from a strong civics education in many ways: Improved critical thinking; Communication skills; Community service; Civic engagement. They are also more likely to vote, volunteer, engage in political discussions at home, work on community projects, speak publicly, and communicate with elected officials." *Id.*

As Masons, we do not engage in political discussions in the Lodge, in order to preserve harmony among our members. However, we DO vote, volunteer, work on community projects, promote civic engagement, and improve our critical thinking and moral outlook with the ethics and guidelines of our Craft.

National Civics Day "also commemorates the date the Federalist Papers were first published on October 27, 1787. These documents served as a foundation for the United States Constitution." *Id.* As you might know, the Constitution is a subject of particular interest to this writer

(e.g., see last month's edition), and September historically has been Constitutional Observance Month for California Masons.

As to the Federalist Papers, "Alexander Hamilton, [Bro.] John Jay¹, and James Madison wrote 85 essays under the pen name 'Publius.' ... The first essay was published on October 27, 1787. The Federalist Papers (also known as The Federalist) supported the passing of the United States Constitution and urged citizens to ratify the legislation...."

Unfortunately, there appears to have been a decline in Civics Education recently. *The Washington Post* reported that "The release of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in civics confirmed what we already know: The nation is failing to prioritize teaching civics. [¶] The top-line data show a staggering knowledge gap when it comes to understanding how this country's constitutional democracy is supposed to work and how to apply that knowledge, as only 22 percent of eighth-graders tested proficient or above on the assessment. [¶] These results are very poor and emblematic of the ambivalence our nation has shown toward teaching civics over many decades." see, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2023/05/11/naep-civics-test-scores/>

Perhaps it is up to us as Masons to exemplify and to promote Civic Education in our community and at home.

Fraternally, Bro. David I. Karp, Editor

¹See article on p. 4.

Masonry and Citizenship

Editor's Note: The following material, quoted *verbatim*, comes from the 1962 edition of the Grand Lodge of California's *Handbook for Candidates Coaches*, in your editor's home library.

In the Charge the newly Entered Apprentice Mason is enjoined to be exemplary in the discharge of his duties as a citizen by never proposing or countenancing any act which may have a tendency to subvert the peace and good order of society, by paying due obedience to the laws under whose protection he lives, and by never losing sight of the allegiance due his country.

In some parts of the world, men of many nationalities may belong to the same lodge. Many of our members retain membership in lodges in England, Scotland, and elsewhere. Citizenship in another country is not, of itself, a bar to membership in our great fraternity.

Loyalty to one's country and loyalty to one's lodge are never in opposition to each other. We expect the individual Mason to work at the duties of citizenship, making himself available for service to his community, state and nation. Only through this can the privileges which we enjoy as Masons and as men be saved for our children's children.

As religious differences exist between men so do political differences show in partisan politics. No proposal advanced in political debate is without its adherents and dissenters. No individual striving for political preferment is without his supporters and his opponents.

That such differences may be eliminated from lodges, discussion of political issues and candidates, as well as religious issues, is prohibited by our ancient Law...."

October 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.)

October 5, 2023 – Exec. Comm. Mtg. Via Zoom

October 7, 2023, 11AM – Stated Meeting, Lunch Donation \$10.

October 14, 2023 – OSI at CFS

October 21, 2023 – Degree

October 27-29, 2023 – Annual Communication

Not yet determined – Fellowship Dinner at a restaurant, and/or a bowling event..

Looking Ahead to November

November 2, 2023 – Exec. Comm. Mtg. Via Zoom

November 4, 2023 – 11AM, Stated Meeting, Lunch Donation \$10. Note: Annual Election of Officers: "All members of the Lodge *in good standing* shall be entitled to vote at an election of Lodge officers.." CMC § 805.410.

November 11, 2023 – Veterans Day. TBD

November 18, 2023 – TBD

November 25, 2023 – Thanksgiving weekend. TBD



October Term

Article III of the Constitution vests the judicial power of the United States in one Supreme Court and such other inferior courts as Congress establishes. This is commonly referred to as the Judicial Branch of government, as compared with the Legislative Branch under Article I and the Executive Branch under Article II.

A Term of the United States Supreme Court begins, by statute, on the first Monday in October. See,

<https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/procedures.aspx> . A session of the Supreme Court is often referred to as its "October Term," which is why this article appears in our October newsletter.

The cases scheduled to be heard and decided for October Term 2023 can be found here:

<https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/terms/ot2023/> .

The Supreme Court engages in what is referred to as "judicial review." In other words, the Court looks to see whether the laws or rules enacted by the federal or any state legislature, or executive actions by the president or the executive branch, are or are not constitutional, the U.S. Constitution being paramount.

Judicial review is one of the checks and balances in the separation of powers. See, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judicial_review .



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 Hovhannisyann
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

Our Brother, John Jay, First Chief Justice

According to the Supreme Court Historical Society, at <https://supremecourthistory.org/chief-justices/john-jay-1789-1795/>, “[Bro.] JOHN JAY was born on December 12, 1745, in New York, New York, and grew up in Rye, New York. He was graduated from King’s College (Now Columbia University) in 1764. He read law in a New York law firm and was admitted to the bar in 1768. Jay served as a delegate to both the First and Second Continental Congresses, and was elected President of the Continental Congress in 1778. He also served in the New York State militia. In 1779, Jay was sent on a diplomatic mission to Spain in an effort to gain recognition and economic assistance for the United States. In 1783, he helped to negotiate the Treaty of Paris, which marked the end of the Revolutionary War. Jay favored a stronger union and contributed five essays to The Federalist Papers in support of the new Constitution. President George Washington nominated Jay the first Chief Justice of the United States on September 24, 1789. The Senate confirmed the appointment on September 26, 1789. In April 1794, Jay negotiated a treaty with Great Britain, which became known as the Jay Treaty. After serving as Chief Justice for five years, Jay resigned from the Supreme Court on June 29, 1795, and became Governor of New York. He declined a second appointment as Chief Justice in 1800, and President John Adams then nominated [Bro.] John Marshall for the position. Jay died on May 17, 1829, at the age of eighty-three.”

Online research has not revealed in which Lodge Bro. Jay was a member. In *U. S. Supreme Court Justices who were Freemasons* by Paul M. Bessel

(http://www.themasonictrowel.com/Articles/General/about_individual_files/us_supreme_court_ju

[stices_were_masons.htm](#)) at fn. 1, the author writes: “‘*10,000 Famous Freemasons*’ quotes evidence that Jay was a Freemason, but says there is no proof. The MSA 1940s study also indicates Jay was a Mason, but says it has not yet been discovered in which lodge.” Nevertheless, there are numerous Masonic Lodges with the name, John Jay, as a part of the Lodge name. See, e.g., John Jay Lodge No. 653 (GL NY) at <https://653-ny.ourlodgepage.com/> .

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.



Scouting as an Alternative for Teaching Civics

If schools fail at teaching Civics, there are other resources.

As you know, I have had a close connection over the years with Scouting, and Scouting has offered Civics merit badges and other advice for young people.

Currently, to become an Eagle Scout, there are four required citizenship merit badges that teach young people civics where their schools have left off or failed altogether. They are: Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, and the newest, Citizenship in Society. The requirements for each will educate in all these aspects, and one does not need be a scout to benefit from these riches. Anyone can utilize these valuable resources. See,

<https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/eagle-required/>.

I looked up citizenship in my old Boy Scout Handbook (Seventh Edition, First Printing,, September 1965, at p. 438), to see what it says on the subject, and here are some of the words I found:

“When you reach the age of voting ... you will know the true meaning of democracy and of liberty and will be able to carry out your duties to

your country obeying its law, taking your place in the community.

“Be a thinking citizen not a thoughtless one.

“Keep yourself informed on the happenings of the day in your own community, your country, and throughout the world.

“Learn how your country, your own State, your city, town or village are governed and find out how you fit into that government. Discover where the government is strong and where it is weak. Do you part as a citizen in the big task of upholding its strength and overcoming its weaknesses.

“But be prepared as well to do your part in the smaller tasks in such everyday things as obeying traffic regulations, living up to game laws when you go hunting or fishing, serving on jury duty when called, and many other things.

“Find out about our political parties and what they stand for ALL of them, not just one. Study all sides of a question that concerns the welfare of your community, your State, your country. Then take your stand and vote as your conscience bids you. Vote those people into public office you feel best fitted to do what you think is right.

“That’s the way to make democracy work.”
Respectfully submitted,
Bro. David I. Karp

Additional Civics Resources:

<https://my.lwv.org/delaware/government/what-civics> ;

<https://www.courts.ca.gov/programs-lawrelated.htm>

Other resources are available via an internet search (e.g.) “Civics California”



Bro. Richard Dreyfuss' Civics Initiative

An internet search on "Civics Freemasonry" revealed an interesting thread: From a website of "The Magpie Mason"

(<https://themagpiemason.blogspot.com/2021/09/next-friday-freemasonry-civics.html>), this writer became aware of Brother Richard Dreyfuss' efforts to bring attention to civics. In fact, that page led to the web site of The Dreyfuss Civics Initiative at <https://thedreyfussinitiative.org/>.

Here are some of the words from that site: "The Dreyfuss Initiative is a non-profit corporation formed to revive, elevate and enhance the teaching of civics in public schools grades k-12 in the USA."

Also, Bro. Dreyfuss describes the issue this way: "Teach our kids how to run our country, before they are called upon to run our country ... if we don't, someone else will run our country." *Id.*

In answering the question, "what is Civics Education?," we find the following on the website

(<https://thedreyfussinitiative.org/about-us/>):

"The Civic Education we strive to implement is the teaching of American history, government, and civic values through the prism of the Enlightenment Era, which introduced protection of the individual, the people of a nation being the highest political power, due process of law, equality of rights and opportunity, rights of freedom of expression and worship, that were

revolutionary in history.²

"Civic values such as civility, clarity of thought, and the importance of dissent are not inherited at birth. The ideas must be taught, and the younger the better. In light of the changing demands on the education system due to an increasing focus on Science, Math and other academics, civics has seen its allocation of time greatly diminished resulting in younger generations having little connection to our founding documents and political system.

"In order for our children to be effective citizens, they must understand the development of America so they know how our political structure is unique and exceptional. Additionally, future generations must be taught how to understand all sides of an issue, thoughtfully develop an opinion, and discuss that opinion with civility and reason. We must not shy away from, but embrace teaching the controversial issues and events throughout our history that have shaped the current standing of America. The Dreyfuss Civics Initiative plans to educate citizens on the power they have as well as giving future generations the skills they need to be intelligent citizens. Responsible citizenship is dangerous in its absence and unknowable unless taught."

"What Makes America Great?"

"The United States of America was one of the first political bodies that gave its subjects distinct individual freedoms, which are outlined in the Bill of Rights. Built from the ideas of the Enlightenment, America was constructed as a nation dependent on the sovereignty of the

[continues on next page]

²There is no question about the importance of these Enlightenment Era values that have become ingrained in our Craft and in the development of a civil society in our country, which is why it is so interesting that Bro. Dreyfuss is so engaged on the subject.

[continued from p. 6]

people, a breakthrough in a world full of monarchies and tyrannies. Our political system emphasizes the power of the individual by granting citizens the distinctive ability to be part of a sovereign body that elects representatives and impacts policies.

“How is America Not Fulfilling Its Potential?

“Despite having a political system that highlights individual freedom and responsibility, we fail to provide individuals with the skills they need to successfully fulfill the role of citizenship. It is quite apparent that civic values have been absent in certain events of our country’s recent history. We have experienced conflicting political parties unable to compromise, violent protests that have showcased a government unable to foster peace, and new generations that are falling behind its peers in education rankings. Extremism has plagued our government and caused shutdowns, fostered resentment between political parties, and generally caused inefficiencies. The lack of civility in debate that has been seen in our political bodies is destructive and needs to be addressed. On top of that, the average American citizen has a poor understanding of civics and the nuances of our political structure. Civics must be taught so that our future leaders have the skills they need to run our country effectively, and future generations have the skills they need to be informed, active citizens. This foundation of properly educated students will help address the problems we are experiencing today and begin to create the successful future we desire for our posterity.”

According to the web site of “The Magpie Mason,” *supra*, “The Masonic Legacy Society and the Scottish Rite of Washington, DC [hosted] Freemason and Hollywood legend Richard Dreyfuss for a most timely Zoom discussion of their shared ardor: ‘Freemasonry, Civics, and Civic Engagement’ [in September 2021].”

“On June 10, 2011, Richard Dreyfuss was made a Master Mason "at sight" by the Grand

Master of Masons of the District of Columbia at the Washington DC Scottish Rite building, as well as a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason. That evening he spoke at a banquet celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, about the Dreyfuss Initiative, a Research Society promoting civics and enlightenment values to be headquartered in Charleston, WV.” See,

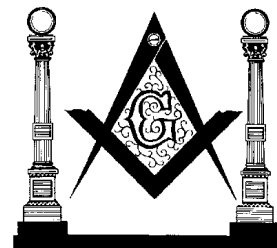
<https://freemasonsfordummies.blogspot.com/2011/06/brother-richard-dreyfuss.html>

Respectfully submitted,
Bro. David I. Karp

Justice

“Justice is that standard or boundary of right which enables us to render unto every man his just due, without distinction. This virtue is not only consistent with divine and human laws, but is the very cement and support of *civil* society; and, as justice in a great measure constitutes the really good man, so should it be your invariable practice never to deviate from the minutest principles thereof....” (Emphasis added.)

Source: *Monitor and Officers’ Manual*, Grand Lodge of California F. & A.M., 11/89





[Bowling Bros., August 27, 2023]

Our September Public Schools Event was a Success.

Immediately following the September Stated Meeting on September 9, 2023, the Master, Officers and Brethren invited Mr. Joseph Prendez into the Lodge room for our 2023 public schools event. Mr. Prendez is the principal of Noble Ave. Elementary School, who spoke about his career with the Los Angeles Unified School District. As the school's representative, he also received and thanked us for our donation of the many children's books we have collected over 6 months. He intends to start a program at the school called "Books Before Breakfast." He is very grateful for our support.

In addition, Mr. Prendez, as proxy, received a plaque and gift card for First Grade Teacher, Julie Reyes, our designated "Teacher of the Year," who was unable to attend in person to be recognized. They were presented to her at school.

Thank you to all who attended and a special thank you to Wor. Jhonny who provided the plaque and gift card and who supported this effort so enthusiastically.

Bro. David I. Karp
2023 Public Schools Liaison

PS Having taken on this role for the Lodge for the last few years, I am relinquishing it at this time to allow new leadership to emerge for our

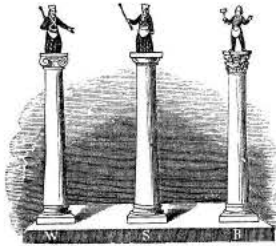
public schools efforts. It's been rewarding for me, now it's someone else's turn to enjoy the experience. Thanks. DIK.



[Above and below: Public Schools Event following our Stated Meeting, September 9, 2023, School Principal, Joseph Prendez, at Center holding "Teacher of the Year" Plaque for First Grade Teacher Julie Reyes.]



[Left to Right: Bro. David I. Karp, 2023 Public Schools Liaison; Principal Joseph Prendez; Wor. Jhonny Lebrilla, Master.]



From the East

Editor's Note: Our Worshipful Master, Fernando ("Jhonny") O. Lebrilla, Jr., is on paternity leave as this edition publishes. We send congratulations to him and his entire family on the birth of their new baby. Also, best wishes to his lovely wife, Jane, for an easy recovery. DIK.



From the West

Brethren,
As the year draws to a close, it's the perfect time to reflect on our past achievements and to start planning for an even more successful future.

I will soon set up a "planning meeting" in which we can discuss goals, ideas, and how best to move forward, for the benefit of the Lodge. I encourage everyone to join.

In order to thrive as a Lodge, it is essential that we prioritize and give special attention to membership retention and membership growth. It has become increasingly important to engage brethren who may have become disengaged from our Lodge. By focusing on our current and future

members, we can ensure that everyone feels valued and connected, fostering a stronger sense of community within our fraternity.

I will communicate with the brethren in the upcoming weeks about committee appointments.

I want to take this opportunity to encourage all members to participate actively in our activities throughout the year. Your involvement not only enhances your personal experience but also contributes significantly to the success of our fraternity as a whole.

Bro Darren recently shared an excellent idea about increasing our social media presence which can be a valuable tool to connect with a wider audience and to showcase the positive impact of our Lodge in the community, as well as to spread awareness about Masonry in general.

In addition to our email, SMS, & Messenger updates, I will continue to update and add to the calendar found in the "Events" page on our website (<http://clarencesmith.org/events>).

As I plan our calendar and budget for next year, please reach out to me or a pillar officer directly to contribute ideas or any other suggestions you may have for the betterment of our Lodge. Your input is crucial in shaping the future of our lodge.

Fraternally,

Bro. Spartak ("Spo") Khachatryan
Senior Warden



From the South

Brethren,
First of all congratulations to
Worshipful Fernando "Jhonny"
Lebrilla and family on the birth of their new
baby.

For the October Stated Meeting we will
prepare Filipinos' favorite cuisine.

For the past few months we have been quiet
and have had no activities going on. This coming
month of October, we're planning to have a
family fellowship at a bowling alley. We are still
gathering some more information about the event
and the best time for everyone's availability. We
will post an update before the next Stated
Meeting.

Some holidays are coming; if you have any
suggestions on what to do or any food
suggestions at our Stated Meeting, please let us
know.

For our Brethren who have been busy in their
work or with personal matters, I'm encouraging
you to come to our Lodge or events to meet and
greet our new members. Or join us at our
monthly fellowships at a restaurant, a Lodge
tradition that Bro David started a few years ago. I
hope to see you at one of our events.

Fraternally,
Bro. Gerald Alvarez
Junior Warden

Reminder: Annual Election of officers will take
place at the November Stated meeting. "All
members of the Lodge *in good standing* shall be
entitled to vote at an election of Lodge officers.."
CMC § 805.410.

Bonus Article: Our Service to Humanity

Editor's Note: The following is
excerpted verbatim from an essay
entitled Masonic Justice Requires
Action, by WB Scott S Dueball, available at
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C7LfljacDYAolVPRStxs4hARD5G62-2r/view> .

"A Mason's duty is to serve humanity.
Service to humanity cannot be accomplished
while possessing any measure of indifference....
[W]e must be concerned with the suffering of our
fellow human beings. If we are to truly live
Masonry then we must continually ask ourselves
if our actions are justifiable through the lens of
Masonic Philosophy. Each of us struggles to
stomach the image of a hungry child, an abused
woman, a family separated by immigration law,
or a homeless veteran. Masons must be
committed to turning concern in into action.
When was the last time you took action to help
relieve another man's discomfort? When was
the last time you and your lodge discussed the
needs of the disenfranchised in your community?
We must rise above political, social, and racial
divides to see that humanity is at stake every
day in the communities that surround us. We
cannot continue to treat justice as the
inconvenience in our lives. Our cement of
affection is what draws us toward reducing this
perspective of inconvenience. The Mason must
endeavor so that no creature goes without food,
or protection, or shelter, or love."

