

In the



Daylight

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

December 2023

Continuity: Tradition and Change

Foreword...

As we approach the new Masonic year in our Lodge, with a new lineup (congratulations!), new goals and ideas, the key to our continuity and success will be our blend of tradition and change.

Certainly, in view of the history of Freemasonry, tradition drives our look forward even while we look back. The Grand Lodge of California says it this way in its pamphlet, *Opening the Door*:

"Because we're a 300-year-old organization, we ... have a lot of pomp and circumstance: fancy regalia, unusual titles, very old rituals. That means that when you join a Masonic Lodge, you are joining an important part of history, with traditions you won't find anywhere else."

Our Grand Lodge is also looking to the future, with its change in emphasis. The introduction to its 2025 Strategic Plan begins:

"In 2020, the Masons of California set out to imagine the future of the fraternity. Based on feedback from hundreds of members at every level of the organization, as well as survey data from members, prospects, and the general public, an ambitious new vision for the bicentennial of the fraternity was crafted: The world in harmony. [¶] The 2025 Strategic Plan is the first step in bringing about that world. The plan is centered around three key themes that emerged as priorities during our research: True friendship, diversity and harmony, and positive awareness."

This Strategic Plan is a guide to our future, and has been referenced repeatedly in prior editions of this newsletter. It is well worth an in-depth review. You will see it summarized on subsequent pages and you find it in iMember2.0 under General Resources. See, <https://member.freemason.org/resources/1a01dbd6-c5a9-45c6-940b-0a23596d6173>.

Our Lodge, as young as it is, also has its traditions: e.g., officers wear blue ties as Wor. Steve Wolvek established; some members wear barongs in furtherance of their Filipino heritage; we have lunches together after meetings and fellowship dinners at a restaurant; also public schools events and book drives; and both formal and informal gatherings, etc.

As the Lodge matures, however, change in the Lodge is also important. It cannot be the "same old, same old." New activities are important, as are new members of all ethnic backgrounds and religious beliefs.

Important too is new volunteerism.

You might know that, as energetic as I have been in the Lodge, leading certain events during my five years as a member (since 2018), I have begun to step back. It is very important that others have a chance to do as I have done, and even more. We have many fine younger/newer Masons in the Lodge undoubtedly ready, (are you willing?), and able to take on a leadership or support role, even as a sideliner, in the activities and events of the Lodge.

[continues on next page]

[continued from page 1]

Brethren, it is your turn to step up. As hard as it is for me to do so, I am stepping back for your benefit. That is one change that will lead us further into continued success.

There is an old saying, "you get out of it what you put into it." Helping the Lodge is fulfilling in so many ways. You have my encouragement to become even more active. It has been very fulfilling for me.

Fraternally,
Bro. David I. Karp, Editor

Allowing New Talent to Emerge

Withdrawing from certain roles in a Lodge, as I am doing, or changing roles as with our new lineup, is not a bad thing for the Lodge. It is an unselfish act that allows new talent to emerge and the Lodge to thrive.

It is also analogous to allowing or encouraging retirement in a corporate environment.

One online resource says this:

“While most companies cherish and take great pride in keeping their long-serving employees, they’re doing the company an injustice by not seeking out fresh new talent. Yes, your senior employees may be more mature and wiser but the next generation have a fresh new outlook on life and the way they do things that could completely transform the company for the better. They are also more likely to be tech-savvy, so moving with the fast-paced technology-driven world will be something they are willing to embrace instead of fear.” See, <https://theundercoverrecruiter.com/encourage-employees-retire/>.

Let us see if such new talent will emerge for the betterment of Clarence F. Smith Daylight No. 866!

Fraternally,
Bro. David I. Karp

December 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.)

November 30, 2023, 7PM Exec. Comm. on Zoom

December 2, 2023, 11AM Stated Meeting. Lunch donation \$10

December 9, 2023 1st Deg. Conferral

December 16, 2023 5PM Holiday Party

December 23, 2023 Dark

December 30, 2023 Dark

For January and subsequent months, please review our calendar at

<https://clarencesmith.org/events/>.

DUES NOTICE

Per our Secretary, 2024 dues will be \$166.00. To avoid an online processing fee, send your dues via Zelle directly to the Lodge bank account. Email address is Cfsjuniorwarden@gmail.com. Or mail a check, payable to Clarence F. Smith Daylight No. 866, directly to the Secretary. His address is in iMember2.0 if you don't have it.





Illuminating Grand Lodge's Ideas for True Friendship

From the 2025 Strategic plan, Grand Lodge perceives the following as key goals for the Lodge in developing true friendships:

Demonstrate Masonic friendship. Lodges should intentionally work toward building, promoting, and demonstrating friendship as a goal. When guests and prospects are invited to lodge social activities, they will see Masonic friendships in action. Lodges will share inspiring stories of Masonic friendships and best practices for developing and nurturing friendship with one another and through Grand Lodge communications channels.

Discuss how Freemasonry helps us build strong fraternal bonds. Lodges will devote Masonic education and stated meeting nights for discussion around friendship, what it means to be a true friend, and the ways that the fraternity influences those bonds.

Build strong relationships with every potential applicant. Outsiders who approach lodges will be met by multiple members of the lodge, who can begin to build relationships with these applicants. This gives applicants a base of support throughout their candidacy.



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



Next, Grand Lodge's View of Diversity and Harmony in the Lodge

Again from the 2025 Strategic Plan,
here are the goals for our Lodge:
Lodges seek out and are
welcoming to people of all races and
backgrounds.

Leadership is diverse at all levels.

Leaders have the knowledge and support
they need to build and maintain harmony in the
lodge.

Our Masonic family works in unison.

And there's this:

"[A]ll people must be made to feel welcome
in our lodges."

Also this:

"Cultivate and embrace a culture of
inclusion. Lodges will prioritize diversity and
inclusivity in communications with members,
prospects, and the public. This includes:

--Stressing the principles and best practices
of diversity and inclusion, especially their
fundamental role in Freemasonry.

Making diversity an important
consideration in prospecting new members.

Making diversity as an important
consideration in appointments including
candidate's coaches, officer's coach, and lodge
officers."

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.



Finally, Here are Grand Lodge's Ideas for Lodges for Public Awareness

This is verbatim from the 2025 Strategic Plan:

Positive awareness of our fraternity is more important now than ever. Since the mid-20th century, membership has declined as generations of men have chosen different ways of finding community. In order to combat the negative public perception of secrecy and elitism and bring a new generation into the fold, it's imperative that the Masons of California create opportunities to discuss what Freemasonry is, what it stands for, and how it makes a positive impact on its members and communities.

Market research shows that the public's general awareness of the Masons is relatively strong half are aware of the fraternity higher than similar organizations such as Elks, Rotary Club, and Kiwanis. However, the public rate it less favorably than those organizations. It is important to raise awareness of the most positive elements of the fraternity, particularly its charitable programs, which survey data indicates immediately improves the public's perception of the fraternity. This will come as no surprise to members: They themselves indicate a strong interest in the need for increased positive awareness. In service of that, three broad goals have been identified.

Masons Are Empowered to Discuss Masonry.

Communities See Masons in Action.

Masons Create Positive Awareness Locally, Statewide, and Nationally.

From Tradition to Change in a Broadway Musical

"*Fiddler on the Roof* is a musical with music by Jerry Bock, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, and book by Joseph Stein, set in the Pale of Settlement of Imperial Russia in or around 1905.... According to *BroadwayWorld*, the musical has been staged 'in every metropolitan city in the world from Paris to Beijing.'"

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

This is the universal personification of tradition succumbing to change, but not necessarily for the better. The story has had broad appeal around the world and has resonated in many cultural settings even though it is centered on a Jewish family in a Jewish community at a time of great social upheaval and prejudice in Russia.

The main character is a religious Jewish peasant, Tevye, who ekes out a living as a dairyman in his *shtetl* (town) called Anatevka, and who lives with his wife, Golde, and their five daughters.

Both the town and the three eldest daughters provide the vehicle for Tevye's movement from religious and cultural tradition to change, but there is only so far he will go to adapt to the circumstances he faces.

[continues on next page]

[continued from page 5]

As to the Daughter number one, Tzeitel:

Tevye chooses a husband, Lazar Wolf, an elderly widower and a butcher, for Tevye's eldest daughter to marry. She does not want this and convinces Tevye, that, although it is traditional for the father to choose the husband, she's young and in love with the tailor, Motel Kamzoil, and she pleads for this change. Tevye relents, knowing, at least, that Motel the tailor is an observant religious Jew.

As to Daughter number two, Hodel: She falls in love with a progressive and more worldly student, Perchik, and they do not ask Tevye, but tell him, that they will marry. This is another break with tradition and a change with which Tevye has a harder time, but again he relents. At least it is a marriage within the faith. However, this is about as far as Tevye can go.

As to Daughter number three, Chava: She falls in love with Fyedka, a Russian peasant, and they marry. She tells her father, "The world is changing Papa." He says, "No. Some things do not change for us. Some things will never change." Tevye cannot handle a daughter's marriage outside of the faith and disowns Chava. Here is Tevye's poignant soliloquy:

"Accept them? How can I accept them. Can I deny everything I believe in? On the other hand, can I deny my own child? On the other hand, how can I turn my back on my faith, my people? If I try to bend that far, I will break. On the other hand ... there is no other hand. No, Chava. No-no-no." From: *Fiddler on the Roof*, Crown edition published January, 1965.

As to change in the town of Anatevka, the above drama with the daughters is set against the antisemitism and prejudice of the time.

At the end of the Act One, while the traditional wedding of Tzeitel, the eldest, and her beloved, Motel, takes place the men dancing with the men and the women with the women, mostly the celebration is disrupted by a *pogrom*, a violent riot led by the Russian

Constable. Here are the stage directions for the scene:

"The RUSSIANS begin their destruction, turning over tables, throwing pillows [wedding gifts], smashing dishes and the window of the house. One of them throws the wedding gift candlesticks to the ground and PERCHIK grapples with him. But he is hit with a club and falls to the ground. The GUESTS leave." Id.

At the end of Act Two, there is more change, and not for the better: All of the residents of Anatevka are being forced out of their homes and their traditional community.

The Constable tells Tevye and his friends: "You aren't the only ones. Your people must leave all the villages Zolodin, Rabalevka. The whole district must be emptied.... I have an order here, and it says that you must sell your homes and be out of here in three days." *Id.*

Finally, Tevye, his family, and the other residents prepare to disperse, some to America, some elsewhere.

Tevye did not welcome these changes to his traditional existence, a universal issue across cultures. But change was inevitable for him, as for so many, like it or not. The last few lines of the play do express some hope however. For instance, Chava and Fyedka come to say goodbye, and, though Tevye had shunned her, he finally says to Chava, "God be with you."

[Editor's note: In our Lodge, there is a place for both tradition and change and, unlike Tevye, I welcome both enthusiastically for the Lodge's continuity. I hope you do too.]

Fraternally,

Bro. David I. Karp





Two Insightful Online Articles

This is long but worth it. I found two insightful articles online containing relevant observations to which your attention is directed for further consideration regarding tradition and change. They are both written by WB Justin Jones PM (GL TX) who is interested in a thriving future for Freemasonry. See, <https://masonicimprovement.com/about/>. Each article will be summarized and quoted-from in turn. The first is entitled *Why I Left Freemasonry*. See, <https://masonicimprovement.com/2018/06/20/why-i-left-freemasonry/>.

The points I drew from the article are: (1) meetings are boring; and (2) Masonry is not unlike other service organizations, i.e., not really unique. Here are a few quotes:

“I don’t remember what was discussed during my first meeting but I know it consisted of opening, reading of minutes and communications, old business, new business, fundraising, and then closing. Imagine how quickly my excitement and enthusiasm melted away when I realized the first time I sat in lodge was going to be nothing more than a business meeting.” In other words, it was boring.

As I write this, I am thinking that guest speakers at our Stated Meetings might be an improvement. We might have a “member’s spotlight,” for instance, in which, since we don’t know much about our Brothers outside of the Lodge, a Brother could tell us something interesting about himself, his job or profession,

his family, his hobby, or any interesting event or happening in his life. Or a guest from outside could speak about either a Masonic topic or any other subject of interest.

Here’s another quote:

“In fact, aside from the opening and closing of the lodge, there was nothing that made our meetings different from those of any other organization. Herein lies the problem: I didn’t join Freemasonry because it was like other organizations, I joined it because I believed it was something different... I remember vividly the moment I made the decision not to come back [although he did, ultimately]. We were preparing for our brisket fundraiser and I was lifting packages of bottled waters off of a dolly when a few thoughts occurred to me. [¶] “This is just a service club! All we talk about and do is fundraising!” [¶] “What was the point of all of that memory work and ceremony if this is all that we do?”

Turning to the second article of interest, it is entitled *Boom and Bust: Why North American Freemasonry Continues To Decline*, to be found at <https://masonicimprovement.com/2019/03/11/boom-and-bust/#more-1528>.

In this article, WB Jones speaks at length about generational influences that have led to Freemasonry’s decline. But first, some definitions from

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generation> :

“The Silent Generation, also known as the “Lucky Few”, is the cohort who came of age in the post World War II era. They were born from 1928 to 1945.”

“Baby boomers (sometimes shortened to Boomers), are the people born following World War II from 1946 to 1964.”

“Generation X (or Gen X for short) is the cohort following the baby boomers. The generation is generally defined as people born between 1965 and 1980.”

[continues on next page]

[continued from page 7]

“Millennials, also known as Generation Y [fn.] (or Gen Y for short), are the generation following Generation X who grew up around the turn of the 3rd millennium.[fn.] This generation is typically defined as those born from 1981 to 1996.”

“Generation Z (or Gen Z for short and colloquially as "Zoomers"), are the people succeeding the Millennials. Pew Research Center describes Generation Z as spanning from 1997 to 2012.”

Now back to WB Jones’ article in which he claims that:

“The Silent Generation joined our fraternity in massive numbers around the middle of the last century [which caused membership to swell];”

“Once the Baby Boomers came of age (the oldest Boomers would have only been around 13 years old in 1959) they joined the fraternity but not in the same numbers as the preceding generation;”

“Generation X generally had no interest in joining Freemasonry, or any of their father’s organizations for that matter;” and

“[b]oth the Millennials and generation Z (or whatever they end up being called) are interested in Freemasonry but, much to the frustration of lodges and Grand Lodges across North America, we can’t seem to retain them.”

The author concludes that “generational succession” is the reason:

“Typically, the differences in expectations between one generation and its successor are small enough that, while certain things are sure to change, the differences aren’t so vast as to create contention among the brothers. [¶] So ... what happens if this succession skips an entire generation? [¶] This is what happened when Generation X chose not to join the fraternity and the effects are threefold....”

1. “[M]ost programs and policies that lodges and Grand Lodges currently have in place, be they good or bad, were implemented or changed by Boomers.”

2. “[W]hen something has been under [someone’s] care for a great length of time it can be difficult to hand over to someone else, which is what we are seeing 99% of the time when a new young and enthusiastic Mason wants to get involved with his lodge and start contributing. [¶] When a man feels as though his input doesn’t matter then he eventually finds someplace that it does. This isn’t uniquely Millennial either, every man wants to be heard and feel as though he is contributing something.”

3. “The gap in generational succession means that there is a greater difference in expectations [regarding] the fraternity than one would see if there had been no gap at all. Small changes are generally more easily accepted, however young men seem to want very different experiences [from] their Masonic [journeys] than the Boomers. [¶] These expectations, when coupled with the other two issues listed above, are rarely met. [¶] I believe this is why we lose young men almost as fast as we can initiate them.”

Ultimately, WB Jones concludes: “Young men are leaving the fraternity because it generally isn’t providing what they joined hoping to find.”

To sum up all of the foregoing, it appears that our Lodge, like others, must change itself in various ways to thrive. We should make our meetings more interesting and we should find out and focus on what our newer/younger members hope to get out of the Masonic experience. Also, some guidance from the 2025 Strategic Plan may help (see prior articles above).

Fraternally,

Bro. David I. Karp



[Masons from our Lodge (and other Lodges) out on the town enjoying fellowship in San Francisco, 10/28/23, while there for Grand Lodge's 2023 Annual Communication.]



A Shortened Bio of our New Grand Master, G. Sean Metroka

Editor's Note: The following is edited from the official biography available on iMember2.0.

Brother G. Sean Metroka was raised a Master Mason in Table Mountain Lodge No. 124 in Paradise on October 23, 1979. He is a past master of Nevada Lodge No. 13 in Nevada City and the current Master of Harmony Lodge No. 164 in Sierra City. Brother Metroka currently serves the Grand Lodge of California as Grand Master and is a former Grand Orator, district inspector and chairman of the Grand Lodge

Committee on Leadership Development. He has served on all five of the Grand Lodge constitutional boards.

In 1972, Brother Metroka joined Paradise Chapter Order of DeMolay. He served in both youth and adult capacities and was richly honored for his devotion to the Order.

In 1976, Sean enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, the start of a 30 year military career. After graduating from California State University at Chico with a Bachelor of Arts degree in geography, Sean was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. He received numerous promotions and was ultimately elevated to the rank of Colonel. He served in many capacities during his tenure, in both active duty and reserve capacities including, among other things, as commander of the 5th Battalion, 14th Marines in Seal Beach and also in Iraq.

Thereafter, Sean entered the aerospace industry as a systems engineer with McDonnell Douglas in Long Beach and excelled there as well. Later, after a stint in healthcare business management, Sean joined the finance department of Nevada County Superior Court in 2000 and ultimately advanced to become the court's chief executive officer for 15 years, responsible for overseeing all non-judicial functions of the court. Sean retired from the court in 2018 to focus on other things he loves, especially his service in Freemasonry, in his Blue Lodges and in Scottish Rite, York Rite, the Shrine, and other related bodies.

Sean has actively supported his community. He served as cubmaster and scoutmaster when his sons were young, and he coached youth football. He was a member of the board of directors of Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation for 15 years, including four years as president. He has served several other non-profits and as a volunteer for Empire Mine State Historic Park. Brother Sean and his wife, Margaret, live in Nevada City. They've been married 39 years and have three adult children and two grandchildren.



[Stated Meeting/Election of Officers, Nov. 4, 2023. Newly Elected Pillars front and center.]



[Second Degree Conferral, November 18, 2023. Congrats to Fellowcraft Bros. Earl and Darren.]



[Worshipful Master Jhonny to Master-Elect Spojan: "Here are your working tools for your year in the East!"]



CLARENCE F SMITH DAYLIGHT LODGE #866

7TH ANNUAL INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Saturday, January 13th, 2024 - Van Nuys Masonic Center
 Social: 10:30 a.m. | Installation: 11:00 a.m.

Installing Officer Worshipful Jovi Rivera, PM	Master of Ceremonies Worshipful Celso Cardano, PM	Installing Chaplain Worshipful Roger Soriano, PM
---	---	--



Worshipful Master
Spartak Khachatryan





Senior Warden Gerald Alvarez	Junior Warden Joseph Chavez
Treasurer Ely Ayao	Secretary Akram Alawar
Chaplain Virgilio Maravillas	Assistant Secretary Thomas Sheehan
Senior Deacon Lloyd Donasco	Junior Deacon Elvis Alvarez
Senior Steward Mkhitar Mike Mkrtychyan	Junior Steward Worshipful Archimedes "Kim" Cabanig, PM
Marshal Marvin De Guzman	Organist Mark Cano
Tiler William "Bill" Raddatz	



From the East

Brethren,
For a year in review, here are a few highlights of our Masonic Year 2023:

Installation, January 21
Widows/Sweethearts Dinner, February 11
Children's Book Drive, April through

August

Fundraising Breakfast/Open House, June 10

Golf Tournament, June 17
Public Schools Program, September 9
Annual Communication, October 27-29
Election of Officers, November 4
Holiday Party, forthcoming December 16
Several Degree Conferrals throughout the

year

Fellowship Dinners too.

I enjoyed my year in the East, I hope you did too. Thanks to all who made the year a success. Happy Holidays to all.

Fraternally,

Wor. Fernando ("Jhonny") O. Lebrilla, Jr.
Master.

From the West

Brethren,
First, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the honor and the privilege of being elected as the 2024 Worshipful Master of our extraordinary Lodge. Thank you all for the support and guidance you have given me throughout my Masonic journey. I know that with Brethren like you by my side, we will have a successful and productive year during my time in the East.

Congratulations to Bros. Darren and Earl on being passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. Also, I would like to congratulate our 2024 Officers for the outstanding degree conferrals, and for qualifying in all three degrees. Your dedication and hard work are greatly appreciated.

In case you haven't heard, our Holiday Party will be happening on Saturday, December 16th, 2023 starting at 5:00PM in the downstairs dining hall. Join us for a memorable evening filled with delicious food, great company, and celebration.

The Lodge will be dark on December 23rd and December 30th for the holidays and will resume on January 6th with WB Jhonny's last stated meeting as Master. As a heads up, I will not be attending the stated meeting on January 6th as I will be out of the country from January 3rd through January 10th, but please feel free to call or text me at any time if you need to.

Our Installation of Officers ceremony is set for January 13th at 11:00am. On the evening of January 12th, we will be setting up the Lodge and practicing for the ceremony. I kindly request all 2024 officers to attend both days.

Thank you all and I wish you and your loved ones a joyful and safe holiday season.

Fraternally,

Bro. Spartak ("Spo") Khachatryan
Senior Warden

From the South,

Brethren,
First of all, congratulations to all elected and appointed officers for the ensuing Masonic year (2024).

Last October 27 to 29, 2023, some of us attended Grand Lodge's Annual Communication in San Francisco. As we expected it was another memorable and wonderful experience with our Brethren. I encourage everyone especially our newly raised Master Masons to come with us next year to experience and attend Grand Lodge's Installation of Officers. The more, the merrier.

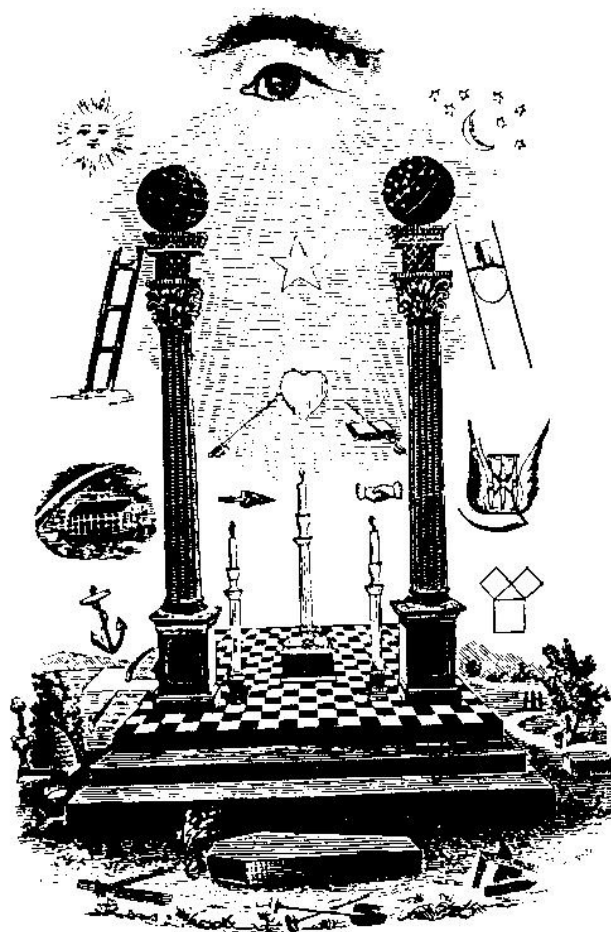
Time passes and we are moving forward to our next respective officers' stations to face new challenges. With the Brethren's support and trust, we will overcome any challenge we face. Our unity has made us strong and cemented us to each other. Remember the three principal tenets of Masonry: Brotherly love, Relief and Truth, and let's not forget how to use our twenty-four inch gauge to divide our time.

I would like to thank everyone in supporting and appreciating my food preparation or choices I made throughout the year as Junior Warden. It was a fun but challenging task every month, thinking about what kind of food I would prepare for the Brethren. I'm ready to pass the torch to Bro. Joseph Chavez and support him as incoming Junior Warden as he fulfills the duties of that role. And I'm looking forward to my new duties as well as the incoming Senior Warden.

Finally, congratulations to three elected Pillar officers, Master-elect Bro Spartak Khachatryan, Senior Warden-elect Bro Gerald Alvarez, and Junior Warden-elect Joseph Chavez. Also our Treasurer-elect Bro. Ely Ayao and Secretary-Elect, Bro. Akram Al-Awar, as well as the appointed officers listed in the flyer on page 10, above. I am looking forward to seeing you all on January 13, 2024, for our Seventh annual installation of officers.

Thank you, and it's been my honor to serve all the Brethren of Clarence F Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866 as Junior Warden.

Respectfully and Fraternaly Yours,
Bro. Gerald Alvarez
Junior Warden



For those celebrating holidays in December, and for all, I wish you all the best and a Happy New Year.

David I. Karp, Editor.