

# In the



# Daylight

Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866, F.&A.M.  
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Ed: [davidikarp@karpmediation.com](mailto:davidikarp@karpmediation.com)

July 2024

## Going Postal

### Foreword...

By giving this edition the theme, “Going Postal,” I am not referring to the modern idiom that means becoming extremely angry, going nuts, or going off the deep end. See, <https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=going%20postal>.

Rather, I want to address the connection between Masons, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, the postal service, postage stamps, postmasters, etc. Why, you ask?

Because July 1 is both National U.S. Postage Stamp Day and National Postal Worker Day according to the “National Day Calendar” at <https://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/national-day/national-postal-worker-day-july-1>.

When I was a boy, I collected postage stamps as a hobby. It was interesting and fun but not long lasting. Even so, in writing this introductory piece, I looked up stamps on the internet that promote Freemasonry.

It would be difficult to show all of them here, but you can see some international stamps at <https://www.freestampcatalogue.com/stamps/various/freemasonry>.

There are also stamps depicting our US Presidents who were Masons, some of whom are shown at <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibition/dan-brown%E2%80%99s-lost-symbol-masons/other-mason-presidents>.

There are other interesting subjects to be found inside this edition, e.g., about postmasters

who were Masons, etc. Also Lodge news. I hope you will enjoy the read..

One side note which I will mention is this: As you know, e-mail has now become a modern and widely-used mode of written communication but the Post Office hangs on as the traditional mode and still serves a purpose, especially but not only in business correspondence, all thanks to our Brother, Benjamin Franklin, PGM (GL PA) and others.

Fraternally,

Bro. David I. Karp, Editor.

### July/August 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.)

July 3, 2024 – 7PM, Exec. Bd. Mtg. on Zoom

July 6, 2024 – 11AM. Stated Meeting. Lunch donation \$15

July 13, 2024 – Degree practice

July 18, 2024 – Fellowship Dinner, 6-8, Lulu’s

July 20, 2024 – Degree conferral

July 27, 2024 – Hiram Award Ceremony for Bro. Akram Al-Awar.

### August is Dark except as follows:

August 1, 2024 – 7PM, Exec. Bd. Mtg. on Zoom

August 3, 2024 – Fundraising Bkfst, 7AM-12PM, \$15; Stated Meeting 11AM.

August 15, 2024, Fellowship Dinner, 6-8, Lulu’s

Please check our online calendar for changes, updates and future events at <https://clarencefsmith.org/events/>.

## WB Ben Franklin and the US Post Office

**E**ditor's Note: The following is excerpted from an online article entitled "How Ben Franklin Established the US Post Office" by Patrick J. Kiger, Updated: June 29, 2023, at <https://www.history.com/news/us-post-office-benjamin-franklin> , accessed March 28, 2024.

"In 1737, by age 31, Franklin had already built a prosperous business as a printer, shopkeeper and publisher of a newspaper, The Pennsylvania Gazette. That year he was appointed postmaster of Philadelphia after British authorities removed his predecessor for failing to submit financial reports....

"Franklin, a meticulous record keeper, was so skillful at running postal operations in Philadelphia that in 1753, the British Crown appointed him as joint postmaster for all 13 colonies. [He] nominally shared authority with William Hunter, a Virginia-based printer, [but] Hunter pretty much let Franklin call the shots.... Franklin held that post for more than two decades, during which he orchestrated huge improvements in mail service, including establishing a regular schedule that allowed mail to move efficiently along post roads up and down the Eastern Seaboard.

"[B]y putting mail riders out on the roads at night, Franklin managed to cut the delivery time for a letter from Philadelphia to New York and receive a reply to just 24 hours. [¶] Franklin also arranged for small, swift packet ships to transport mail to and from the West Indies and Canada, which complemented the transatlantic service that the British Crown provided from England, and established the first home-delivery system in the colonies....

[...]

"As colonial postmaster, Franklin did much of his work remotely. Starting in the late 1750s, he began spending much of his time in England,

where he did his job through the mail, auditing postal statements from afar and implementing his decisions by letter. The British government didn't mind, because by 1760, the postal operation in the colonies was profitable for the first time. [¶] But Franklin's involvement with the growing resistance to British taxation and rule eventually caused him to run afoul of British authorities [and was dismissed after leaking some private papers to the public].

"After Franklin returned to America, the clockwork-like postal system he'd built started to fall apart without his management skills. The colonists began to set up their own independent post offices. A former postmaster from Providence, R.I., William Goddard, set up the Constitutional Post, an alternative service that allowed colonists to send letters to one another without the risk that the Crown's postmasters would open and read them.

"Goddard tried unsuccessfully to get the Continental Congress to adopt his makeshift service as the official mail system. But the delegates wanted something bigger and better. After two months of study, in July 1775 they offered Franklin the new job of Postmaster General, at a salary of \$1,000 — about \$33,500 in today's dollars — and authorized him to hire a staff. He was assigned to establish a new system of postal routes from Falmouth, Massachusetts (now Portland, Maine) to Savannah, Georgia., with as many connections in between as he saw fit.

[...]

"Franklin served as Postmaster General for only about a year. A few months after the founding fathers declared independence in July 1776, Franklin was dispatched to France to perform another important mission as an ambassador to the court of King Louis XVI. But the postal system that Franklin helped build continued to flourish, and became a critical part of the new democracy."





## Earlier, and Across the Pond

**E**ditor's Note: The following is quoted verbatim from an online article entitled "The Secret Dept. of the Post Office"

available on a webpage of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076 at

<https://www.1723constitutions.com/the-context/the-jacobite-threat/charles-delafraye/espionage-lodge/>, accessed March 28, 2024.

"One of Britain's most powerful tools against external and internal threats was the Secret Department of the Post Office and its Deciphering Branch. Established in the second half of the seventeenth century, the Secret Department was located within the warren of buildings that comprised the headquarters of the General Post Office on Lombard Street at the centre of the City of London. It was financed off-the-books from secret service monies controlled by the Secretaries of State and omitted from the Post Office's accounts....

"Although occupied mainly with London's postal service and mail routed through the capital, the department also sourced mail intercepts via a network of agents across Britain and Ireland, with additional material gathered through agents overseas....

"The Secret Department was run by Jean Le Fevre (anglicised as 'John Lefebure') (d.1752), who had joined the Post Office as a clerk in 1715....

"... Lefebure was a Huguenot and a freemason. He is recorded as 'Le Favre' in the membership list of the King's Head lodge in Pall Mall; other members of the lodge also acted as British spies. As an émigré whose family had found sanctuary in England, he was loyal to the Crown, unstinting in outing potential Jacobite threats, and proactive in requesting warrants to

detain and open suspect letters. Indeed, it was on Lefebure's watch that the 1717, 1719, and 1721 plots were uncovered.

"The Secret Department was relatively small in number but it's Huguenot and Masonic connections were large. Aside from Lefebure, its employees included Peter Thouvois and Peter Hemet, the latter a member of Martin Folkes's lodge at the Bedford Head in Covent Garden."

### CFS Daylight's Officers for 2024

Worshipful Master –  
Wor. Spartak ("Spo") Khachatryan  
Senior Warden – Bro. Gerald J. Alvarez  
Junior Warden – Bro. Joseph R. Chavez  
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 – Bro. Lloyd Donasco  
Junior Deacon – Bro. Elvis L. Alvarez  
Senior Steward –  
Bro. Mkhitar ("Mike") Mkrтчyan  
Junior Steward –  
WB Archimedes ("Kim") S. Cabanig, PM  
Marshal – Bro. Marvin De Guzman  
Organist – Bro. Mark G. Cano  
Tiler – Bro. William ("Bill") C. Raddatz  
Officers' Coach –  
WB Archimedes ("Kim") S. Cabanig, PM  
Candidates' Coach –  
Rogelio ("Roger") L. Soriano, PM  
Inspector – WB Leland H. Celestre, PM

### Contact information:

Master:  
Worshipful Spartak ("Spo") Khachatryan  
[spo@clarencesmith.org](mailto:spo@clarencesmith.org)  
Secretary:  
Brother Akram Al-Awar



[Alexander McDonald's Store, 1843,  
Source identified at

<https://easttexashistory.org/items/show/9> as  
Walker County Historical Commission . ]

## Postmaster Builds Masonic Meeting Place

“In 1843, a local merchant and postmaster, Alexander McDonald, constructed Huntsville's first brick building, which had a "simple [rectangular] shape with three dormer windows at the attic level." Located at what is now the southeast corner of University Avenue and 12th Street, the first floor of the building housed McDonald's store, which offered a variety of goods for the local community. On the second floor, McDonald and other Freemasons conducted their meetings for the Forrest Masonic Lodge No. 19. Chartered on January 11, 1844, with nine Masons, the lodge predated the formation of Walker County and ranked as the eighth oldest lodge in Texas.”

Source:

<https://easttexashistory.org/items/show/9>

### Masonic Recognition

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

Steven A. Wolvek (2017-2018)  
Rogelio (“Roger”) L. Soriano (2019)  
Celso V. Cardano, Jr. (2020-2021)  
Edgar O. Yeghiazaryan (2022)  
Fernando (“Jhonny”) O. Lebrilla, Jr. (2023)

#### Past Masters by Affiliation

Archimedes (“Kim”) S. Cabanig, (2021)  
Akram Al-Awar (July 2024)  
Celso V. Cardano, Jr. (2012)  
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)  
Akram Al-Awar (2024)  
Celso V. Cardano, Jr. (2022)  
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 Black Mason Who Was a Postmaster Etc.

In an online article commemorating the 1807 abolition of the slave trade in England, we learn that:

"Stephen Dillet ..., whose career took him from Haiti to the United States (where he himself owned slaves) to Nassau in the Bahamas, where he served as the island's coroner and postmaster and became its first black elected representative, became a Masonic Deputy Provincial Grand Master in 1857."

See, *Squaring the Triangle: Freemasonry and Anti-Slavery* by Dr. Geoffrey Cubitt, University of York, found at <https://archives.history.ac.uk/1807commemorate/exhibitions/museums/squaring.html>



## A Prince Hall Commemorative Stamp?

Editor's Note: The following is from <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/152/text> :

On January 3, 2017, in the House of Representatives (115th CONGRESS, 1st Session), Mr. Al Green of Texas introduced a bill (H.R. 152) to provide for the issuance of a forever stamp to recognize the historical importance of Prince Hall Freemasonry, and for other purposes. Here are the findings from the bill:

"The Congress finds that

"(1) Prince Hall Freemasonry was founded by Prince Hall on March 6, 1775;

"(2) Hall and fourteen other men of color were rejected by colonial Freemasonry due to their race;

"(3) the group was later initiated into Masonry through a military lodge created during the American Revolutionary War [Lodge #441 of the Irish Registry attached to the 38th British Foot Infantry at Castle William Island in Boston Harbor, Massachusetts, see <https://princehall.org/prince-hall-freemasonry/> ], but were later denied admission to Lodges in the United States after the war;

"(4) Prince Hall Freemasonry was founded on ideals of equality, liberty and peace; and

"(5) Prince Hall Masons are the oldest and largest group of Masons of African origin in the world."

Further, the bill provides that "[i]n order to the recognize the historical importance of Prince Hall Freemasonry, the Postmaster General shall provide for the issuance of a forever stamp suitable for that purpose that depicts the logo of Prince Hall Freemasonry."

The bill was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on the same day it was introduced. It has apparently languished there without ever being enacted.

For more about Prince Hall, including an image of him, follow this link to a page of the National Museum of African American History and Culture at <https://www.searchablemuseum.com/prince-hall-masons> . DIK.

## Stamp Act Repeal Supported by Worshipful Brother Ben Franklin, PGM (GL PA)

“In January 1766, Benjamin Franklin appears before the House of Commons to advocate for a repeal of the Stamp Act of 1765. His testimony makes a great impression and is quickly published in London and the Colonies. Dr. Franklin is providing evidence in the form of answers to no less than 174 questions. The session, according to the Proceedings of Parliament, lasts for four hours. The erudite Franklin shares his observations on the attitude of the colonists towards the British Empire before and after the imposition of the Stamp Act, and comments on issues of taxation, representation, and the ability of the colonies to become economically independent from the mother country.”

Source: Massachusetts Historical Society at [https://www.masshist.org/database/viewer.php?pid\\_2&old\\_1&mode\\_nav&ft\\_Coming%20of%20the%20American%20Revolution&item\\_id\\_282](https://www.masshist.org/database/viewer.php?pid_2&old_1&mode_nav&ft_Coming%20of%20the%20American%20Revolution&item_id_282) .  
From this link, see the written account of Franklin's examination before the House of Commons. Fascinating!



[Image from the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Maryland at <https://mdmasons.org/about-md-masons/famous-masons/ben-franklin/> ]



## Early History of the Masonic Stamp Club of NY

Editor's note: The following is quoted from the Club's website at <http://www.msnewyork.net/history.php>

"On January 13, 1934, a group of Freemasons gathered in the Grand Lodge Library and Museum on 23rd Street in New York City. However, it was not for Masonry alone that they had assembled, all had another interest in common they were philatelic enthusiasts.

"Dr. Charles H. Johnson, Past Grand Master of New York, current Grand Secretary, and member of The Collectors Club, was in the Chair. Over 40 brethren were in attendance....

"It wasn't long before the original group was joined by many more Brethren, and the Masonic Stamp Club of New York was well on its way. The Club meetings were for the purpose of friendly discussions on the subject of postage stamp collecting and postal history. Of particular interest to all was the fact that many eminent Freemasons were (and continue to be) depicted on postage stamps. It certainly did not go without notice that the first two postage stamps issued by the United States showed Benjamin Franklin and George Washington, both highly distinguished Freemasons. Furthermore, numerous other stamps could be considered Masonic-related, as they showed works created by a Freemason, or celebrated events in which Freemasons played a major role.

[continues on next page]

[continued from page 6]

"An informal communication to members on philatelic subjects and Club activities found its way to lodges in the United States, Canada, and other countries, resulting in membership requests beyond New York City. One request was from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a noted Freemason, ardent stamp collector, and even a stamp designer....

"In time, the Club outgrew various meeting rooms at the Grand Lodge of New York building on 23rd Street. As a result, in 1944 it asked the Collectors Club on 35th Street ... for accommodations. This request was granted and meetings were held there through the courtesy of the Collectors Club, and continued to be held at this location up to the present time.

"During the early 1940s, many famous men depicted on postage stamps were determined by Club members to have been Freemasons. It was this condition that led to the term "Masonic Philately." Indeed, finding new stamps of this nature was (and still is) very gratifying....

"In March 1944 publication of The Masonic Philatelist, a monthly journal, commenced. This journal is now a quarterly periodical which is highly respected in the field of philately and enjoyed by Club members all over the world....

"Interest in the Masonic area of philately has grown to the extent that Masonic Philately is now a fully recognized stamp specialty by the American Topical Association, American Philatelic Society, and the British Thematic Association. Masonic-related collections are exhibited at many major stamp shows. The Masonic Stamp Club of New York continues its long-standing practice of participating in the major American Stamp Dealers Association events in New York City...."



## Grand Master's Proclamation

**J**ULY 2024 IS SUPPORT OUR  
VETERANS MONTH

Sharing the Light of Freemasonry

Whereas California is home to more than 1.5 million veterans of military service, the most of any state in the nation; and

Whereas veterans face increased challenges upon returning to civilian life, including heightened rates of physical, mental, and emotional health issues, homelessness, and substance abuse; and

Whereas California Masonry has long counted among its members an enormous number of military veterans; and

Whereas California Masons recognize the service and sacrifice that our military veterans have made for our country;

As grand master I therefore proclaim July 2024 to be Support Our Veterans Month.

As California Masons, we honor those who have served our country as members of our military during both peace and wartime. On a personal note, I have seen firsthand during my 32 years of service in the U.S. Marines the effects that combat has on troops and the challenges that servicemen and women face upon their return to their civilian lives.

This month, during which we celebrate our nation's independence, I call on our Masonic lodges to recognize the veterans in their communities and to salute them through volunteerism, donations, or lodge events. Thank you to our veterans for your service to the country.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Grand Master G. Sean Metroka

Attest: Grand Secretary Allan L. Casalou





[Stated Meeting, June 1, 2024]



## June 8’s Successful Charitable Opportunity – the Walk4Hearing

The 2024 Long Beach Walk4Hearing was a huge success. The Lodge team was one of 29 teams that raised an aggregate in excess of \$46,500 for the Hearing Loss Association of America. Also, CFS’ representatives were among 300 people who walked the route on a beautiful day by the water on June 8, 2024. There were exhibitors, prizes, raffles, snacks, and a DJ for background music. For the children, there was face painting and balloon animals. We could see so many boats and the Queen Mary. *The Lodge’s participation did not go unnoticed and we were invited back next year!* Promoting public awareness of the Craft and giving to charitable causes are crucial to our making a difference in the world. The pictures in the next column show (a) your “Team Captain” registering our team (right foreground) and (b) some of the participants along the walk.

Thanks to all of our Masons who participated whether by walking or donating.

Fraternally,

Bro. David I. Karp, “Team Captain.”

## Bro. Akram Al-Awar’s Hiram Award Will Be Presented on July 27, 2024, at the Lodge.

The Hiram Award, named for a legendary allegorical figure from the Bible, is presented to a Master Mason in California, like Bro. Akram, who has served the Lodge and the Masonic Fraternity with devotion over and above the ordinary. It is the highest honor (other than being Master of the Lodge) that can be bestowed on a member of a Masonic Lodge.

RSVP to Bro. Akram directly so he will know how many for the caterer. Contact information is on page 3. Also see next page for Bro. Akram’s “Masonic Journey” in his own words. Ed.





Image Attribution © Shawn Bell

## “My Masonic Journey”

In the Middle East, Masonry is not well known: the Brothers used to meet in secrecy; Lodges don't have the Masonic emblem on the meeting place; and there are many misconceptions about what Masonry is and who can join it. (Several prominent people were known to be Masons but one doesn't hear about ordinary people as Masons).

In the mid-sixties, I stumbled onto a conversation among much older men in my village talking about a very prominent member of our family, the Al Awar family, who was a parliament member at that time and who was affiliated with Masonry.

Later I found out that my uncle who returned from Brazil in the early sixties was a 32° Mason. (This I learned from his grandson who accidentally found his membership card.)

These incidents raised my curiosity a notch but Masonry would not enter my life for many years.

In 1974, I came to the United States to continue my education. I prioritized my schooling since tuition for foreign students was very expensive. Years went by after graduation and I became a US citizen and started working. While raising a family, life threw a curve ball at me and I had to re-establish myself financially.

During that time, I started to meet a lot of my countrymen who were Masons.

In July 2013, I turned in my Application to Home Lodge No. 721, and in September of that year I was elected to receive my degrees: I became an Entered Apprentice on July 16, 2014; a Fellowcraft on March 11, 2015; and was raised a Master Mason on September 9, 2015.

In April 2017, I was approached by Brother Amin Ballout, to become a charter member for a new lodge, Clarence F. Smith Daylight (UD).

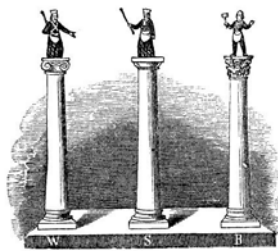
Since then I have been privileged to serve as the Secretary of this Lodge.

It has been a pleasure and honor working alongside other men who truly exemplify Masonry.

Thank you for the honor of the Hiram Award.  
Fraternally,  
Bro. Akram Al-Awar



Save the date! Clarence F. Smith Daylight's Fourth Annual Golf Tournament is postponed to September 14, 2024.



## From the East

**B**rethren, On the Fourth of July, we celebrate the signing and publication of the Declaration of Independence.

To me, this quote summarizes the essence of our lives in these United States:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

For Masons, this sentence is a reminder of our three great tenets, Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Let us pursue each of these ideals this month and always.

Happy Fourth to you and your families.

Fraternally,

Wor. Spartak (“Spo”) Khachatryan

Master

## From the West

**B**rethren,

On August 3, 2024, we will have a Fundraising Breakfast, 7AM-12PM, at the Lodge. Donations are \$15 per person. Please volunteer and let me know how you can help out. Please also invite friends and family members. This is important both for lodge finances and for our fellowship with one another.

Fraternally,

Bro. Gerald Alvarez

Senior Warden.

## From the South

**H**ello Brethren,

Here’s an idea: For those Brothers who would like to Donate Blood, Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center(1515 N. Vermont Ave. Los Angeles 90027) has a blood drive going on. These are the last two dates, if you would like to help out: August 23,2024 & December 20,2024. To schedule an appointment please visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code: KAISERSUNSET .

Blood donations are vital in saving lives, as they are used in a wide variety of medical situations, from emergency surgeries to supporting cancer patients undergoing treatment. A single pint of blood can save up to three lives, and by donating, you're contributing to the well-being of our community. Please consider signing up and taking the time to donate. Your generosity can help to give someone another chance.

On another note; I encourage the brethren to help with a donation of \$20 for “Mason's 4 Mitts.” I know WB Steve Wolvek, PM, has passed the hat around, but if you weren't able to help out before, the July Stated Meeting would be a great opportunity to do so. This helps a child in need who enjoys baseball to receive a Dodger glove.

Happy July Birthday to our Brothers Rami A., Keith C., Joseph C., Akram A., Mkhitar.

Sincerely and Fraternaly yours,

Bro. Joseph Chavez

Junior Warden



## OP-ED: Communication is Everything!

I was a passenger in a Brother's car the other day, after a most enjoyable lunch with him and two other Brothers. We had had a very good time at lunch together: good food, good company, good conversation. While on our way back to the lodge parking lot for my car, I remarked that getting together informally is, for me, the very best part of Masonry.

In other words, our lunchtime together was an opportunity to talk with each other, to learn more from and about one another, to share our stories, anecdotes, concerns, accomplishments, family histories and traditions, humor, even worries, whatever. It was another successful chance to deepen our mutual connections.

Our Brother, who was driving, agreed and emphasized that "communication is everything," or words to that effect.

I concurred and added that, with such communication and camaraderie, our generational differences vanish. Our cultural and religious backgrounds no longer separate us, neither do our trades, businesses, or professions. Spreading the cement of brotherly love and affection, we become even more unified, and we get along better, as men and Masons.

Rituals aside, our genuine care and concern for one another, the fun and amiability of being together, and our mutual exchanges of our thoughts, hopes, fears, and ideas, are critical for our success as a Lodge. Communication is everything.

Fraternally, Bro. David I. Karp, Editor.

## Don't Forget About Our Fundraising Breakfast, Aug. 3

Here's another great opportunity to deepen our friendship and fellowship, and a great opportunity to get to know one another better! Ed.

