

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 2024

Oaths, Obligations, Responsibilities

Foreword...

Oaths and obligations bind us to our responsibilities to ourselves, our faiths, our communities, and to one another.

The first oath I remember taking was when I joined the Cub Scouts at age eight: “I promise to do my best, to do my duty to God and my country, to be square [meaning to be fair] and to obey the law of the Pack.” Wolf Cub Scout Book, 1959 revision, “Cub Scout Promise,” p. 5.

At UCLA, when I joined Zeta Beta Tau fraternity, I dedicated myself to the principles of: “Intellectual Awareness, Social Responsibility, Integrity, and Brotherly Love.”

<https://zbt.org/about-zbt/mission-and-credo/> .

When I became an attorney, I took an oath, actually required for licensure, similar in language to today’s version, which reads as follows: “I, (licensee name) solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of an attorney and counselor at law to the best of my knowledge and ability. As an officer of the court, I will strive to conduct myself at all times with dignity, courtesy and integrity.”

<https://www.calbar.ca.gov/Admissions/Examinations/California-Bar-Examination/Attorneys-Oath>

Similarly, I have taken three oaths (we call them obligations) that pertain to my life as a Mason and as a responsible human being. According to W.: Brother Patrick Cholka, who writes for the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin

Education Committee, Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin:

“Through our Masonic obligations we declare allegiance to all the principles of Freemasonry so that we may be accepted as a responsible member of the Masonic family. We accept each other because we knelt at the same altar and made the same promises to each other and the Fraternity. [¶] [Each] obligation is the tie that bonds us to Freemasonry and to each other. It is a voluntary pledge each of us take[s] by virtue of which we are accepted as a responsible member of the family of Masons. For these reasons we take our obligations.” See, <https://wimasons.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/MSS-The-Obligation-Fall-2016-2.pdf> .

Both formally and informally, each of us undertakes responsibilities that obligate us to do, or not to do, certain things. At Clarence F. Smith Daylight No. 866, each of us is responsible for the success and perpetuation of our Lodge, which only can be accomplished with the support and presence of more than just a few of our members. We might think of these words, adapted from JFK’s famous phrase: Ask not what your Lodge can do for you; ask what you can do for your Lodge!”

Fraternally, Bro. David I. Karp, Editor

Trestle Board appears on page 2. Notice re amending By Laws appears on pp 4-5.

What Can Be Said About Our Obligations

Editor's Note: The following comes from "Information for Candidates" by the Committee on Ritual, Grand Lodge F.& A.M of California, as contained in my "Handbook for Candidates Coaches" © 1962.

"What ... might be considered your obligation, as a Freemason, to your lodge and to the Grand Lodge of which it is a part?"

"As a candidate, you are expected to enter upon your Masonic career with determination to build yourself, with the help and guidance of your lodge's officers, your coach and your own will, into a proficient and willing member of the lodge. Remembering always that those who help you do so because of their love of the fraternity, your zeal should be quickened and your gratitude should make you pledge your own help to those who follow after you.

"If ... in time [you] are able to sign the By Laws of your lodge as a Master Mason, your duties will expand. So, too, will your opportunity.

"... [T]he primary duty of membership involves attendance. Faithful attendance begins with attendance at meetings, but extends far beyond in attending to the affairs of the lodge when called upon to serve.

[...]

"The opportunity for service will present itself to you. If you grasp it, you will then begin to feel what Freemasonry means to its adherents. If you fail to carry your share of responsibility, you, in the ultimate, will become the loser. Masonry lives through the ages because of the strength imparted endlessly by its members. They, in turn, reap as they sow, each gathering sustenance in manifold returns. The man who gives nothing, however, receives his return in kind."

October Trestle Board

(We meet in person each month on the first and third Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM at the Van Nuys Masonic Center, except as otherwise noted. Always subject to change.)

October 1, 2024 – 7PM, Exec. Bd. Mtg. on Zoom
October 5, 2024 – 11AM, Stated Meeting. Vote on amending By Laws, Hygiene Kit Collection campaign concludes. Lunch donation \$15/person.

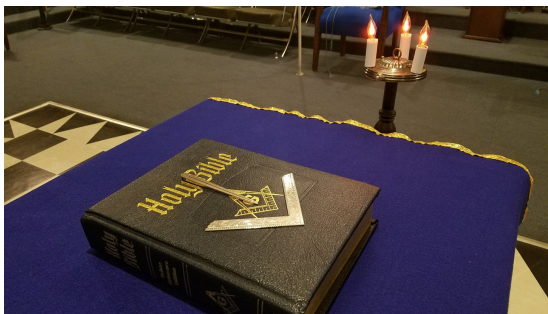
October 17, 2024 – 6-8PM, Fellowship Dinner, Lulu's, 16900 Roscoe Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91406

October 19, 2024 – 1st Degree Conferral
October 25-27, 2024 – Grand Lodge Annual Communication in San Francisco

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

Also see important notice on pp. 4-5 about amending our Bylaws re fees and dues.





Masonic Obligations and Their Significance

Editor's Note: The following lengthy but thorough article is excerpted from an online piece dated 11 July 2023, "Significance of Obligation" by W Bro Paul Robert Bryant, at <https://masons.au/news/Masonic-obligations-and-their-significance/>.

The word Obligation is self-explanatory. It means a kind of restraint of a person's absolute freedom of choice to do, or to refrain from doing certain things. Such restraint can either be imposed without a person's approval or self-imposed of that person's own volition.

There are different types of obligations:

- a) Obligations imposed upon all of us by the civil authorities to preserve law and order in society.
- b) Contractual obligations into which one enters of one's own free will, in one's everyday dealings in order to promote one's own interests.
- c) Obligations which are implanted by nature in the heart of every person to regulate their relations towards family and fellow creatures.
- d) Obligations into which one enters of one's free volition and accord because they are considered to be for one's moral benefit and advancement.

The Masonic obligations fall into this latter category. They are freely accepted, self-imposed obligations, the binding strength of which lies not in the threat of punishment, material loss or

penalty, but flows from the depth of a man's conscience and from the value that he places upon his personal honour. They are, therefore, more binding and of greater personal significance than any other because there is no more valuable asset than a man's personal honour, or a more vigilant and infallible critic than a man's conscience. What greater punishment can be imposed on a man than the constant remorse of his conscience (which will follow him to his grave) than that of being branded by his fellow-man with the stigma of being a man without honour?

Another important aspect of Masonic obligations is that they are not taken for a definite term, in respect of a particular country, or particular body of men. They are obligations taken by him as a man of the world and therefore are not confined within the limits of time, space or circle of men... These obligations are binding on him for the rest of his life, wherever he may be on, above or under the globe, regardless of what society he may be in from time to time, whether he continues to remain in the Craft or withdraw from it, or is expelled from Freemasonry. In short, once taken, the obligations cannot be honourably forsaken.

Generally, masonic obligations consist of a number of clauses, both positive and negative in nature. They contain the things a mason should do, and refrain from doing, in other words, 'masonic do's and don'ts'. Each obligation is concluded with a final point which encompasses all of the previous points, including secrecy. This is not for any sinister reason, but because we treasure our teachings and principles, and do not wish them to become the subject of commonplace discussion and derision among people who do not understand or appreciate their value and importance.

What then, is the reason for such solemn obligations? The answer is simple. Masonry is an organisation, and as an organisation is a group of people with common aims and objects, with a

[continues on page 4]

[continued from page 3]

system of laws and rules which are designed to achieve such aims and objects, the obligations are necessary to ensure that brethren are aware of those laws and rules. These laws and rules are regulated and policed by the duly elected leaders and officers of an organization. In order to achieve these aims and objects, the members must respect those leaders and officers.

Freemasonry, being an organization with a moral and spiritual mission, has its own code of ethics and behaviour which is expressed through teachings, rituals, traditions, symbols and allegories. The strength of this world-wide organization, its success in the face of many adversaries and adversities and its exalted reputation built over centuries, are all due to the strict adherence by its members to its code of ethics and behaviour, and also the discipline observed by, and owed to, the leaders who administer its laws and rules. However, an organization as large and widespread as Freemasonry will, from time to time, have some members who either inadvertently or deliberately breach that code of ethics and behaviour.

[Several paragraphs on enforcement and discipline by Grand Lodge and the local lodge have been omitted here. If interested in this in our jurisdiction, review the California Masonic Code instead.]

This, Brethren, is briefly the system upon which Masonry is founded, and this is the machinery through which it functions. They form the focal point of, and the essence of masonic obligations. I sincerely hope that you will retain these points vividly in your minds throughout your masonic careers, because we are all bound to them by our various masonic obligations. May these obligations, freely taken, without evasion or mental reservation, be the unerring compass guiding your every step and thought throughout your masonic journey, that is, the journey of the rest of your life.



Final Notice: Voting on Amending our By Laws at October Stated Meeting.

Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge, No.
866 F&AM of California.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AS

FOLLOWS:

At the July 6, 2024, Stated Meeting of this Lodge, two Resolutions were presented to amend the Bylaws (1) as to FEES (Uniform Code of By-Laws of Lodges, Article III, Section 1), and (2) as to DUES (Uniform Code, etc., *supra*, Article III, Section 2). Said Resolutions, and each of them, were presented in writing, read in lodge to the Brethren, and lodged with the Secretary to be noted upon the minutes of the Lodge.

AS TO FEES

“Resolved, The table of fees for this Lodge shall be as follows:

“A. For the degrees, the sum of \$600.00.

“B. For the degrees of Fellow Craft and Master Mason, when the Entered Apprentice degree has been received in another Lodge, the sum of \$400.00.

“C. For the degree of Master Mason, when the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft degrees have been received in another Lodge, the sum of \$200.00.

“D. For affiliation, the sum of \$100. There are no exceptions.”

[continues on next page, see “Resolutions”]

[“Resolutions, continued from page 4]
AS TO DUES

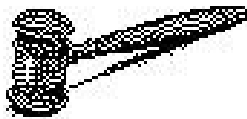
“Resolved, Section 2. The dues of each member of this Lodge shall be the sum of \$150.00 plus the Per Capita sum approved by Grand Lodge at the immediately preceding Annual Communication, with the total thus determined rounded up to the next higher whole multiple of \$10.00, per annum, payable in advance on the first day of January.”

The members of this Lodge are notified hereby and herein, that the foregoing Amendments, and each of them, will be voted upon at the October Stated Meeting to be held on the 5th day of October, 2024, and that each said Amendment requires a vote of approval by two-thirds of the members in good standing present on that date.

If the Lodge approves the Amendment re fees, the Amendment shall have no effect until approved by the Grand Master.

If the Lodge approves the Amendment re dues, the Amendment shall have no effect until approved by the Grand Master and the increase shall become effective upon the start of the fiscal year of the Lodge following the Grand Master’s approval of the increase.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE OF THE FOREGOING AND GOVERN YOURSELVES ACCORDINGLY.

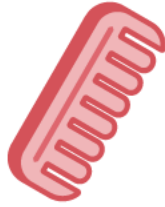


CFS Daylight’s Officers for 2024

Worshipful Master
Bro. 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”) Mkrтчhyan
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@clarencefsmith.org
Secretary:
Brother Akram Al-Awar



Hygiene Kit Collection Campaign Concludes in October. Please bring your donations.

As described in last month's edition, our Lodge is collecting assembled hygiene kits for the children served by the LAUSD Homeless Education Program.

This effort supports the Lodge's charitable goals, its care for public education, its commitment to public awareness of the fraternity, and its endeavors to improve the world.

If you have not already done so, please contribute by making, and bringing to the Lodge, assembled hygiene kits consisting of travel-size shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, dental floss, body soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, brush/comb, preferably in a large zip lock bag for a student in need.

Collection will conclude in the upstairs dining room shortly before our October Stated Meeting. Or contact Bro. David I. Karp, Campaign Coordinator, at 818-515-9361 or davidikarp@karpmediation.com to make other arrangements.

"The Grand Master of Masons in California proclaimed September 2024 to be "Public Schools Month," which was the genesis of the Lodge's efforts as described."

[Editor's note: If you have younger children, grandchildren, nieces/nephews, then assembling a kit with them to bring to the Lodge might be a

good at-home learning opportunity so to teach or remind them about homelessness, hygiene and humanitarianism. Just a thought. DIK.]

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)
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)

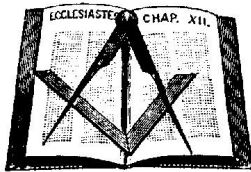
Past Masters who are "Honorary Members"

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.



Upon Which Book of Holy Writings Do We Take our Obligations?

If one observes or thinks about the inauguration of a United States President, one may automatically envision the President's oath-taking with the left hand resting upon a Bible, the right in a vertical position.

Our Brother, George Washington was, of course, the first to do so.

Interestingly WB Washington placed his hand upon the altar Bible from St. John's Lodge No. 1, Ancient York Masons, which is now referred to as the George Washington Inaugural Bible. It has been utilized since then at the inaugurations of President Harding in 1921, President Eisenhower in 1953, President Jimmy Carter in 1977, and President George Bush Sr. in 1989.

<https://www.nps.gov/feha/learn/historyculture/george-washington-inaugural-bible.htm> .

The George Washington Inaugural Bible is the King James Version, dated 1767, complete with the Apocrypha and supplemented with historical, astronomical, and legal data. *Id.*

In similar fashion we Masons take our obligations upon a book of Holy Writings, usually the "Holy Bible," which I believe also to be the King James Version.

But that is not the only authorized Book of Holy Writings. The California Masonic Code allows for alternatives as follows, with certain other stated conditions, in CMC §402.060:

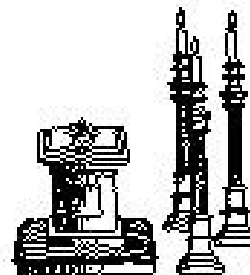
"If the candidate does not wish to be obligated on the Holy Bible, he must select an

alternate Holy Writings in book form from a list promulgated from time to time by the Grand Master of the Holy Writings of those recognized religions whose theology is not inconsistent with a belief in a Supreme Being and a future existence. The Grand Master's list shall at all times include the al-Kitab al-Aqdas of Bahaim, the Tripitaka of Buddhism, the Analects of Confucianism, the Vedas of Hinduism, the Koran of Islam, the Tanach of Judaism, the Koji-ki of Shintoism, the Adi Granth of Sikhism, the Tao-te Ching of Taoism and the Zend Avesta of Zoroastrianism. In selecting an alternate Holy Writings, the candidate must state that the book chosen is the Holy Writings of his religious faith.... [Also,] [w]hen an alternate Holy Writings is used during a degree, a closed Holy Bible of any size must be on the altar; and ... Alternate Holy Writings may be used only at a Lodge meeting during which a candidate selecting the alternate Holy Writings receives a degree and on no other occasion."

I have witnessed a candidate for the degrees taking his oath upon the Quran aka the Koran. It was a remarkable sight and further confirmation that Masonry respectfully welcomes men of all ethnic backgrounds and religious beliefs.

Fraternally,

Bro. David I. Karp





Provisions of the US Constitution regarding Oaths of Office

For President: “Before he enter on the Execution of this Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation ‘I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.’” [Article II, Section 1]

For Others: “The Senators and Representatives ..., and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.” [Article VI]

[Attribution: Jordan T., *The U.S. Constitution and Fascinating Facts About It*. Oak Hill Publishing Company, Ill., 2007 pp. 38, 43]



[Stated Meeting, 9/7/2024]

Since it’s October, What is “October Term?”

“By law, the U.S. Supreme Court's term begins on the first Monday in October and goes through the Sunday before the first Monday in October of the following year. The Court is, typically, in recess from late June/early July until the first Monday in October.” See, <https://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/educational-resources/about-educational-outreach/activity-resources/supreme-1> .

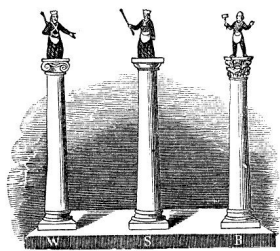
If interested in knowing which cases will be considered by the Court during October Term 2024, please see <https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/terms/ot2024/> DIK.

Fun Times with our Lodge

See the following three photos, one below, two on next page, second column:



[Bowling after Lodge, 9/7/2024]



From the East

Brethren,
First, I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who helped make our recent events successful and enjoyable:

Because of your hard work and support, our 4th Annual Golf Tournament had an outstanding turnout in September (see at right), and we all had an incredible time.

Thank you to all who contributed and helped make our breakfast fundraiser back in August a huge success too. None of this would've been possible without your hard work and dedication to our Lodge.

A huge thank you to all who contributed to our "Hygiene Kit Collection Campaign" and to Bro. David I. Karp for coordinating the campaign. The kits we collected will be donated to LAUSD's Homeless Education program, ensuring they go to those in need. As Masons, we should never forget how important charity is, and we must endeavor to improve our communities through our acts of kindness and support for those who need it.

It's exciting to see that new prospects and applicants are interested in joining our lodge. Our Lodge membership is growing at a healthy rate, and its future looks bright.

We extend our congratulations to Mr. Harlem Ruiz on being accepted to receive the degrees of Masonry in our lodge. We are very much looking forward to your initiation.

Great job, and congratulations, Bro. Ryan, on delivering your Fellow Craft degree proficiency

at our September Stated Meeting. We also look forward to your Third Degree conferral.

We are now in the last quarter of 2024, and the year will be in the past before we know it. At our November Stated meeting, we will hold our Annual Election of Officers, which means we should shift our focus to qualifying our 2025 officers and getting ready for a strong start of the new year.

Lastly, I would like to wish safe travels and a wonderful weekend to all who will be traveling to San Francisco to attend Annual Communications at the end of this month.

Fraternally,
Wor. Spartak ("Spo") Khachatryan
Master



[Above and Below: Fourth Annual Lodge Golf Tournament, 9/14/24]



From the West

Brethren,
Hope everyone's well. First of all I would like to thank all of the brothers who supported and helped us with our annual golf fundraising event. It was a successful turn out.

Secondly, it's October its Annual Communication time again. To those brothers who want to join us to attend Annual Communication this year, let us know so we can reserve rooms for the brothers.

Lastly, to all Clarence F Smith Daylight Lodge 866 members, we encourage all of you to attend the October stated meeting to discuss and vote on previously proposed increases to our application fee and our annual dues. We will vote on October 5, 2024, and we need your feedback or opinions to be heard first.

Sincerely and Respectfully,
Gerald Alvarez
Senior Warden

From the South

Hello Brethren.
I would like to take this time to thank everyone who helped out with the golf tournament, I know the heat made it somewhat difficult as well as the wait, but in the end we all did what we came to do. This could have not been possible without your assistance, and for that I do thank every single one of you.

For next year's tournaments, I encourage the brothers that do play golf to join me in creating two teams. It would be nice to go out to other lodges and show up with a good amount of brothers there for support.

All in all I am grateful for the support/assistance, even the donations, and hope to see new brothers out there golfing with us.

Brethren please make sure to bring your Hygiene kits if you haven't done so, and if you

have any extra clothes make sure to contact Brother Secretary Akram (for the Midnight Mission collection).

Finally, Happy October Birthdays to these Brothers: WB Roger S.; Bro. Christopher R.; Bro. Lloyd Donasco

Sincerely and Fraternaly yours,
Brother Joseph Chavez
Junior Warden



OP-ED: The Handshake

As I mentioned at our September Stated Meeting: although there may be vigorous differences of opinion among our U.S. Supreme Court justices, nevertheless each justice shakes hands with the each of the others before they all sit down at the bench. See, Jordan T., *The U.S. Constitution and Fascinating Facts About It*. Oak Hill Publishing Company, Ill., 2007 p. 77.

It is such a nice tradition and a reminder of their common objectives and roles “to say what the law is” [see, *Marbury v. Madison*, 5 U.S. 137, 1 Cranch 137 (1803)] even if their opinions are not unanimous and a minority dissents.

Our Lodge is small enough that each of us, too, can shake hands with each of our Brothers before we sit down to do the work of the Lodge. That's my goal whenever I am in Lodge, and elsewhere, even if our opinions may differ from time to time.

Why? We too have common objectives as do the justices. Ours are to assure the peace and harmony of our assemblies and, in token of friendship and brotherly love, to reinforce our obligations to one another as men and Masons.

Fraternaly,
Bro. David I. Karp, Editor