

# In the



# Daylight

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

November 2024

## Giving Thanks.

### Foreword...

**T**hanksgiving, this month on November 28, is always a time for reflection.

How and to whom do we give thanks?

For me, the sum and substance of gratitude is embodied in these few words, known as “The Philmont Grace” from my days in Scouting:

“For food, for raiment, for life, for opportunity, for friendship and fellowship, we thank thee, O Lord. Amen.”

I think about what each phrase encompasses.

**Food** We simply cannot live without it. In many religious traditions, families people more generally -- gather at a meal and give thanks for the food that they are about to eat or have eaten. In my own tradition, we thank God “who brings forth bread from the earth” and we have a “grace after meals.” I am also thankful for my time with my Brothers when we “break bread” together.

**Raiment** Clothing provides us with warmth, comfort, modesty, and in some cases represents our stations in life. One winter day, I admired and commented on a neighbor’s topcoat; a religious man, he responded, “it comes from God.” I consider my Masonic Apron to be raiment too and am grateful for the opportunity to have and wear it.

**Life** I think of how I have lived my life; I think about the lives of my family members and the experiences our elders have had and the experiences our children or grandchildren will have: lives of joy, sorrow, grief, anticipation, love, challenge, reward, success, failure, whatever. All of life’s experiences cherished or

regretted, the quality of life, even homelessness. At the two extremes, I think about the marvel of early childhood development, and also about end-of-life concerns of the aged, the inevitable result of a life well lived. I live my life as a Mason and I am grateful for all that it means.

**Opportunity** We live in the land of opportunity. There is nothing we cannot strive for. Our opportunities include work, play, adventure, service to others or ourselves, philanthropy, trades/professions, aspirations, whatever. We can be thankful, where we live, for freedom, democracy, advancement, society, a chance to make a difference in our community and the wherewithal to help repair the world and change lives.

**Friendship and Fellowship** I have friends from college with whom I am still in touch, friendly neighbors, friends from work too. But here, I must say how much I cherish the friendship and fellowship that has developed through my Masonic connections. I am grateful to be a part of this great fraternity, I am thankful for our time together as men and Masons, I am full of thanks for the opportunity to unite with so many of our members in this Daylight Lodge.

Lastly, I am thankful for the opportunity to share these words with you, and I wish for you and your families a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Fraternally,

Bro. David I. Karp, Editor

November Trestle Board is on page 2.

## “Thanks in Old Age”

By Walt Whitman (1888), quoted from  
The Walt Whitman Archive at  
[https://whitmanarchive.org/item/ppp.0707\\_01039](https://whitmanarchive.org/item/ppp.0707_01039)

Thanks in old age thanks ere I go,  
For health, the midday sun, the impalpable  
air for life, mere life,  
For precious ever-lingering memories, (of  
you my mother dear you, father you,  
brothers, sisters, friends,)  
For all my days not those of peace  
alone the days of war the same,  
For gentle words, caresses, gifts from foreign  
lands,  
For shelter, wine and meat for sweet  
appreciation,  
(You distant, dim unknown or young or  
old countless, un-specified, readers belov'd,  
We never met, and ne'er shall meet and yet  
our souls embrace, long, close and long;)  
For beings, groups, love, deeds, words,  
books for colors, forms,  
For all the brave strong men devoted, hardy  
men who've forward sprung in freedom's help,  
all years, all lands,  
For braver, stronger, more devoted men (a  
special laurel ere I go, to life's war's chosen ones,  
The cannoneers of song and thought the  
great artillerists the foremost leaders, captains  
of the soul:)

As soldier from an ended war return'd As  
traveler out of myriads, to the long procession  
retrospective,

Thanks joyful thanks! a soldier's,  
traveler's thanks.

[Editor's note: the foregoing poetry is not  
only suitable for giving thanks, but also, in a  
way, it alludes to veterans, whom we honor now  
on Veteran's Day, November 11, too.]

### November 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 30, 2024 – 7PM, Exec. Bd. Mtg. on  
Zoom

November 2, 2024 – 11AM, Stated Meeting.  
Election of 2025 Officers\*. Lunch donation  
\$15/person.

November 16, 2024 – Degree Conferral

November 20, 2024 – 6-8PM, Fellowship Dinner,  
TBA

November 21, 2024 – DSI – Late Officer Quals.

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

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\*All members of the Lodge in good standing  
shall be entitled to vote at an election of Lodge  
officers.





## Freemasonry and the Practice of Gratitude

**E**ditor's note: The following is excerpted from an online article entitled "Gratitude" by WB Darin A. Lahners, on the website of The Midnight Freemasons at <http://www.midnightfreemasons.org/2020/11/gratitude.html>.

"... I think Freemasonry is the practice of Gratitude. Gratitude is not only the quality of being thankful, but it's also a readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.

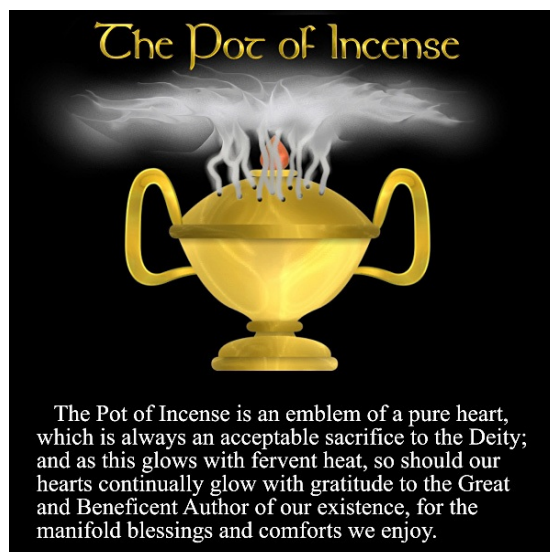
"The Three principle tenets of Freemasonry are: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

"To practice Brotherly Love, we need to show tolerance and respect for the opinions of others, and behave with kindness and empathy towards our fellow creatures. To practice Relief, we need to practice charity and care not only for our own family, but for our community as a whole not only through charitable giving, but also through our own individual voluntary efforts. To practice Truth, we need to be true in our actions as well as our word. We need to promote each other's welfare, and rejoice in each others prosperity.

"In order to exercise Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, Freemasons need to practice Gratitude.... In order to practice Gratitude, we need to be Thankful. Can you really love someone without being thankful for them? I don't think so, as a huge part of love is appreciation of that person. Can you really show compassion in your relief without being thankful for your own

blessings? Compassion is love in action. Can you be truthful without being thankful for the one truth we all know as Freemasons, which is the Great Architect of the Universe? Truth is a divine attribute.

"So as we approach Thanksgiving, I ask each of you to not only practice Gratitude on that day, but to practice it everyday. To use it as another working tool, to help us as we work in our quarries to transform ourselves from the rough ashlar to the perfect one. Let us reflect upon the indented tessel, which represents the manifold blessings and comforts we have in our life, and practice gratitude. Let us apply gratitude to practicing our tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. But most importantly, let us practice Gratitude for every day that the sun rises in the East to open and govern the day, and for the Great Architect by whose providence this occurs."



[Image attribution: Lodge St. Andrew #518 at <http://www.standrew518.co.uk/MAS.php>]

## Attributed to Albert Pike

“In Masonry, expressing gratitude is an important part of living an honorable life. It reminds us that even when things seem difficult or challenging, there are still reasons to be thankful for all the good things in life. Expressing gratitude can help bring about a sense of joy within ourselves as well as help foster relationships with others around us.”

Source: “Morals And Dogma Quotes” by Esoteric Freemasons at <https://medium.com/@julianwilson655/morals-and-dogma-quotes-2a7f8c63e2ce>

## Let’s Thank our 2024 Officers and Those we Elect for 2025

Every November, our Lodge elects a new slate of officers and the new Master appoints others to serve the Lodge in an officer capacity. We elect Masters, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary. They take over the principal operation of the Lodge from the existing line of officers, those in 2024 who are named in the box at right.

It is important to thank the new officers for volunteering but equally important to express our gratitude to those who serve(d) in the current year. Each gives to the Lodge without equivocation or mental reservation his time, attention, excellence in ritual, leadership, endurance, understanding, devotion, etc. Leadership includes joyfulness, rewards, and sometimes frustration and struggles. too. It is not easy to lead, and we thank them. Too, we thank the sideliners who also help every year.

Let’s include them all in our thoughts this month and always. Thank you, Brethren.

Fraternally,  
Bro. David I. Karp, Editor

### 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 Bro. Joseph Chavez  
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

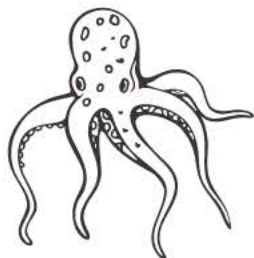


## Thankful for the Moral Lessons of Freemasonry

**A**s I consider the moral lessons of Freemasonry, I believe that they include: self-improvement; friendship; charity; kindness; compassion, sincerity, peaceableness; truthfulness; candor; forgiveness; respect; dignity; heart; adherence to law; gratitude; generosity; empathy; self-control, self-restraint; openness to listening, learning, understanding and accepting our differences; inquisitiveness; decency (doing what's right; doing no harm); gentleness; reverence; also, avoidance of insincerity, condemnation, guile, acrimony, animosity, hate, snobbery, attacks, or bias, and the like.

I am thankful for all that Masonry reinforces in keeping our passions within due bounds and so forth.

Bro. David I. Karp, Editor



## Now A Little Levity: At the Aquarium (A Very Short Story)

**W**hile at a fellowship dinner last Spring at which too few attended, one of the Brothers remarked: "We need more social events, events that include family members, events outside the Lodge room, events where we can wear our Lodge shirts and show the public who we are, and if asked, say what we do."

Subsequently some Brothers met agreeably to appointment and batted around some ideas,

maybe going to: a concert, the theater, the auto show, the Petersen Automotive Museum, any other museum, IMAX, Griffith Observatory, the circus, roller skating, a ball game, wine tasting, camping, Descanso Gardens, Huntington Library, the Queen Mary, Sea World....

Here's an idea, one said: The Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach. It is perfect for our families, kid friendly, endlessly fascinating and not too far away. Ultimately, the Master of the Lodge planned this event, hired a bus so all could go together, and many members enjoyably toured the aquarium together.

Standing in the open air portion of the facility near the shark lagoon tank and some other aquatic enclosures for the seals, the manta rays, and such, the Mason who suggested the trip spoke to the Worshipful Master:

"Many thanks," he said.

Overhearing the comment, another quipped, "Don't you mean many *tanks*?"

"Wait," a third chimed in. "Isn't that a military slogan?"

The Master was unimpressed by the repartee and left to view some larger *fish* tanks. DIK.



[One of many tanks!]

"Form 10-Q is a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) periodic report that public companies file to disclose the results of their business operation for their past fiscal quarter."

[https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/form\\_10-q](https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/form_10-q)

10-Q very much. DIK.





## November 11 is Veterans Day

**E**ditor's Note: The following is quoted from the web page at <https://department.va.gov/veterans-day>

/: "The Veterans Day National Ceremony is held each year on November 11th at Arlington National Cemetery. The ceremony commences precisely at 11:00 a.m. with a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns and continues inside the Memorial Amphitheater with a parade of colors by Veterans' organizations and remarks from dignitaries. The ceremony is intended to honor and thank all who served in the United States Armed Forces."

"Human felicity is produced not as much by great pieces of good fortune that seldom happen as by little advantages that occur every day." – WB Ben Franklin, PGM (GL PA).

Source: Benjamin Franklin. (n.d.). AZQuotes.com. Retrieved October 06, 2024, from AZQuotes.com Web site: <https://www.azquotes.com/quote/102023>

### 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)

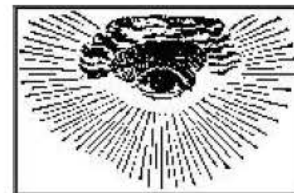
#### Past Masters who are "Honorary Members"

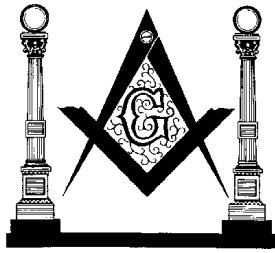
Jovito ("Jovi") R. Rivera (2017)  
Timoteo ("Tim") Zuniga (2020)

#### 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.





## Some Brothers Giving Thanks

“I am grateful for having such an inclusive lodge and our wonderful brothers.” Bro. Barry Mann

“I am thankful for the help and support that Masonry has provided to my mother and me over the last year, following the loss of the house and having been displaced.” Bro. Bill Raddatz

“I am thankful to everyone who has helped me during these last few years, and to all who have kept me involved and active. Thank you.” Bro. Jay Allen

“I am thankful that our Brother, Jay Allen, and his family were able to attend, dine, and participate in our lively conversation at our Fellowship dinner at Lulu’s on October 17, 2024, it was a pleasure for all.” Bro. David I. Karp

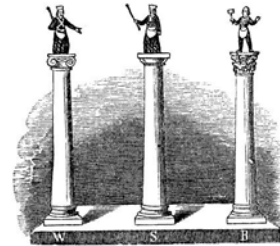
“I am thankful for my brothers of Clarence F. Smith Daylight lodge #866.” Bro Darren Hojjati

“As a member of this Lodge I thankful that I belong to this Lodge and that I have become a better man from the support and guidance of my Brothers.” Bro. Gerald Alvarez, SW

“I am thankful for the generous donations of time, money, participation, and enthusiasm of the Brethren of this Lodge throughout the year who have helped the lodge to thrive.” Wor. Spartak (“Spo”) Khachatryan, WM.



[First Degree Conferral, October 19, 2024.  
Congrats to Bro. Harlem!]



## From the East

Brethren,  
As we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, let us reflect and be grateful for all that we are blessed with. There will always be difficulties and challenges in life, but being mindful of what to focus our energy and attention on makes all the difference. Life is full of unexpected surprises, so remember to pause from time to time to appreciate and enjoy the meaningful and precious parts of it.

For those who may not be aware, we will conduct our Annual Election of Officers at our November Stated Meeting, where we will officially elect the brothers who will lead our Lodge in the ensuing Masonic year. I encourage [continues on next page, see “East”]

["East," continued from p. 7]

those who have not attended Lodge meetings lately to join us in this meaningful process. All members of the Lodge in good standing are entitled to vote at an election of Lodge officers.

I would also like to congratulate our newest member, Bro. Harlem Ruiz, on his initiation into our Lodge, and Bro. Arman Antonyan, on his excellent delivery of the 2nd degree proficiency. We are excited to have outstanding men like you be a part of our lodge. Our lodge continues to grow at a healthy rate with a bright future.

I hope you all have a wonderful and happy Thanksgiving.

Fraternally,

Wor. Spartak ("Spo") Khachatryan

Master

## From the West

**B**rethren,

I hope all is well.

First of all, thank you for supporting the lodge's financial issues by a favorable vote to increase our annual dues. I know that some of you were thinking it's too high but in the long run we will help our lodge to sustain our finances in coming years. We did great on our fundraisers but we still need more support from the members. Even though some are away from the Lodge, they can still send help in many ways. I hope you understand the reason we do this, i.e., to keep supporting our lodge and for its betterment.

Secondly, in the month of November we celebrate Thanksgiving. I would like to greet all the members of Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge 866 with a "Happy Thanksgiving to each of you."

A few words about Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving, celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November, is a time for gratitude, family gatherings, and reflection on the blessings of life. You will see my thanks on page 7.

Also November is the month for the election of Lodge officers. We will elect a new Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary. Let's all support the 2025 new line of officers.

Lastly, congratulations to Bro Harlem Ruiz for being newly initiated a Brother of CFS DAYLIGHT LODGE 866.

Respectfully and Fraternally Yours,

Bro. Gerald Alvarez

Senior Warden

P.S. We are all here for the betterment of the lodge. Peace, respect, brotherly love, relief, truth and harmony will prevail among all of us.

## From the South

**H**ello Brethren,

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support. I am aware that we may occasionally disagree, but ultimately, we are all Brothers, and what matters is having each other's support and back.

I would also like to congratulate our newly initiated Entered Apprentice, Bro.. Harlem Ruiz.

Happy November birthdays to: Virgil M., Michael K., Fernando L., Rolando C.

Sincerely and Fraternally yours,

Bro. Joseph Chavez

Junior Warden





## From our Secretary: “The Importance of Harmony Within a Group.”

**E**ditor’s note: The following essay, generated by AI, is offered for your consideration by our Secretary, Bro. Akram Al-Awar without editing (except as to format):

### The Importance of Harmony Within a Group

In any collaborative environment, whether it’s a workplace, a community organization, or a social group, harmony plays a crucial role in achieving shared goals and fostering positive relationships. Harmony within a group is not just about avoiding conflict; it involves a deeper sense of unity, understanding, and cooperation among members. Here are some key aspects of fostering harmony within a group.

**Communication.** Effective communication is the cornerstone of group harmony. Open lines of communication allow members to express their thoughts, ideas, and concerns without fear of judgment. Regular check-ins, team meetings, and feedback sessions can create an environment where everyone feels heard and valued.

Encouraging active listening where members truly pay attention to one another further enhances this process.

**Shared Goals.** When group members share common goals, it cultivates a sense of purpose and direction. Establishing clear, collective objectives can unify individuals and align their efforts. This shared vision fosters collaboration, as each member understands their role in contributing to the group’s success. Celebrating milestones together can also reinforce this sense of unity.

**Diversity and Inclusion.** Diversity enriches a group by bringing in varied perspectives and ideas. However, it can also lead to misunderstandings if not managed well. Embracing diversity while promoting inclusivity ensures that all voices are heard and respected.

Creating an environment where differences are celebrated rather than shunned helps to build stronger, more harmonious relationships.

**Conflict Resolution.** Conflict is a natural part of group dynamics. How a group handles conflict can significantly impact its harmony. Establishing clear conflict resolution strategies such as mediation or open discussions can prevent minor disagreements from escalating into larger issues. Encouraging a culture of respect and understanding can help members navigate conflicts constructively.

**Trust and Respect.** Trust is essential for harmony. When group members trust one another, they are more likely to collaborate effectively and share ideas openly. Building trust takes time and consistency, often through small acts of reliability and honesty. Respecting each individual’s contributions, regardless of their role, fosters a supportive atmosphere where everyone feels valued.

**Team-Building Activities.** Engaging in team-building exercises can strengthen relationships among group members. These activities, whether formal or informal, provide opportunities for individuals to bond and understand one another better. Fun and collaborative experiences can break down barriers and foster camaraderie, making it easier to work together harmoniously.

Achieving harmony within a group is an ongoing process that requires commitment from all members. By prioritizing communication, shared goals, diversity, conflict resolution, trust, and team-building, groups can create an environment that nurtures collaboration and mutual respect. In a harmonious setting, individuals are not only more productive but also happier and more fulfilled, leading to a stronger, more resilient group overall.