

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 2024

Lightheartedness

Foreword...

If you saw the 1974 Mel Brooks film, “Blazing Saddles” (one of my favorites), you might remember Harvey Korman as Hedley Lamarr who famously said, “My mind is a raging torrent, flooded with rivulets of thought cascading into a waterfall of creative alternatives.” See, <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0071230/characters/nm0466327> .

Well, it wasn’t a raging torrent for me, but I did have many disconnected thoughts that led to this month’s theme, “Lightheartedness.”

The word is the confluence of “Light” and “Heart,” both of which remind me of our principle tenets: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. “Light,” of course is an important symbol in Masonry (e.g., “Let there be Light”) representing learning, knowledge, and Truth. “Heart” is the embodiment of Brotherly Love and Relief, alluding to empathy, kindness, charity and a life well lived.

“Light” and “heart” are important in the month of December as well. There’s the Star of Bethlehem, the light of which was a sign from God, many believe, which led to the birthplace of Jesus. And, of course, Chanukah is also known as the “Festival of Lights,” which celebrates the rededication of the Temple after its desecration and the miracle that the oil of only one day lit the menorah for eight days.

On the other hand, “lightheartedness” to me means not taking things too seriously and embodies humor and a carefree attitude.

Masonry can be so serious at times. Let’s take this time, in words from *Spamalot*, “to look on the bright side of life” and to wish one another a joyful and heartfelt holiday month and a good new year.

Let there be light, let there be heart.

Fraternally,

Bro. David I. Karp, Editor.

December 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.)

December 5, 2024 – 7PM, Exec. Bd. Mtg. on Zoom

December 7, 2024 – 11AM, Stated Meeting.
Lunch donation \$15/person.

December 19, 2024 06:00 PM - 08:00 PM
Lulu's Restaurant and Sports Bar, 16900 Roscoe Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91406, USA

December 21, 2024 – Degree Conferral

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

Lodge dues for 2025 = \$220 inclusive of “per capita” for Grand Lodge. Please pay promptly to stay in good standing.

An Abbreviated Table of Contents....

In this edition, first we'll focus on light (pp. 2-4), then heart (pp.4-5), then lightheartedness (pp. 5-8), and more (pp. 8 *et seq*). DIK.

1. Let There Be Light.



The Year is 6024 A.L.

“Anno Lucis (A.L.) This is Latin for ‘*In the Year of Light.*’ [Emphasis added.]

The term is frequently used in Masonic procedure, and expresses a year that is 4,000 beyond Anno Domini (‘The year of Our Lord’)¹. There is a reason for this, of course. The date of the creation of the world is generally assumed to be 4,000 years before the birth of Our Lord, and the creation of the world saw the beginning of Light. (‘Let there be Light. And there was Light.’) Dr. James Anderson, in his 1723 ‘Constitutions,’ refers to the 4,000 year-advanced ‘Anno Lucis’ as ‘The Year of Masonry’ and the idea was adopted.”

Source:

https://grandlodgeofiowa.org/docs/Masonic_History/AnnoLucis.pdf

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”) Mkrtychyan
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
Secretary:
Brother Akram Al-Awar

¹Some people replace A.D. (“Anno Domini”) with C.E. (for “Common Era”).



Masonic Light

Editor's Note: The following quote is excerpted from an online article entitled *Masonic Light* from Washington Masonic Lodge No. 46 A.F. & A.M. Portland, OR, at <https://washington46.org/2017/01/30/masonic-light/> :

"All Freemasons know or ought to know that 'light' is one of the cardinal words that form the main fabric of Speculative Freemasonry. It is not only the first symbol that is ceremonially introduced to the initiate, but continues all through his progress in the Craft. Truth and Wisdom constitute part of light, which pervades the whole basis of Freemasonry to the extent that Freemasons are even called the Sons of Light. In the First Degree alone the word is introduced to the candidate in three different perspectives. Those perspectives being, the material light, or the lesser lights, the emblematic light or the Volume of the Sacred Law, and the spiritual light or the creative will of the Supreme Being. These concepts and others that follow after the First Degree are amply enshrouded in illuminating phraseology remembered by every Freemason. Their full import may not be perceived by all but they are constantly there in the rituals of our ceremonies. There are other references to light that are still worthy of note. "To bring to light" or "to see the light" technically means initiation. From the foregoing it is obvious that to the Mason light has a deeper meaning which is darkness to the uninitiated or possibly even the newly made Mason, but visible to the taught Mason."

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)

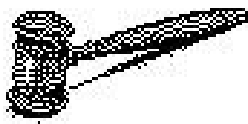
* Deceased.

More Light

“Universally as well as Masonically [light is] a symbol of knowledge both temporal and spiritual. The opposite is true; darkness is universally as well as Masonically a symbol of ignorance. Masonically, it is the ‘North’ which is a ‘place of darkness,’ a small echo of a day when early man observed that in the northern hemisphere which is that of the oldest races of mankind and of civilization the sun never traveled into the northern part of the sky it always seemed to move from East to West by way of the South.”

Source: *Handbook for Candidates Coaches*,
By Committee on Ritual and Donal G. Campbell
Past Grand Lecturer, Grand Lodge F.&A.M. of
California (1962) at p.24.

2. “You’ve Gotta Have Heart”²



The Masonic Gavel

The Masonic Gavel is “a tool used to break off the rough edges of a stone. Used in this way, the Masonic Gavel can be a reminder for Freemasons to chip off certain vices and maintain a pure, moral and spiritual *heart*.” [Emphasis added.] Source: <https://www.ghilley.com.au/blogs/news/freemason-symbols>

²Simply an allusion to the song in the Broadway Musical *Damn Yankees*, Richard Adler and Jerry Ross, 1955.



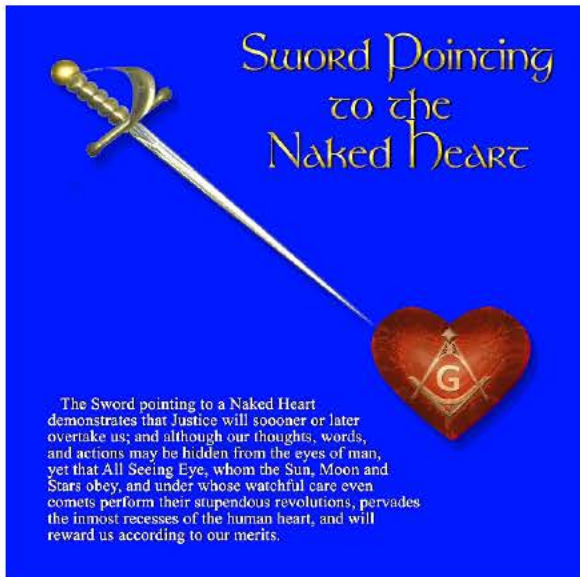
John Lewis: The Heart of a Mason

Editor’s Note: The following is excerpted from an excellent biography of Congressman (Brother) John Lewis from the Scottish Rite NMJ at <https://scottishritenmj.org/blog/john-lewis-freemason>.

“John Lewis was many things. He was a Freemason, a congressman whose career spanned several decades, and a pivotal figure within the civil rights movement. Brother Lewis fought to change the United States for the better, to ensure all its citizens could safely live a life of dignity and prosperity. His life was dedicated to the service to others and through the years he inspired countless others to commit themselves to relief and justice, truth and love. For his many accomplishments, we are grateful and filled with pride that we may call him ‘Brother.’”

...
“Given Brother Lewis's ardent dedication to promoting justice and equality, it is no surprise that the tenets and teachings of Freemasonry appealed to him. In 1999, Lewis was made a Prince Hall Mason at H. R. Butler Lodge No. 23 in Atlanta by Grand Master Benjamin Barksdale of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F&AM of Georgia. Twelve years later, Brother Lewis received the honorary 33° at the United Supreme Council Session in Atlanta. He was a member of the Atlanta Consistory No. 24-A, Orient of Georgia (PHA). Additionally, Ill. Brother Lewis was a Shriner in the Prince Hall-associated Khedive Temple No. 16, and later in Mecca Temple No. 10, in the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. [Continues on next page]

“Brother Lewis passed to the Celestial Lodge in July 2020 after a battle with pancreatic cancer. Upon his death, he became the first African American lawmaker to lie in state in the rotunda of the U.S. capitol. His death moved the entire country, and at his funeral, three former presidents were in attendance. He was also honored with a ceremony by the Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons of Georgia, a moment many Masons across the country and we cherished. Undoubtedly, Brother John Lewis will inspire Americans for generations to come to pursue a life of peace and light.”



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

3. Some Lightheartedness

Editor's note: A resource in my library to which I return time and again is *Leo Rosten's Carnival of Wit* (New York: A Dutton Book, 1994. Print.). It really has nothing to do with Masonry but it is rich with humor, thoughtful observations, entertainment and lightheartedness. Here are some quotes from the book that amuse me.

Just Funny (pp. 261-263)

“We ought never to do wrong when people are looking.” Mark Twain.

“I was gratified to be able to answer promptly. I said I don't know.” Mark Twain

“His hair is getting thin still who wants fat hair?” Milton Berle

“Statistics show that every four seconds a woman gives birth to a baby. Our problem is to find this woman and stop her.”

Henny Youngman/George Jessel/Red Skelton

“One day my father took me aside and left me there.” Jackie Vernon

Quips (pp. 409-411)

“The one serious conviction that a man should have is that nothing is to be taken too seriously.” Samuel Butler

“He hasn't been himself lately, let's hope he stays that way.” Irvin S. Cobb

Wit (pp.507-517)

“If I were two-faced, would I be wearing this one?” Abraham Lincoln

“The best way to keep children home is to make the home atmosphere pleasant and let the air out of the tires.” Dorothy Parker

“Cooking is a minor art. I can't imagine a hilarious soufflé, or a deeply moving stew.”

Kenneth Tynan

“He can compress the most words into the smallest ideas of any men I ever met.”

Abraham Lincoln

[continues on next page, see “Quotes”]



["Quotes," continued from page 5]

"If I called the wrong number, why did you answer the phone?" James Thurber.



"A bank is a place where they lend you an umbrella in fair weather and ask for it back again when it begins to rain." Robert Frost/Mark Twain

"If I'm not in bed by eleven at night, I go home." Henny Youngman

"She got her good looks from her father he's a plastic surgeon." Groucho Marx

"By working faithfully eight hours a day, you may eventually be a boss and work twelve hours a day." Robert Frost

"If it weren't for the last minute, nothing would get done." Anonymous

"Writing to you is like corresponding with an aching void." Groucho Marx.



The Letter "G"

Can you imagine a place where there is no sex, drugs, alcohol, smoking indoors, violence, promiscuity, foul language, or other noxious or extreme behavior and where people generally enjoy themselves in a lighthearted and carefree manner and come out smiling?

Yep, it's our Masonic Lodge room! That's why when you look to the East, you see the letter "G." The place is G-rated. DIK.

A Few Masonic Limericks

There once was a Worshipful Master
Whose Ritual was spoken much
faster
"So, why go so fast?"
He was ultimately asked
"I'd like to avoid a disaster."

There once was a coach with vexation
Who oversaw memorization
The new brother prepped
So he'd not be inept
And the coach would like his narration.

A Brother came late from the meeting
His wife thought he's probably cheating
"That's not how it goes
When you're out with the Bros.
I forgot that time was so fleeting."

A Mason of 33 years
After Lodge went with his peers.
He sat with the sages
Of similar ages
And tossed back a number of beers.

The work of our Lodge is attractive
But quite a few are inactive
It would count as a plus
If more came to us
So our goals would be much less
abstractive.

I feel like I've not said enough
To hint that our Craft's not so tough
It just takes devotion
Without much commotion
To keep us out of the rough.

Fraternally, Bro. David



[Brothers from our Lodge in San Francisco in October for the Grand Lodge Annual Communication, notably Bros. Lloyd, Kim, Gerald, WB Celso, WB Jhonny, and one other. Fun for them to travel and stay together, important for the Lodge that they are there. Thank you for representing us.]



Now Some Masonic Haiku³

The Lodge room was full.
Where did all of them come from?
It was the free meals.

The sagging Apron
(Sideline's belly too big)
Worn below the belt.

They stood for the pledge
Put their hands over their hearts
At the end, sat down.

The Tiler's great sword
It is a sign of his role
Please do not stab me

The Stewards rebelled
Those long poles are too awkward.
Let's just give the sign.

The Deacons waited.
It wasn't their turn to state
What they do in Lodge.

The Treasurer said
We have a good balance now
Let us pay our bills.

The Secretary
He read the minutes so well
The Brothers slumbered.

The Wardens stood up
There were motions to vote on
"I move." "I second."

The Master's amused
A Mason's fly is open
Arrange the jewels.

In late December
The Lodge will be in recess
Don't forget, come back!

With heartfelt wishes for the upcoming
holiday season and the New Year.
Brother David.



³No rhyme, 17 syllables, 5-7-5.



Bro. Solomon Kang and His Worm Farm

Solomon Kang came all the way to Maine from Korea, as a child, with his family. Later, as an adult, Solly Kang went into business as a grower of worms for live bait and for composting. His worm farm was not far from a rural Masonic Lodge where some of his customers were Brothers. Both friendly and charitable, it was natural, then, that he progressed from neighbor, worm farmer, and vendor, to applicant for the Degrees of Masonry. An inclusive group, the Lodge was elated.

After his initiation Bro. Sol studied intensively with his coach and ultimately sat in Lodge to recite a portion of the ritual he had memorized. Having succeeded in his proficiency, the Worshipful Master congratulated him, saying “Most excellent, Brother Kang.”

At that moment, it suddenly dawned on the Master that Bro. Solomon, as a Korean youth, might have been referred to as Kang Solomon in his native country and/or by his family and others. Amused, he kept this to himself.

Time passed as Kang pursued both his career as a worm farmer and as a Mason. However, one day, there was a great loss when the worm farm erupted in a fire which killed most of the worms.

Kang was able to rescue only one worm as the fire raged, but as he fled the worm barn, falling debris from the fire hit him on the head and at the temple near his left eye, at which time he instantly joined the Celestial Lodge above.

At his Masonic funeral, it was noted that Kang Solomon’s temple did him in, and the worm was lost. DIK.

From the East

Brethren, Congratulations to the 2025 Officers-Elect of Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866.

2024 proved to be both a successful and challenging year for our Lodge, but I am confident that together we will overcome any obstacles we are faced with and grow stronger from them, as we have in the past.

Last month, we approved the applications of Eli Y. and Adam S. Congratulations to you both, and I look forward to your initiations into our fraternity.

It is gratifying to see our Lodge continue to grow strong with new members and Brothers who are stepping up to take on leadership roles in our Lodge. I am excited to see what 2025 has in store for our Lodge.

I wish you all a happy holiday season and hope you have a wonderful holiday break. I wish you joy, happiness, peace, and excellent health as you begin the new year.

Fraternally,
Wor. Spartak (“Spo”) Khachatryan
Master



From the West

Brethren,
I hope everyone's well and happy
holidays to all.

In January, the newly elected officers will be installed. We are counting on everyone's support and help for the betterment of the lodge, hoping harmony, peace, respect, truth, relief and brotherly love will prevail among all of us.

In the next Trestle Board, we will update you all about our plans for next year's Masonic events. We will need all the Brothers' cooperation to help us to make our lodge events successful and to help the Lodge with its financial needs to build and sustain our savings for the future.

Being Master of the Lodge is not an easy task yet with the guidance of all Past Masters, it will be possible to overcome any challenges, no matter how tough they may be.

I will look to our Past Masters and all members for guidance and to help us fulfill our duties to govern the lodge in harmony and protect us from evil intentions. We are all brothers, we work together as one for the betterment of our lodge.

Save the date: Our Annual Installation of Officers is scheduled on January 26, 2025, 4:00pm social and 5:00pm ceremony. I hope to see you all.

Lastly, to our outgoing Master, Worshipful Spartak "Spo" Khachatryan: Thank you for your time and dedication for the Lodge. We hope that you continue to support us and help the officers whenever they needed help. Again, thank you and we wish you well on your journey as a Past Master.

Respectfully and Fraternally Yours,
Gerald Alvarez
Senior Warden



From the South

Editor's Note: Sometimes work or family needs overtake us. I believe this is so for Bro. Joseph, our Junior Warden. Consequently, here is a reprise of some earlier information from him, which is consistent with the "heart" portion of this edition. Giving blood is so important, truly a lifesaver, and a salutary endeavor for a charitable Masonic Lodge like ours. (Also, I'm sure he would add best wishes, for all, for the holidays.) DIK.

"Brethren, 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, ... on December 20,2024. To schedule an appointment please visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: KAISERSUNSET.

Helping others helps us to improve ourselves and our communities.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Bro. Joseph Chavez,
Junior Warden"

