

In the



Daylight

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

January 2025

Optimism

Foreword...

On January 20, The Once and Future President of the United States will take office, (thankfully) with the peaceful transfer of power. This will engender optimism for many citizens. Others will differ.

In contrast, in January, we will have our Installation of Officers in this Lodge for which there is much enthusiasm and optimism, too, and *no dissent*, it being the product of a unanimous vote of the members. Certainly, I am optimistic for a great and productive Masonic year ahead.

Masonry generates optimism in other ways as well:

Despite any rifts in our national “civil society,” we Masons *are* a civil society. We promote peace and harmony among ourselves; we value diversity, politeness, honor, respect and truth among our members; and we do not bring discord and divide into our Lodge room.

As we say, we welcome men of all ethnic backgrounds and religious beliefs. Also we do not discuss religion or politics in the Lodge room.

If only the larger community beyond the Craft would understand that the Masonic Lodge is an oasis from the extant divisiveness and dissonance outside. This should be our message to communicate in outreach. It could lead to even greater optimism about the future for all, especially for those who might seek admission to enjoy Masonry’s safe space.

My son, a software engineer, had a T-shirt on which one could read the following, or words to this effect:

“Optimists see the glass as half-full; Pessimists see the glass as half-empty;” (and the humorous tag-line:) “Engineers see the glass as twice the size it needs to be.”

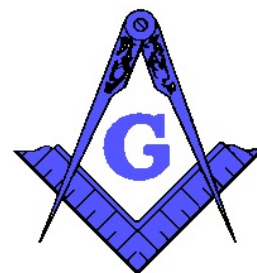
I am not an engineer, so I simply see the glass as half-full. That is, I remain optimistic overall as I continue to benefit, and take guidance, from our Masonic principles and virtues.

Let’s have a terrific 2025.

Fraternally,

Bro. David I. Karp

Editor



January Trestle Board appears on page 2.



Bro. Irving Berlin's Optimism – “God Bless America”

“God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light
from above
“From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home”

From: “God Bless America” by Irving Berlin
God Bless America lyrics © Concord Music
Publishing LLC, Sony/ATV Music Publishing
LLC, TuneCore Inc., Warner Chappell
Music, Inc, Word Collections Publishing
Source: LyricFind

[Editor's Note: On June 3, 1910, Irving
Berlin, originally Israel Berlin, was raised a
Master Mason in Munn Lodge No. 190 in New
York City. See,
<https://www.freemason.com/irving-berlin/>, a
web page of the Grand Lodge of Ohio.]



January 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.)

January 2, 2025 – 7PM, Exec. Bd. Mtg. on Zoom
January 4, 2025 – 11AM, Stated Meeting. Lunch
donation \$15/person.

January 16, 2025 – 6-8PM, Fellowship Dinner,
Lulu's Restaurant and Sports Bar, 16900 Roscoe
Blvd, Van Nuys, CA 91406, USA

January 18, 2025 – Degree Conferral or Practice
January 26, 2025 – Installation of Officers, 4PM
Social, 5PM ceremony. Formal wear.

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.

Optimism Explained by Another Brother

Bro. Cameron Adamson from Windsor,
Canada, writes:

“Freemasonry is something we
love, but it is also something that is experiencing
challenges. It can be easy to, when facing
challenges, become pessimistic about the future.

“Pessimism is cancerous.

“The first duty of every citizen is optimism
towards his country and both the leadership and
people therein.

“The first duty of every Mason is optimism
towards the Brotherhood, his Brethren, his
Lodge, and his Jurisdiction.”

Source:

<https://adamson-cameron.medium.com/everythin-g-is-going-to-be-ok-acce06a5b235>

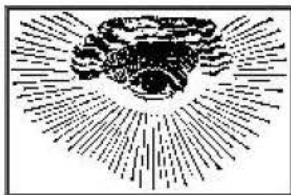


Masonry is Inherently Optimistic

“Masonry is inherently optimistic. It teaches its adherents that mankind, though flawed, can be improved or even perfected, just as rough stone taken from the quarry can be polished and made beautiful for the builder’s use. [¶] Masonry teaches that injustice is not forever, that adversity can be overcome, and that not only is the world better now than it once was, by our efforts it can be made better in the future. For Masons, the Golden Age is not in the past, but is a time to come.”

Source:

<https://ndmasons.com/if-i-were-a-mason> , a web page of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota



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@clarencefsmith.org
Secretary:
Brother Akram Al-Awar



Optimism is a Choice

“Can something so intangible as optimism be practical? Optimism might seem like a naïve attitude especially when the world seems like it’s going crazy. But optimism isn’t something that happens to you. It’s not a symptom of a comfortable life. Being optimistic is a choice and a discipline. It’s practical because you have to consciously engage optimism every day. And look, of course, there will be times in your life when things go sideways, and you are having severe problems. Putting on a happy face and acting positively when you’re in crisis is crazy. That’s not optimism; that’s a delusion. Hopefulness means that even when you are suffering, you trust that your circumstances are temporary. In that hopeful trust lies an enduring, functional optimism that will see you through.”

Source:

<https://ilmason.org/our-blog/2020/10/5/five-practical-tips-for-self-improvement> , a web page of Illinois Freemasonry

CFS Daylight’s Officers for 2025

Worshipful Master Bro. Gerald J. Alvarez
Senior Warden Bro. Joseph (“Joe”) R. Chavez
Junior Warden Bro. Roland (“Letroc”) Cortel
Treasurer Bro. Ely Ayao
Secretary Bro. Akram Al-Awar
Asst. Secretary
Bro. Thomas (“Tom”) K. Sheehan
Chaplain
WB Archimedes (“Kim”) S. Cabanig, PM
Senior Deacon Bro. Lloyd Donasco, Sr.
Junior Deacon Bro. Elvis L. Alvarez
Senior Steward Bro. Ibrahim Hannoun
Junior Steward Bro. Marvin De Guzman
Marshal Bro. Mkhitar (“Mike”) Mkrtychyan
Organist Bro. Earl Austria
Tiler WB Fernando (“Jhonny”) Lebrilla PM
Officers’ Coach
WB Archimedes (“Kim”) S. Cabanig, PM
Candidates’ Coach Bro. Aldrin Perez
Inspector WB Leland H. Celestre, PM

Contact information:

Master:
Worshipful Gerald J. Alvarez
GJAL25@aol.com , 323-929-9161
Secretary:
Brother Akram Al-Awar
asalawar@aol.com , 818-631-1988



A Few Quotes on Optimism

“Optimism: The doctrine or belief that everything is beautiful, including what is ugly.” Ambrose Bierce

“The man who is a pessimist before forty-eight knows too much; the man who is an optimist after forty-eight knows too little.” Mark Twain¹.

“The basis of optimism is sheer terror.” Oscar Wilde².

“There is no sadder sight than a young pessimist, except an old optimist.” Mark Twain.

“A pessimist is a man who thinks all women are bad. An optimist is one who hopes they are.” Chauncy Depew.

Source: *Leo Rosten's Carnival of Wit*. New York: A Dutton Book, 1994. Print, pp. 352-353

“If things don't get better, depend on it, they will get worse.” *Yiddish Proverbs*. New York: Schoken Books. 1971. Print, p. 39

¹Samuel Clemens (aka Mark Twain) was a member of Polar Star Lodge No.79, A.F.& A.M., St. Louis, Missouri.
<https://www.lodgestpatrick.co.nz/famous.php> .

²Oscar Wilde attended Apollo University Lodge No. 357, Oxford (UGLE).
<https://www.lodgestpatrick.co.nz/famous2.php#M> .

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.

As Masons, We Optimistically Try to Improve Children's Lives

As you know, Clarence F. Smith Daylight No. 866 has found ways to improve the lives of school children consistent with the Grand Lodge of California's support of public education.

One year, for instance, we collected and donated children's books to a local elementary school with the optimistic goal of improving literacy.

In 2024, to improve the lives of homeless students, the Lodge collected for, and donated to, the Los Angeles Unified School District's Homeless Education program, in the following two ways:

In the first half of the year, the Lodge conducted a "Write On Campaign" to collect and donate school supplies (e.g., unopened boxes of new blue/black pens, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, spiral notebooks, filler paper, and composition books) for homeless students to use for their writing assignments.

In the year's second half, the Lodge's "Hygiene Kit Campaign" resulted in more than 120 hygiene kits being collected for distribution to LAUSD's homeless students. The kits contained some or all of the following: toothbrush, toothpaste, brush/comb, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, dental floss, body soap, etc

On November 20, 2024, (although unnecessary but happily received), the School District's Board of Education officially thanked the Lodge with the Certificate of Recognition shown in the next column, delivered to this writer, for the Lodge.

The most gratifying portion of the Certificate states, "*You have changed lives forever*" [Emphasis added.]

Fraternally, Bro. David I. Karp
Campaign Coordinator



[Certificate Presentation to the Lodge at our December Stated Meeting, December 7, 2024, by Bro. David to Wor. Spo, Master.]



Grand Master's Proclamation for ALL of 2025

REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Whereas support of public schools is enshrined in the California Masonic Code as one of our key values; and

Whereas California Masons have for more than a century supported public education through the observance of Public Schools Month and its related programs and initiatives; and

Whereas California Masons and lodges continue to lend their support to public schools through donations of time, money, and supplies;

As grand master, I proclaim our support of public schools to be reaffirmed throughout the year.

For more than 100 years, California Masons have heartily supported public schools. Spurred by the belief that every member of our community is entitled to a free, robust education, Masons have played a central role in forming and supporting the system of public education in California and beyond. Among our members who have had a hand in its development are John Swett, a member of Phoenix Lodge No. 144 and California's "father of public education," who as superintendent of public instruction in 1863 transformed the school system and introduced a completely tuition-free model of education; and Past Grand Master Earl Warren (1936), who as chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court wrote the unanimous decision ending segregation in public schools.

Today, our public schools system in dire need of support. California ranks 38th in the nation in per-pupil spending; meanwhile, our schools are suffering an acute teacher shortage, especially in special education. Nearly one in four students is considered chronically absent and test scores are below national standards in both English and math. As a result, it is up to organizations like the Masons of California to help close gaps in funding, technology, and materials that our schools require to thrive.

Masons have a special opportunity to make an impact in the lives of teachers, administrators, and students by giving their time, expertise, and dollars to help improve our public schools. I therefore call on California Masons lend recommit themselves to their public schools through various lodge programs as well as personal volunteerism including engaging in elected positions like local school boards to ensure the preservation of the liberal arts and sciences that we, as Masons, study in our pursuit of enlightenment and self-improvement.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Grand Master Arthur Salazar

Attest:

Grand Secretary Allan L. Casalou



[Stated Meeting, December 7, 2024]



We Are All Alike

“No matter how different cultures are, most people, simple people, are everywhere the same. They love their children. They are willing to take great risks to find a better place for their children. They want things to be better for their children. Louis Finkelman [Hillel director at Wayne State University] quoting his mother’s advice on welcoming strangers. From *Moment* magazine, December, 1980.” Kolatch, Alfred J. *Great Jewish Quotations*. New York: Jonathan David Publishers, Inc., 1996, at p 139.



[First Degree Conferral, 12/21/2024. Congrats to Bros. Adam and Eli!]

Brotherhood of Man

Editor’s note: Here are some of the optimistic lyrics of the song, “Brotherhood of Man,” by Frank Loesser, from the 1961 musical, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*:

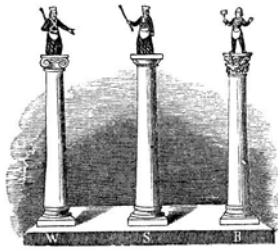
Now you may join the Elks, my friend
And I may join the Shriners
And other men may carry cards
As members of the Diners
Still others wear a Golden Key
Or small Greek letter pin
But I have learned that's one great club
That all of us are in

There is a brotherhood of man
A benevolent brotherhood of man
A noble tie that binds
All human hearts and minds
Into one brotherhood of man

Your life long membership is free
Keep a-giving each brother all you can
Oh, aren't you proud to be in that fraternity
The great big brotherhood of man?

Source:

<https://genius.com/Daniel-radcliffe-rob-bartlett-john-larroquette-ellen-harvey-and-executives-brotherhood-of-man-lyrics>



From the East

Brethren,
First, I would like to congratulate our newly obligated brothers, Bro. Eli S. and Bro. Adam S. We are excited to welcome you into our Masonic family and look forward to sharing in your growth and progress as you embark on your Masonic journey.

As we begin a new year, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for contributing to the success of our unique and incredible Lodge. All your hard work, dedication, talents, and support have been instrumental in our growth and accomplishments. Serving as Master of our lodge in 2024 has been an incredible honor and privilege. I thank you for entrusting me with this important role, and I am humbled by the support and faith you have shown me throughout the year.

Looking forward, I am excited to welcome the incoming officers for 2025. Our Installation of Officers is scheduled for Sunday, January 26th, at 5:00 p.m. and is open to all Masons and non-Masons. I encourage every brother to attend this meaningful ceremony as we celebrate the brothers who will lead our Lodge into another successful year.

Our lodge thrives when we stand united in friendship, brotherly love, and purpose. May this year bring us closer together and lead us into even greater achievements.

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

From the West

Brethren, Hope all is well and have a wonderful new year.
First of all congratulations to all officers elect and appointed officers to be installed on January 26, 2025.

The time has come to install our new line of officers for the 2025 Masonic year. (Please see the flyer at the end of this edition.) Each of us is humbly honored to serve. This will be a time of reflection, renewal, and commitment to the principles and values that bind us as Freemasons: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

As the new Master of our Lodge I am asking for your continuing help, support and guidance to make this year a significant and successful one. The Master's role is a big responsibility and commitment to rule and govern the lodge over which he is called to preside, but the Master cannot do it alone. Without your presence and participation whether you are an officer or a sideliner (EA, FC, MM) we cannot succeed. If we bind ourselves as one, we can overcome whatever trials and challenges we may face.

To all members, we will have more events and activities that include our families, more fundraising events to help us sustain our future finances, and more fun occasions for friendship and fellowship, all to reinforce our unity as Brothers and friends.

To all Past Masters, we are looking to your guidance and support to guide us for the betterment of the lodge and to keep the peace and harmony of the Lodge. Every Mason must travel over a rough and rugged road, and beyond, to become a better man.

Lastly, to all Brethren, remember your obligations taken at the altar and also the lessons of our working tools in everyday life. One of many is the "Twenty Four Inch Gauge" which [continues on next page, see "West"]

["West," continues from p. 9]

teaches how to divide our time wisely among our many responsibilities, including a part for the service of God and a distressed worthy brother, a part for our usual vocations, and a part for refreshment and repose.

We meet on the first and third Saturdays of the month. So, try to give a part of your time to visit/attend to our Stated Meetings and events.

See you all at our annual installation of officers.

And I wish all members of Clarence F Smith DAYLIGHT Lodge 866 a Happy and prosperous New Year.

Respectfully and Fraternaly,
Gerald Alvarez
Senior Warden / Master Elect

To our Officer's coach WM Archimedes Cabanig, PM thank you so much for your help and support, I can only hope to be as knowledgeable as you are some day.

Finally, but just as importantly, Bro. David: Thank you so much for spending the time to assemble our Trestle Board. You make things seem so simple, yet it takes a lot of effort. I have no idea how much time it must take you to obtain all of the information with such accuracy, and I sincerely appreciate that.

I would like to congratulate Bros. Adam S. and Eli S. on becoming Entered Apprentices in our Lodge. Also Happy January Birthdays to Wor. Spo and Bros. Joseph E., Raed M., Arman A., and Ramiel M.

Sincerely and Fraternaly yours,
Joseph Chavez
Junior Warden / Senior Warden Elect

From the South

H ello Brethren,

It has been a pleasure serving you all (i.e., the Lodge) as Junior Warden. During my year as JW, I really cherished my role and tried to make sure we had what we needed. This of course could not have been done without the help of Bros. Harlem, Adam, Eli and our newest "knocker" (applicant) Bro. Jam. These gentlemen have been so supportive; they are the men behind the scenes making sure we always have donuts before, and food after, our meetings, I commend you all for your support and dedication and please know that it does not go unseen or unappreciated.

To our Worshipful Master and Senior Warden, thank you for believing in me and allowing me the opportunity in performing another degree, I truly appreciate it.

To all of our officers thank you so much for your commitment throughout the year, it has been an honor working with you.

To our Brethren who are always there and helpful, filling in when we need people, thank you as well.

