

# 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)

February 2025

## Astronomy in Masonry

### Foreword...

When I think of Astronomy in the Craft, of course I understand it to be one of the seven Liberal Arts and Sciences. Moreover, heavenly symbols and allusions inherent in our work come to mind. We will get into those in subsequent pages. And of course, there are the famous astronauts who have patronized our mysteries and joined in our assemblies, like Ill. John Glenn, Jr., 33°, Brother Edwin Eugene (Buzz) Aldrin, Jr., etc. See, e.g., <https://scottishritenmj.org/blog/masonic-astronauts>.

Even this year's Master's Emblem (bottom right) includes astronomical imagery, i.e., stars and the rays of the sun, within a cultural reference.

Furthermore, there are also the individual stars of our Lodge whom we cannot overlook. They are the Past Masters, Pillar (and other) Officers, Hiram recipients, and all of the other Sideliners and Brothers who, year after year, devote themselves to the workings of the Lodge, and who strive to make our Lodge successful and an enjoyable place to travel to as well. These are the *true* stars who brighten our days and illuminate our thoughts and actions, for whom we must never lose sight of their dedication and loyalty to the Craft. You can see their names listed in the text boxes of subsequent pages. We always owe them our thanks and our continuing assistance in making Clarence F. Smith Daylight No. 866 the example for others to follow.

Fraternally, Bro. David I. Karp, Editor

### February 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 30, 2025 – 7PM, Exec. Bd. Mtg. on Zoom

February 1, 2025 – 11AM, Stated Meeting. Lunch donation \$15/person.

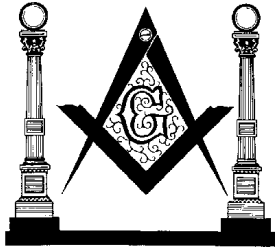
? – Fellowship at a restaurant possibly; date, time and place to be determined.

February 15, 2025 – Degree Conferral or Practice

February 22, 2025 – Sweethearts'/Widows' Night

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





## Astronomy in the Words of the Craft

In the Monitor I received as a Master Mason (Grand Lodge of California's Monitor and Officers Manual (1989 edition), I find these astronomical allusions, among other things:

"The *Covering* of a Lodge is no less than the clouded canopy or star-decked heaven where all good Masons hope at last to arrive...." *Id.* at p. 7.

"The *Ornaments* of a Lodge are the Mosaic Pavement, the Indented Tessel, and the Blazing Star." *Id.* at p. 8.

"The *Lights* of the Lodge are three, situated in the East, West, and South. As you may observe there is none in the North, because King Solomon's Temple, of which every Lodge is a representation, was situated so far north of the ecliptic that neither the sun nor moon, at meridian height, could dart its rays into the north part of the building. The North, therefore, among Masons, has always been termed a place of darkness." *Id.* at pp. 8-9.

"IN SIX DAYS, God created the heaven and the earth...." *Id.* at p. 20.

"THE USE OF GLOBES. Their principal use, besides serving as maps to distinguish the outward parts of the earth and the situation of the fixed stars, is to illustrate and explain the phenomena arising from the annual revolution of the earth around the sun and its diurnal rotation upon its own axis.... Contemplating these bodies, we are inspired with a due reverence for the Deity and His works, and are induced to

encourage the studies of astronomy, geography, navigation and the arts dependent upon them, by which society has been so much benefitted." *Id.* at p. 21.

"THE SEVEN LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES. Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Geometry, Music, and Astronomy...." *Id.* at p.23.

Any other astronomical references in the Monitor, I will leave to your own review. DIK.

### 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:

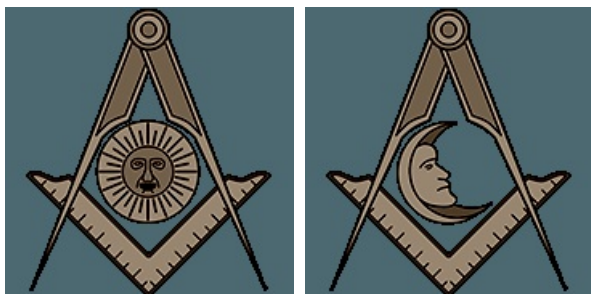
Master:  
Worshipful Gerald J. Alvarez

Secretary:  
Brother Akram Al-Awar

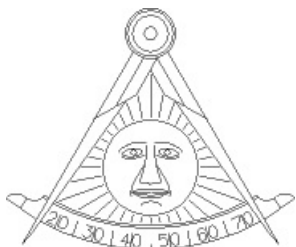
## Masonic Jewels/Emblems with Astronomical Representation

The Senior Deacon sits near the Worshipful Master in the East. Since the sun rises in the East, the sun is represented in the Senior Deacon's Jewel.

The station of the Junior Deacon is near the Senior Warden in the West, where the sun sets. Hence, the Junior Deacon's Jewel contains the representation of the Moon.



The The Past Master's Emblem also depicts the sun. According to the the Facebook Page of Exeter Masonic Lodge #303 F&AM (GL CA) at <https://www.facebook.com/ExeterMasons/posts/the-past-master-jewel-is-an-often-seen-but-not-so-frequently-explained-masonic-s/736244290089699/> : "The sun represents light, and the Master of a Lodge is supposed to be a source of Masonic light. It also signifies that the Past Master has observed the Sun at Meridian height, (the South), setting (the West), and Rising (the East)."



### 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)  
Spartak ("Spo") Khachatryan (2024)

#### 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)

Akram Al-Awar (2024)  
Archimedes ("Kim") S. Cabanig (2022)  
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.



## Other Masonic Stars

These Actors are also Masonic Stars:

Autry, Gene

Borgnine, Ernest

Cohan, George M. (Broadway)

Fairbanks, Douglas - (Silent film)

Fields, W.C.

Gable, Clark

Godfrey, Arthur

Hardy, Oliver

Lincoln, Elmo - First actor to play Tarzan of  
the Apes (1918)

Mix, Tom (over 400 western films)

Rogers, Roy

Rogers, Will

Sellers, Peter

Wayne, John

Source:

<https://fairfaxmasoniclodge556.com/history/famous-masons.html>

Let's not forget some of the most important  
stars in the lives of Masons - our parents,  
spouses/significant others, and our children!!



## Copernicus' Influence on Masonry and Masonic Jewelry

Editor's Note: This is reprinted from the  
April 2020 edition of this Lodge's  
Trestle Board.

Master Masons nearly always wear Masonic  
rings. Although not well known, the custom is  
attributable to the influence of Nicholas  
Copernicus on Freemasonry.

Copernicus developed the idea that the Earth  
and the planets revolve around the sun. He  
confirmed this idea with observations from a  
window atop a winding flight of stairs near the  
middle of his second floor study at home.

The circular shape of Masonic rings  
represents Copernicus' planetary orbits and  
sometimes alludes to Saturn with its own  
multiple rings around it. (One may notice that  
some Brethren actually wear multiple Masonic  
rings at the same time, not only when Saturn is  
visible in the sky.)

Our Daylight Lodge is heliocentric, after  
Copernicus, in that we consider the position of  
the sun when the Lodge opens. Think, too, about  
the lesser lights and their meaning. Even the  
globes atop the columns near the SW's station  
reflect the influence of Copernicus.

Copernicus was a man of the seven liberal  
arts and sciences, including arithmetic, geometry,  
and, most importantly, astronomy. He had many  
talents, interests and occupations according to  
Wikipedia at  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolaus\\_Copernicus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolaus_Copernicus). He even played the organ which is why many  
lodge rooms have one.

Ultimately, he developed an economic  
principle that later came to be called Gresham's  
law (see,  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gresham%27s\\_law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gresham%27s_law)  
) and that is why we have a "G" suspended above  
the Master's seat.

[Continues on next page, see "Copernicus"]

[“Copernicus,” continued from page 4]

With all of his influence on the Craft, it is no wonder that we all wear Masonic rings representing Copernicus' planetary paths.

Masonic tradition informs us that he is the Great Astronomer of the Universe. DIK.



## Bro. Wren, Architect and Astronomer

“Wren, Sir Christopher (1632-1723)

The most famous architect in British history; Wren was educated in Latin and Aristotelian physics at the University of Oxford. He was a notable astronomer and mathematician.... On the 28 November 1660, Wren became a founder of The Royal Society of London.... He was an active Freemason; the Master of Lodge Original, No. 1. (This is now the Lodge of Antiquity No. 2, “adopted” on 18 May 1691.)”

Source:

<http://www.lodgestpatrick.co.nz/famous2.php#M>



## Lyrics Having Nothing to Do with Masonry, But I Like Them

When the moon is in the Seventh House  
And Jupiter aligns with Mars  
Then peace will guide the planets  
And love will steer the stars  
This is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius  
The Age of Aquarius  
Aquarius! Aquarius!

Source: Age Of Aquarius Lyrics by 5th Dimension

[https://www.streetdirectory.com/lyricadvisor/song/fpwfcj/age\\_of\\_aquarius/](https://www.streetdirectory.com/lyricadvisor/song/fpwfcj/age_of_aquarius/)

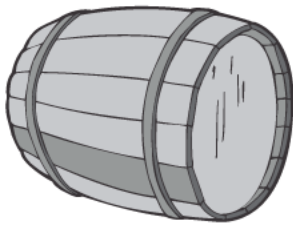
Originally from “Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical” (1967-68) See, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hair\\_\(musical\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hair_(musical))

## Astronomy and Masonry

“The Sun in official Freemasonry is an emblem of the call to labour, which is balanced by the conception of repose, the two notions being united in the idea of refreshment. It represents also the progress of human life from infancy, through manhood, to old age, and the coming of the better day. An analogy to these is found in the work of the Lodge. The figurative time of its Opening is the dawn of day, and this is done by the Master; but it is the Junior Warden who calls of the Brethren from labour, symbolically at the high noon; and the Senior Warden Closes, at what is symbolically the set of Sun.”

Source: Waite, Arthur Edward. *A new Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry*. (University Books, Inc., 1970) pp. 56-57.





## Moonshine and Masonry

**E**ditor's note: The following is excerpted from an online article (actually an obituary) from the *Smoky Mountain News* entitled "Ode to Raymond Fairchild, ode to mountain music," written by Garret K. Woodward, Tuesday, October 15, 2019, available at <https://smokymountainnews.com/archives/item/27824-ode-to-raymond-fairchild-ode-to-mountain-music>

"First and foremost, Raymond Fairchild was one of the finest banjo players who ever walked the face of the earth. He had a storied reputation for incredibly strong and powerful pickin' on the five-string instrument — a sentiment also said about his moonshine from behind closed doors.

"Last Sunday afternoon, Fairchild passed away unexpectedly at the age of 80. Though his music and influence will live on for generations, the bluegrass industry and Western North Carolina have lost a true original, one of the last of his kind in rural Southern Appalachia...

"He was a devoted husband and protective father. In terms of his character, he was a God-fearing man and longtime Freemason who built a life for himself through sheer hard work and stubborn grit..."



## French Astronomer and Mason

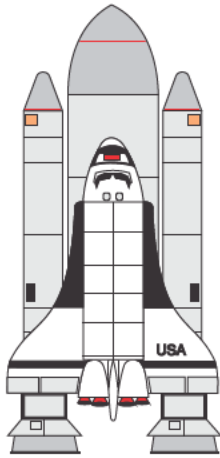
**E**ditor's note: The following is excerpted from an online entry in Wikipedia at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%A9r%C3%B4me\\_Lalande](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%A9r%C3%B4me_Lalande).

"Joseph Jérôme Lefrançois de Lalande ... (11 July 1732 – 4 April 1807) was a French astronomer, freemason and writer..."

"In 1766, Lalande, with Helvetius, founded the "Les Sciences" lodge in Paris, and received its recognition from Grand Orient de France in 1772.[fn.] In 1776, he changed its name to Les Neuf Soeurs, and arranged for Benjamin Franklin to be chosen as the first worshipful master.[fn.]

"Although his investigations were conducted with diligence rather than genius, Lalande's career was an eminent one. As a lecturer and writer he helped popularise astronomy."





## Engineer and Mason: MW Arthur Weiss PGM

**E**ditor's Note: The following is excerpted from "Rocket Man: Grand Master Arthur H. Weiss on Freemasonry, Outer Space, and the Future" at <https://freemason.org/arthurweiss/>.

"On October 11, [2020, Arthur Harold] Weiss, of Conejo Valley Lodge No. 807 in Thousand Oaks, was installed as grand master of Masons in California... [¶] Weiss retired in 2015 after four decades years working for Rocketdyne, the Canoga Park firm that has built many of the rocket engines for NASA and the Department of Defense. Though he started in engineering, helping develop the main engine for the space shuttle, Weiss spent most of his career in program management, where he ran the development of the RS-68, the world's most powerful hydrogen-fueled engine, which powers the Delta IV rocket. He also oversaw development of propulsion for the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense anti-ballistic missile system, which is used around the world."

## Photo Gallery

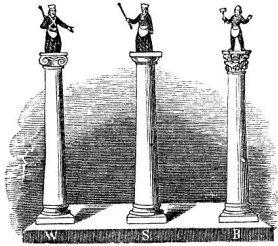
**H**ere are some recent photos from or about the Lodge and its Members. Ed.



[Stated Meeting January 4, 2025]



[Here is a portion of the Lodge's collection for fire victims being delivered on January 12, 2025, to the Santa Anita Donation Center. This is just one example of our charitable endeavors. See the short article about this at <https://patch.com/california/encino/valley-masonic-lodge-aids-fire-victims-nodx>. ]



## From the East

**E**ditor's Note: As of this writing, Wor. Gerald and his family are grieving the loss of his wife's mom and he is unavailable to provide the Master's entry for this edition. For him and them I offer these words written by me in 2012.

"When Sadness Comes"

© David I. Karp

"When sadness comes we wrap ourselves  
In the tender arms of friends and family.  
A parent dies and is no more.  
So hugs must come from others  
Who give love where love is lost.  
The pain of loss is sharp  
And hurts the heart.  
But loving memories lift too,  
Like the tender arms of all who love you."

May her soul be bound up in the bond of  
eternal life. DIK.

## From the West

**H**ello Brethren,  
It is an honor and privilege to serve you and the Lodge as Senior Warden for this year. I hope that I can serve you to the best of my abilities and also assist our Worshipful Master in fulfilling his commitment.

I would like to thank you all for everything that you do ... from our sisters, family and friends to our traveling Brethren. Without you all, our 8th Annual Installation celebration would not be complete.

As always, I encourage all of the Brethren to make time or make any necessary adjustments in their schedule to join us. Please try to attend our Stated Meetings every first Saturday of the month, as well as reserve the third Saturday for practices or special degrees.

I hope to continue seeing you all and know that every single Brother contributes to the existence and success of our wonderful Lodge.

Thank you!

Sincerely and Fraternally yours,

Joseph Chavez

Senior Warden

## From the South

**E**ditor's Note: As of this writing, Bro. Roland, our new Junior Warden, has been out of town and unable to submit something for this edition. Nevertheless, he is very excited to help the Lodge as one of its Pillar Officers. Certainly, the members are grateful that he has stepped up to this position. We look forward to his contributions to the working of the Lodge and thank him for volunteering. DIK.