

# In the Daylight



Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866, F.&A.M.  
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August 2025

## Masonic Relief (Charity)

### Foreword...

**S**ome readers of this newsletter are aware that I generally begin preparing and writing more than a month in advance, when inspiration strikes for a theme. The inspiration for this newsletter came to me before May 2025. Let me explain.

Certainly I am aware, as you must be too, that Masonic Relief "is one of our fraternity's enduring and relevant values." See, <https://freemason.org/masonic-charities/>. In May, I received notice of an event highlighting Masonic Relief from a Washington, D.C. Lodge (I am on its email list), as follows:

"William R. Singleton-Hope-Lebanon Lodge No. 7 / Stated Communication, Thursday, May 1-6:30 - 9:30pm [...] [¶] Program: Join Singleton No. 7 as we host a night dedicated to Masonic relief. During our May Stated Communication, we are honored to host representatives from the Scouts of America [sic] "Scouting CARES" Program, the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society, and the Grand Almoner for the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. These representatives will share details on their respective charitable initiatives and how Masonic relief would be put to use should donations be made. Their presentations will inform the Brethren of Singleton on Singleton's charitable initiative this year. What's more, visiting Brethren may also benefit from learning more about these worthy causes."

What a great idea that was! So, for this month, let us focus on Masonic Relief as did

Singleton Lodge in May, but here in writing rather than in person. I know this is a topic of prior newsletters, but it is worthwhile revisiting "charity" as it is one of the building blocks of good men who are inspired to become better men.

Some of the entries herein are Masonic in nature, some quasi religious (because many of our ethics as Masons come from a religious foundation). Even so, Masonic Relief applies to all of us. Please enjoy this edition.

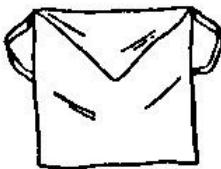
Fraternally,  
Bro. David I. Karp, Editor.

### August 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.)

August 2, 2025 10AM Masonic Education/11AM, Stated Meeting/Degree. Lunch donation \$15/person.  
August 9, 2025 Charity Comm. Mtg.  
August 16, 2025 10AM-2PM Annual Fundraising Brunch  
August 23, 2025 Fellowship/Practice  
August 30, 2025 Practice/Fellowship/Degree

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



## Masonic Charity

**E**ditor's Note: The following is quoted from the *Handbook for Candidates Coaches*. Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of California (1962), pp. 33-35.

"We are reminded ... that 'And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, it profiteth me nothing.'

"Charity has nothing in particular to do with the rich. Any person, however poor he may be, who has charity in his heart is blessed, for he practices it in various little ways in spite of his slender means.

"The members of California lodges are not rich. Yet their works of charity stand for all to see. Even as, in 1850, the Masons of Sacramento cared for the sick and destitute during an epidemic, individual Masons are expected to extend their love to and help all mankind.

"As a lasting evidence of our concern for our own Brethren, two Masonic Homes have been established [in Union City and Covina, see next article]....

"The duty of a Mason to relieve the distressed is further exemplified in our program of aid for sojourners from outside the state....

"Truly, for the Candidate [for the Degrees] who asks 'What purpose does Masonry serve,' we have here the answer. To care for our own, to aid the distressed, to teach that charity extends beyond the grave, shows the great purpose of our association, one with another."

### 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. Ibrahem Hannoun

Junior Steward Bro. Marvin De Guzman

Marshal Bro. Mkhitar ("Mike") Mkrtchyan

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



## The Masonic Homes

**E**ditor's Note: The following is quoted from <https://masonichome.org/mhc-eligibility/>.

“For more than 125 years, the Masonic Homes of California have provided members of our fraternal family with relief and care when they need it most. From the organization’s beginnings as a home for Masonic widows and orphans, through its expansion into senior care, assisted living, and memory care; as well as the advancement of its children’s program into today’s Masonic Center for Youth and Families; and the growth of Masonic Outreach Services, the Masonic Homes of California’s story has been one of constant change.

Now, the Masonic Homes is beginning another chapter in its story and continuing its history of evolving to meet the changing needs of its members.

In recognition of the changing landscape of senior care, the board of trustees of the Masonic Homes of California has announced that entry into the Masonic Homes of California’s retirement communities will now be open to more members of our fraternal family, including Prince Hall Masons, than ever before. That includes, for the first time:

Parents and parents-in-law of California Masons and Prince Hall Masons

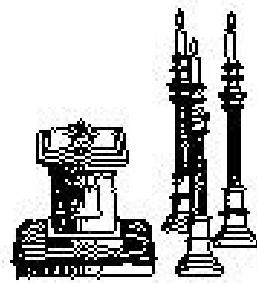
Master Masons with less than five years’ membership in a California lodge

Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Masons in a California lodge.

In many cases, entry into the Masonic Homes of California’s retirement communities in Union City and Covina is now available to these groups on an “assignment-of-assets” contract, meaning the cost is partially underwritten through Masonic relief dollars. In other cases, services will be available on a “fee-for-service” contract.

The result is that more California Masons and their families will have access to the expert care and services that have made the Masonic Homes of California the “jewel in the crown of California Masonry” for more than a century.

[More information is available for those in need on the web page first cited above.]



## “The Greatest of these is Charity”

**E**ditor's Note: This is from the Monitor and Officers' Manual, Grand Lodge of California (1989) at p. 18. You might hear the following in Lodge!

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

“And though I have the gift of prophesy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

[continues on next page, see “Greatest”]

[“Greatest is Charity,” continued from p. 3]

“And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

“Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.” (1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 13:1-7 and 13)



Giving Anonymously: “A man who gives charity in secret is greater than Moses our teacher.” Rabbi Eleazar [A Talmudic Scholar] in *talmudic tractate Bava Batra* (9b)

Encouraging Good-Doers: “He who stimulates others to do good is greater than the doer.” *Ibid.* (9a).

A World of Kindness: “He who executes charity and justice is regarded as though he had filled the entire world with kindness.” Rabbi Eleazar in *talmudic tractate Sukka* (49b).

Source: Kolatch, Alfred J. *Great Jewish Quotations*. New York: Jonathan David Publishers, Inc., 1996, at p. 123.

### 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.



## A Brief History of Masonic Charity

**E**ditor's Note: The following lengthy piece is quoted from a web page of Pennsylvania Masons in its entirety at <https://pagrandlodge.org/brief-history-masonic-charity/>.

Charity is a universal characteristic of Masonry. It has been said that "the Masonic Way is to give without remembering and to receive without forgetting."

Shortly after 1717, when Lodges were still associations of stoneworkers and masons, the cessation of cathedral building and the expansion of overseas trade lessened the importance of the masons' companies, and they had to change to survive. From active trade associations whose primary function was the regulation of workers and their qualifications, as well as their working conditions, wages, rights and responsibilities, they gradually became mutual benefit societies concerned largely with charity and relief for the destitute and unemployed.

The earliest surviving Masonic documents, "Old Charges" or "Gothic Constitutions," dating from circa 1390 to the mid 18th century, outline a masons' duties to his God, his master, his family and society in general. Rev. Dr. James Anderson condensed these ideals into the preface of the 1723 "Book of Constitutions." In operative terms, the "Old Charges" called on the stone masons to assist a strange mason with up to two weeks' work and lodging. In speculative terms,

they directed masons to aid the needy and act with charity toward all mankind.

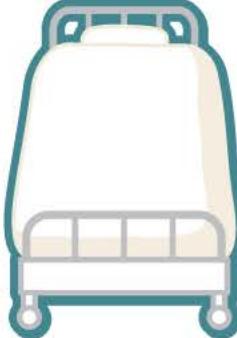
In Dorothy Ann Lipson's book, "Freemasonry in Federalist Connecticut, 1789-1835," she describes how: "Masonic charity differed in its underlying assumptions and in its style from civic charity. In Connecticut, charity was available to the settled members of a town, regulated by law, and invoked in times of extreme need and as a last resort. Persistent vestiges of the older Puritan ethic, which associated misfortune with divine retribution, made appeals to civic charity a painful necessity. Masonic charity, more broadly defined than its civic counterpart, was available to its members in times of personal crisis wherever they were." She also notes: "Masonic charity was secret, unlike civic charity whose administration made the entire town privy to the needs of each recipient. The derogation of character implicit in acknowledging poverty must have compounded suffering. In contrast, the Masons asked, 'What has the world to do with private transactions, whether a widow, an orphan or a pilgrim has obtained relief?'" A touching example of this private, compassionate relief during personal crisis is cited: "Federal Lodge in Watertown, Conn., purchased a cow for the use of a widow and her children, and the cow was carried on its books for several years as a Lodge asset, presumably to spare the family the embarrassment of accepting charity."

An interesting account of the Masonic relief provided after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 was presented to the Illinois Lodge of Research by Illustrious Brother Samuel K. Zipp. Six miles long and three miles wide at the time, Chicago had a population of 334,000. The fire destroyed more than half of the city area and sent many thousands into the streets homeless, penniless and desperate. At the time the fire started, Freemasonry in Chicago was flourishing, with 31 Masonic Halls in operation. Brethren were in

[Continues on next page, see "History"]

[“History, continued from page 5]

dire straits; their families scattered, their homes gone and everything they owned lost. Masonic leaders formed committees to administer relief. As word of the losses spread, contributions amounting to \$83,089.06 in cash and \$7,545.44 in supplies were received by the Masonic Board of Relief, hailing from Brethren and Lodges from Maine, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Illinois, Dakota Territory and British India. Appendant bodies donated thousands in addition. In fact, the response was so great that on Feb. 1, 1872, reports communicated that sufficient funds had been received to meet all legitimate needs; yet, still more contributions arrived.



The influenza outbreak of 1918 devastated the world, killing an estimated 50 million people in contrast to the 16 million who died during World War I. With soldiers trekking across battlefields and returning home, the virus spread rapidly. One-fifth of the population worldwide

suffered from the influenza outbreak to some extent, and one-fourth of Americans contracted it. The influenza epidemic struck the Elizabethtown, Pa., area as severely as other locations. In a grand gesture of service to the community, doctors transferred the Masonic Homes residents without influenza from the Philadelphia Freemasons Hospital to the Grand Lodge Hall Infirmary and opened the on-site hospital to community members with influenza. “This became a splendid asylum for the sorely stricken families of the vicinity who had no place else to go,” the Committee on Masonic Homes reported. During the several months the hospital took patients from the community, 82 people with no Masonic affiliation received the best treatment possible. As a result of quarantines and

precautions, no Masonic Homes residents or guests died from the influenza epidemic.

Following the formation of the Masonic Service Association in 1919, Masonic relief was provided to numerous countries and within the United States following natural disasters including earthquakes, tornados, floods, hurricanes/typhoons, tsunamis and wildfires, as well as terrorist attacks.

Following the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, medical professionals from Shriners Hospitals, including Dr. Robert Sheridan, Assistant Chief of Staff at the Boston Shriners Hospital, helped to provide emergency care for victims in New York City. They were part of the Burn Response Team of the Disaster Medical Assistance Team which is activated by the Office of Emergency Preparedness under the oversight of FEMA. Shriners Hospitals are also a part of the National Disaster Medical System, a first-response network of hospitals across the United States pre-identified to help in crisis situations. Although Shriners Hospitals are pediatric hospitals, dedicated to treating children, Shrine leaders stated that in light of the scope of this tragedy, they would assist adult victims, if needed.

Charity is at the core of Freemasonry. It has been since the founding of this great fraternity, and continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of society.

Sources: [www.msana.com](http://www.msana.com); Short Talk Bulletins, May 1962, November 1979, May 1991, July 1997; Emessay Notes, December 2001, March 2013.



## Charity Begins at Home

“ The earliest appearance of the basic idea that *charity begins at home* was in a play by the Roman comic dramatist Terence.

He wrote “*Proximus sum egomet mihi.*” That, of course, is Latin, not English, and you may wonder, as we do, why the word *domus*, meaning ‘home,’ is not in it. Nevertheless, Hoyt’s *Familiar Quotations* advises us that ‘*Charity begins at home*’ is an accurate, if free, translation.

“Then another playwright, or rather a brace of playwrights, picked up the idea. They were the Elizabethan team of Beaumont and Fletcher, and the expression appears in a play of theirs called *Wit Without Money*. Even earlier, in 1380, the English divine John Wycliffe wrote: ‘Charity should begin at himself.’ That’s pretty close close enough so that we can agree that the idea, if not the precise wording, is very nearly as old as the written word.

“A couple of Victorian writers fiddled about with the expression, with amusing results. Dickens wrote: ‘Charity begins at home, and justice begins next door.’ And Horace Smith summed it up rather neatly: ‘Our charity begins at home, and mostly ends where it begins.’”

Source: Morris, William and Mary. *Morris Dictionary of Word and Phrase Origins*. New York: Harper & Row, 1977 at p. 124.

## Sweet Charity

“ Sweet Charity is a musical with music by Cy Coleman, lyrics by Dorothy Fields, and book by Neil Simon, based on the screenplay for the 1957 Italian film *Nights of Cabiria*. It was directed and choreographed for Broadway by Bob Fosse starring his wife and muse Gwen Verdon as a dancer-for-hire at a Times Square dance hall, alongside John McMartin.

“The musical premiered on Broadway in 1966, where it was nominated for nine Tony Awards, winning the Tony Award for Best Choreography. The production also ran in the West End and has run several revivals and international productions. It was adapted for the screen in 1969, directed and choreographed by Fosse in his feature-film directorial debut. Shirley MacLaine starred as the title character, and McMartin reprised his Broadway role as Oscar Lindquist.”

Source:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweet\\_Charity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweet_Charity)





[Stated Meeting, July 12, 2025]



## From the East

**B**rethren:  
Here is an explanation that will illuminate the following messages from our Senior and Junior Wardens. The quote is from the website of the Supreme Pyramid Ancient Egyptian Order of Sciots at <https://www.sciots.org/>.

“Scietry is a Masonic Organization established in 1905 dedicated to uniting all Master Masons in a closer bond of Friendship, Fellowship and Cooperation. Our Motto is “To help each other in the accomplishment of honest endeavors” and to spread the doctrine of “BOOST ONE ANOTHER.” Supporting The Sciots Foundation, helping children with Autism.” ALL Master Masons in good standing are eligible to join a Sciot Pyramid. Applications are available at <https://www.sciots.org/membership/>

Fraternally, Wor. Gerald J. Alvarez, Master, *in absentia* (by Bro. David I. Karp, Ed.)

## From the West

**H**ello Brethren,  
I would like to thank everyone again for helping out in making our golf tournament a success. Just know that without your help, our fundraisers would not run as smoothly as they do.

On Saturday, July 19th, I had the pleasure and honor of attending a wonderful ceremony hosted by The Ancient Egyptian Order of Sciots at The Elysian Masonic Temple. This was an annual event for the presentation of the Cornerstone Award, given to those Brethren who have been chosen by their Worshipful Masters for their great efforts and dedication. Brother Ely, I congratulate you for your commitment and dedication and hope to have many more moments like this to cherish.

I would also like to give "kudos" to all the brethren who take the time to support and dedicate themselves for the betterment of our lodge and for the support of our master. In addition, I would also like to thank the applicants and Brethren who took the time to accompany me to the Grand Master's breakfast. It was a very memorable experience. As always, I would like to thank Brother David for his patience, support and dedication, I'm looking forward to our next Masonic education. Thank you.

Sincerely and Fraternally yours,  
Joseph Chavez  
Senior Warden



## From the South

**G**reetings Brethren,  
I hope everyone has enjoyed a blessed and joyful summer season. As quickly as this year is flying by, I encourage each of us to take a moment to reflect on the many blessings that Freemasonry has brought into our lives. The lifelong bonds of friendship, brotherly love, and the sense of family we share are treasures to be both cherished and enjoyed.

I want to thank Bro. David Karp for his Masonic Education presentation regarding “The Perfect Points of Entrance;” it was not only a valuable learning experience but also a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with our new members in the lodge. Also I would like to congratulate Bro. Ely Ayao on his prestigious Cornerstone Award for his dedication to Masonic Services.

I encourage you all to continue growing in Masonic knowledge through the years or simply engaging in meaningful conversations with the officers of the lodge and our well informed brethren.

That said, I sincerely hope you enjoy this summer as much as I do as I work in the attic and on rooftop. Let us continue sharing in fellowship, as we’ve been charged to do and extend our gratitude of brotherly love to all our members and other lodges. May you all have a relaxing and enjoyable summer with your family and friends, we are all deserve time to unwind. I look forward to seeing you all in the lodge.

Fraternally yours,  
Bro. Roland Cortel  
Junior Warden

## Some Final Thoughts on Charity

**F**rom Kolatch, *Great Jewish Quotations*, *supra*, at p. 300:

“There are eight degrees in the giving of charity. They are as follows, from the least to the most desirable:

He who gives reluctantly, or with regret.

He who gives less than he should, but gives graciously.

He who gives what he should, but only after he is asked.

He who gives before he is asked.

He who gives without knowing to whom he gives, although the recipient may know the identity of the donor.

He who gives without making his identity known.

He who gives without knowing to whom he gives, and the recipient not knowing from whom he receives.

He who helps a fellowman to support himself by a gift, or a loan, or by finding employment for him, thus helping him to become self-supporting.”

Source: Moses Maimonides [1135-1204, Spanish rabbi, physician, scholar, philosopher, author,] from his Mishneh Torah *Hilchot Matnot Aniyim* (10:8-13).

From Rosten, Leo. *Leo Rosten’s Carnival of Wit*. New York: A Dutton Book, 1994. Print. p. 82:

“He belongs to so many benevolent societies that he is destitute.” Edgar Watson (“Ed”) Howe.

“The longest road in the world is the one that leads from your pocket.” Anonymous.

“If charity cost nothing, the world would be full of philanthropists.” Jewish Saying.

“To give little with a smile is better than to give much with a frown.” Anonymous