

In the



Daylight

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

October 2025

Freemasons and Freedom

Foreword...

Upon receiving a bill for his dues, a Brother quipped, "I thought Freemasonry was free!" He's a funny guy. But he's right, Freemasonry IS free, in many ways.

First off, the name of our fraternity includes the word, "free." There are explanations for this. See the article on the following pages.

Moreover, I see the Lodge as a microcosm of freedom. In Lodge, I always appreciate those last moments before closing the meeting when the Worshipful Master asks, "Has any Brother anything to bring before the Lodge?" or words to that effect, giving each member the freedom to speak about whatever is on his mind. More generally, the Craft offers us our freedom of religion: any man may join who believes in a Supreme Being (and meets the qualifications). And certainly, we have the freedom to assemble and to associate with one another in a safe and respectful forum, away from the discord outside.

Looking outward, Masons have been at the forefront of the cause of freedom in our country from the beginning, i.e., those Patriots in Boston

Bros. Joseph Warren, PGM, Paul Revere, Samuel Adams and John Hancock also Bros. Benjamin Franklin PGM and George Washington at the time of the War of Independence and the formation of our United States, and more recently Bros. Franklin D. Roosevelt and even Bro. John Lewis, representing us in the Executive and Legislative

branches of government respectively. There are many more, but you get the picture.

So, yes, we Masons speak of freedom, stand for freedom, and represent freedom, in our history, in government, and in our Lodge, although we do have to pay our dues.

Please enjoy this edition.

Fraternally,

Bro. David I. Karp

Editor

October 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.)

Oct. 2, 2025 Executive Meeting

Oct. 4, 2025 11AM, Stated Meeting and a Degree.

Oct. 18, 2025 5PM, Fundraising Dinner

Oct. 24-26 - 176th Annual Communication at the Grand Lodge in San Francisco

Oct. 30 Executive Meeting

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



The Meaning of “Free” in “Freemasonry”

Editor's note: The following is excerpted from an online article entitled “The Free in Freemasonry” by Bro. Steve Mayflower on the website of Broad Ripple Masonic Lodge #643 F&AM (GL IN) at <https://brlodge.org/the-free-in-freemasonry/>.

“Possible Origins.

“The words ‘free’ and ‘Mason’ coupled together, begin in ancient Roman Collegia: [Collegia are an] order or associations of men engaged in similar pursuits and studies. These Collegia became so prominent and powerful that Roman Emperors attempted to abolish the right of free association. In spite of this, many continued to exist... [including the] colleges of Architects ... [b]ecause the Emperors of Rome needed them to build for the state. Without them Rome could not expand. Then as now, three were needed to form a Collegia.

“Old England“Another possible origin is one [in which ‘free’]... originally denoted a person who was at liberty. This usually meant anyone who was not a serf (i.e. bound to a master or feudal lord) and was, therefore, free to do what he wanted to do.... But the term had a special meaning for stonemasons.

“Since erecting massive structures like Gothic cathedrals required more craftsmen than were available locally, these projects attracted workers from far and wide. It was primarily

[continues on next page, see “Free”]

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”) 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



["Free," continued from p. 2]

stonemasons who traveled from place to place to find this kind of work, and as a concession to the practical needs of their profession, they were exempted from many of the regulations and taxes local workers had to deal with. So, they really did have more freedom than most craftsmen, and this may be why they were called "free masons."

"But nowadays most historians favor another possibility: that 'free mason' was short for 'freestone mason.' ... What we know today as Freemasons were called Freestone Masons, who did the artesian or detail work. Freestone was the high-quality stone used for decorative work, and carving it required considerable skill. Masons who worked with freestone were elite members of the profession. Freestone Masons were Free to travel around and receive wages for their work.

"From operative to speculative

"For the most part, today's lodges trace their origin to the Grand Lodge of England, which was organized in London in 1717 to oversee the affairs of several lodges that had existed there for many years.

"Although no one knows the pedigree of those lodges, they most likely arose in the wake of the Great Fire of London, which devastated the city in 1666. During the massive rebuilding effort, Parliament passed a law The Rebuilding Act requiring that all new buildings be made of brick or stone instead of wood.

"This meant that large numbers of masons had to be brought in from elsewhere, because there weren't enough locals to rebuild everything the fire had destroyed. So, the city was desperate to attract as many skilled masons as possible.

"To do this, Parliament added a clause to the Rebuilding Act offering workers the freedom of the city for seven years. This simply meant they could come to London and work without joining the local 'companies,' organizations that

[continues on next page, see "Freemasonry"]

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, PM (2022)
Celso V. Cardano, Jr., PM (2022)
Keith S. Cotton (2017)
Bruce L. Ewald, PM (2011)
Bruce L. Hawley, PM (2000)*
David I. Karp (2020)
Fernando ("Jhonny") O. Lebrilla, Jr., PM
(Imminent)
Barry Mann (2021)
John T. Seletos (2017)
Thomas K. Sheehan (2014)
Rogelio L. Soriano, PM (2018)
Steven A. Wolvek, PM (2019)

Sciots' Cornerstone Award

Ely D. Ayao (2025)

Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award

David I. Karp (2007)
Steven W. Engstrom (2022)

* Deceased.

[“Freemasonry,” continues from p. 3]
amounted to labor unions, which all workers normally had to join to work within the city limits.

“The ‘freedom of the city’

“The freedom of the city was a status that had existed in London since 1237. This meant, they were not bound to a feudal lord and were, therefore, ‘free’ to do as they pleased. They could engage in commercial activities, own land, and were originally allowed such quaint privileges as herding sheep, carrying a sword, and acting drunk and disorderly in public without fear of being arrested.

“Of course, after the Great Fire the freedom of the city was a little more practical. It was mostly a matter of making it easy for craftsmen to come to London and join the rebuilding effort.

“But the Rebuilding Act contained another provision as well. Workers who came and stayed for seven years were granted the freedom of the city for life. Thus, they were designated ‘Freemen of the City’ of London.

“The real origin of the term?

“The lodges that organized the Grand Lodge of England were probably formed to serve stonemasons who came to London and earned the freedom of the city in this way. The last major project was St. Paul’s cathedral, which was completed in 1710.

“After that the city had little need for visiting workers, including all the masons who had come to rebuild the city. Some people speculate that’s why the lodges that served them ceased to be craft organizations and evolved into the Lodges we know today.

“Could this really be the origin of the term ‘free mason’?”

“Quite possibly, and we see a clue in a document called Masonry Dissected, which shows what the lodges’ workings were like the newly formed Grand Lodge.

“This document tells us that “if any Working Masons are at Work, and you have a desire to distinguish Accepted Masons from the rest ... do

so by asking him, how old he is, he replies “above Seven,” which denotes he has pass’d Master.”

“Are we to believe that a person could be a master mason when he was seven years old?

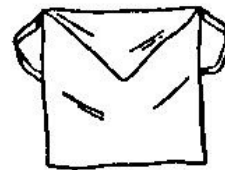
“Of course not. But a man could be a ‘free’ mason of the city of London after he had worked there for seven years.

“Thus, while the words ‘free’ and ‘mason’ had been used together for centuries and often described men who traveled to find work, their use by the modern lodge may have a special meaning. It may recall the men who rebuilt London after the Great Fire and who, after their work was finished, settled down to enjoy the freedom of a grateful city.

“Freemasonry today?

“Freemasonry was built on the idea of being free.

“As we talked about, there were other masons who might not necessarily have been free. Freemasons were free from the King’s law and could travel to work where they wanted. Freeborn, to be not born a slave and/or be free from outside influences, it is a basic requirement to join our institution. Whether free of mind, body, or influence ... being free is essential to being a Freemason. The act of being free to think for yourself, make your own decisions, act on your own behalf, have your own beliefs, travel where your will takes you ... is not a destination we visit once, but it’s a life-long pursuit to be free.”





Masonic Patriots Pursuing Freedom

Editor's note: The following is excerpted from <https://www.loc.gov/collections/george-washington-papers/articles-and-essays/timeline/the-american-revolution/>. Also, it was originally included in our Lodge's June 2021 Trestle Board.

"June 14, 1775 – Debate begins in Congress on the appointment of a commander in chief of Continental forces. [Brother] John Hancock¹ expects to be nominated but is disappointed when his fellow Massachusetts delegate, John Adams, suggests [Brother] George Washington²

instead as a commander around whom all the colonies might unite. June 15, Washington is appointed commander in chief of the Continental Army. The forces from several colonies gathered in Cambridge and Boston become the founding core of that army.

"June 16, 1775 – Washington makes his acceptance speech in Congress. As a gesture of civic virtue, he declines a salary but requests that Congress pay his expenses at the close of the war. On July 1, 1783, Washington submits to the Continental Board of Treasury his expense account.

"June 17, 1775 – The battle of Bunker or Breeds Hill [takes place³]."



¹"During a trip to Quebec in 1762, Hancock was first made a Freemason in the Marchants Lodge No. 277. Upon his return to the colonies later that year, he became a devoted Brother to the Lodge of St. Andrew in Boston." See, <https://scottishritenmj.org/blog/freemasons-of-the-independence>.

²In 1752, George Washington became a Master Mason at the age of 20 in Fredericksburg, Virginia (for only 2 pounds and 3 shillings!). The following year, Washington was raised to the second and third degrees at the Lodge of Fredericksburg, Virginia and visited regularly over the next few years. See, <https://scottishritenmj.org/blog/george-washington-president-and-freemason-1>.

³Dr. Joseph Warren (June 11, 1741 – June 17, 1775) "served in the battle as a private soldier, and was killed in combat when British troops stormed the redoubt atop Breed's Hill.... [Some years earlier, w]hile practicing medicine and surgery in Boston, he joined the Masonic Lodge of St. Andrew, which had received a warrant from the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1756. He was Master of the Lodge in 1769 at the same time that Paul Revere was its Secretary. Warren was appointed Grand Master of the newly established Provincial Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in that same year. (Upon his death, John Hancock became Grand Master.) See, <https://nymasons.org/site/joseph-warren/>



FDR's Four Freedoms in the Works of Bro.

Norman Rockwell

Bro. Norman Rockwell was a 20th-century American author, painter and illustrator. He was a member of Red Mountain Lodge No. 63 F.& A.M., Arlington, Vermont.

<http://www.midnightfreemasons.org/2013/06/famous-american-freemason-norman.html>.

"In 1943, inspired by a speech by Franklin D. Roosevelt⁴, Rockwell painted the Four Freedoms which were reproduced on the covers of four consecutive issues of the Post along with essays in the magazine from contemporary writers of the day. The paintings were so popular, they toured the United States, and raised more than 130 million dollars towards the war effort through the sale of war bonds." *Id.*

FDR's Four Freedoms are: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, Freedom from Want, and Freedom from Fear. You can see each of them (scroll down) at

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_Freedoms.

⁴"Roosevelt was initiated as a Freemason on October 10, 1911, at Holland Lodge, No. 8 in New York City. He was raised a Master Mason six weeks later. An active Mason for many years, Roosevelt petitioned the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite in the Albany Consistory of New York in 1929 and received his 32nd degree the same day. A year later, he became a Shriner in Albany's Cyrus Temple."

<https://www.freemason.com/franklin-d-roosevelt-freemason/>



Bro. John Lewis, who Fought for Freedom in Many Ways

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

[continues on next page, see "Lewis"]

["Lewis," continues from p. 7]

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.

"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."



When the Supreme Court Got it Wrong about Freedom – *Dred Scott v. Sandford* (1857)

You might ask if the Supreme Court is always right – after all, Chief Justice (Bro.) John Marshall wrote in *Marbury v. Madison*, 5 U.S. 137, 138 (1803) that "[i]t is emphatically the duty of the Judicial Department to say what the law is." Further, you

might then ask why this was included in this newsletter.

It's because, sometimes, the Supreme Court gets it wrong. Fortunately, the error might be rectified later.

In *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, 60 U.S. (19 How.) 393 (1857), "an enslaved Black man named Dred Scott and his wife, Harriet, sued for their freedom in St. Louis Circuit Court. They claimed that they were free due to their residence in a free territory where slavery was prohibited.

[...]

"On March 6, 1857, Chief Justice Roger B. Taney [not a Mason] read the majority opinion of the Court, which stated that enslaved people were not citizens of the United States [they were seen as "property," *Id.* at 396] and, therefore, could not expect any protection from the federal government or the courts. The opinion also stated that Congress had no authority to ban slavery from a federal territory. This decision moved the nation a step closer to the Civil War.

"The decision of *Scott v. Sandford*, considered by many legal scholars to be the worst ever rendered by the Supreme Court, was overturned by the 13th and 14th amendments to the Constitution, which abolished slavery and declared all persons born in the United States to be citizens of the United States."

Source: National Archives at

<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/dred-scott-v-sandford>.

Respectfully submitted,
Bro. David I. Karp



Relevant Snippets from an Interview in *California Freemason Magazine* about Filipino Masons and Freedom

Bro. Felix Pintado, an Australian Mason who was born in the Philippines, was interviewed for *California Freemason Magazine* about the unique melding of Filipino culture with Freemasonry. Some of his comments are particularly insightful as they relate to the theme of this edition, “Freemasons and Freedom.”. Among other things, he says:

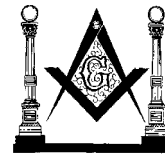
“You can’t understand Freemasonry in the Philippines unless you understand Philippine history. Remember, there was 333 years of Spanish colonialism, and then 50 years of American rule before Filipinos could claim their own identity. And all of the independence figures were Freemasons⁵. One theory is that in countries that have been brought up in a colonial, theocratical environment like the Philippines, people looked for something more secular that they could hang their philosophical hat on. People were looking for something that was secular, and that spoke of freedom. And so Freemasonry flourished.”

Also:

“I don’t know how many Filipino Masons know about all the various schisms and separatist movements. There’s an element of, Does it matter? They fought for our freedom, they gave their lives for this country, and they were Masons.”

Source:

<https://californiafreemason.org/2021/06/02/culture-shock/> .



Info on This Month’s Annual Communication in San Francisco

As set forth in last month’s Trestle Board, Master Masons may join in the festivities at the Grand Lodge’s Annual Communication, Oct 24, 2025 - Oct 26, 2025. It will take place at the California Masonic Memorial Temple, 1111 California St., San Francisco, CA 94108. Advance planning is certainly appropriate for this event. Many details are available online at <https://web.cvent.com/event/fbfad43e-9876-4b29-a44d-4b52bd50e30f/summary> . Those details include local hotels with special Masonic rates and a link to register. It should be an exciting time, enjoy! DIK.

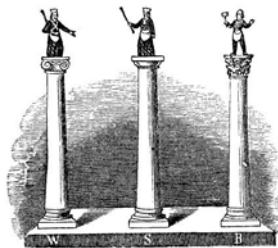


[Third Degree Conferrals, August 23, 2025.
Congrats to Bros. Harlem and Jamille!]

⁵Notables include Jose Rizal and Andres Bonifacio among others.



[Stated Meeting, September 6, 2025]



From the East

Dear Brethren,
I hope all is well. First of all, as a friendly reminder, our annual communication will take place from October 24 to 26, 2025 in San Francisco. We warmly invite all officers, members and newly raised brothers to join us in fostering a strong sense of connection and creating lasting memories. This event presents a valuable opportunity for us to come together. Afterwards, in November, we will hold elections to select a new team of officers who will guide our lodge towards a bright and prosperous future.

I'm calling on each of you to lend your support to our next line of officers for the 2026 Masonic year. Your support is invaluable in ensuring the succession of our lodge and maintaining the diversity that sets us apart. The

success of our lodge is a testament to the solidarity and support of its members. Let's continue to thrive and spread the principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

We're looking forward to two more events before the year wraps up. The first event is a dinner night on October 18, with details to be posted on our messenger chat group. We're grateful for any donations you can provide. Our second event, the Master's Ball, will be a special night of appreciation. We encourage everyone to attend and support our last two events, showcasing our unity and solidarity.

Lastly, since this issue publishes in September, we're excited to announce that Mr. Rolly Lagsa and Mr. Wynn Apao will be receiving their First Degree on September 20! As they begin their Masonic journey, it's essential that we provide them with the necessary support and guidance to help them grow in their understanding of our craft. By doing so, we'll not only be fulfilling our obligations but also setting a positive example for them to follow.

Also, we invite you to participate in our community outreach event on September 27th, where we'll be serving lunch to homeless individuals in Glendale at the Ascencia facility. This initiative showcases our dedication to giving back to the community. As Masons, we recognize the importance of supporting not only our members and their families but also the community at large, regardless of one's affiliation.

Fraternally Yours,
Gerald Alvarez
Master

From the West

Hello Brethren, First and foremost I would like to congratulate Bro. Harlem and Bro. Jamille on being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Brethren, this is not the end of your journey but a higher calling to live the lessons of Masonry every day with fidelity, fortitude, and brotherly love. May you carry the light of this degree in all you do, and may your example inspire others within and beyond our fraternity.

I would also like to congratulate Brothers Earl, Ryan and Tony in completing their proficiency, may you also inspire and motivate our other brothers. To our EAs, FCs and MMs please reach out if you need assistance. Just a reminder, Brother Aldren Perez is our candidates coach, if he is not available you can reach out to any other Brother within the lodge.

Brethren just a kindly reminder of our upcoming fundraiser dinner October 18. Please make yourselves available for this day so that we can properly execute this goal.

Thank you.

Sincerely and Fraternally yours,
Joseph Chavez
Senior Warden

Greetings from the South

Brethren, as we prepare to enter the cooler months, may we continue to carry forward the light and warmth we have gathered throughout the year. Let us bring our finest ideas, our strongest energy and our truest selves to the Lodge and extend that same spirit of service and brotherhood wherever we may find ourselves.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Bros. Rolly Lagsa and Wynn Apao upon their successful conferral of their First Degree. Likewise, I commend Bro. Harlem Ruiz and Bro. Jamille Paas for their exemplary work in the proficiency of the Third Degree. Your dedication

and commitment bring honor to the Craft. Well done brothers!

Our September Stated Communication was more than a gathering, it was a celebration of Masonic unity, respect, service and legacy. From the vitality of our appendant bodies, to the honors and surprises bestowed and the wisdom imparted through Masonic education, the day truly reflected the enduring spirit of Freemasonry.

Fraternally and respectfully,
Bro. Roland Cortel
Junior Warden

