

In the Daylight



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

November 2025

Our Principles

Foreword...

Some time ago, I was ruminating about what would be the theme of our newsletter for November. I let my mind wander and all of a sudden, I began to think about the fact that the square is one of the principal working tools of freemasonry.

Of course, the square has meaning for us. According to one internet source, “[t]he square is often seen as the most fundamental symbol used by Freemasons, and it is often the first symbol that a new member is introduced to. The square represents the importance of living a moral and upright life, and it serves as a constant reminder to members to strive to be honest and true in all their dealings.” See,

<https://www.gilavalleylodge9.com/post/the-many-tools-of-freemasonry-particularly-the-square> .

Then I thought about the homophone of “principal,” i.e. “principle,” and that became the inspiration for this edition. The set of principles to which we adhere as Masons is worth exploring as it parallels the above description of the square’s meaning for us:

“At the heart of Freemasonry lies a commitment to moral and ethical principles. Freemasons uphold virtues such as honesty, integrity, and fairness, believing that personal moral development is essential to societal well-being. See,
<https://www.thesquaremagazine.com/mag/article/2025q1freemasonrys-timeless-wisdom/> .

So there you have it. In this edition we will focus on the guiding principles of Freemasonry among other things. I hope you enjoy the read.

Fraternally,
Bro. David I. Karp, Editor

November 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.)

Nov. 1, 2025 10AM, Masonic Education

Nov. 1, 2025 11AM, Stated Meeting.

Election of Officers*. Lunch donation

\$15/person.

Nov. 15, 2025 Degree, Practice and/or Fellowship

Nov 23, 2025 Hiram Award Presentation for WB Fernando (“Jhonny”) Lebrilla PM, 3PM Social, 4PM Ceremony

Additional information, including any changes to the calendar, may become available subsequently. So, look to Messenger for the Master’s postings or contact him directly. Ed.

*All members of the Lodge in good standing shall be entitled to vote at an election of Lodge officers.



Our Guiding Principles

“What do Freemasons believe? For Freemasons, there are four important values that help define their path through life: Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Service. In today’s world filled with uncertainty, these principles ring as true now as they have at any point in the organisation’s history.

“INTEGRITY

“Honesty, trustworthiness, honour, reliability, and conscientiousness form the foundation of a virtuous character. They foster trust, maintain integrity, and demonstrate commitment, ultimately leading to a life of strong principles and dependable actions.

“FRIENDSHIP

“Freemasonry gives members many opportunities to make a wide circle of friends for life who share common interests and values. It provides a bond of friendship and a sense of belonging. This promotes a feeling of enjoyment and fulfilment.

“RESPECT

From its earliest days, Freemasonry has respected the beliefs of its members. It promotes an environment where diversity is valued. It is a space where different beliefs and backgrounds converge, fostering an atmosphere of inclusivity, tolerance and harmony.

“SERVICE

“Whether participating in events, fundraising for a charitable cause or volunteering for public or community organisations, service is at the very heart of Freemasonry. Our members make valuable contributions by donating time, resources and skills.”

Source:

<https://www.ugle.org.uk/discover-freemasonry/what-is-freemasonry> .

CFS Daylight’s Officers for 2025

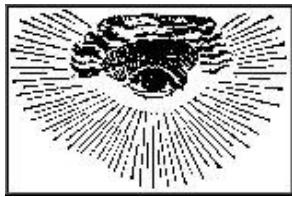
Worshipful Master Bro. Gerald J. Alvarez
Senior Warden Bro. Joseph (“Joe”) R. Chavez
Junior Warden Bro. Roland (“Letroc”) Cortel
Treasurer Bro. Ely Ayao
Secretary Bro. Akram Al-Awar
Asst. Secretary Bro. Thomas (“Tom”) K. Sheehan
Chaplain WB Archimedes (“Kim”) S. Cabanig, PM
Senior Deacon Bro. Lloyd Donasco, Sr.
Junior Deacon Bro. Elvis L. Alvarez
Senior Steward Bro. 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





Integrity at the West Gate

Editor's note: The following is excerpted from a February 2006 article online at

<https://www.themasonicjourney.com/integrity/>
by W. Bro. George Moore ["District Education Officer District #23 Grand Lodge of British Columbia & Yukon & [then] Grand Secretary."]

"Trends are changing in Freemasonry, both in our jurisdiction and indeed around the world. For the first time in many years we seem to have an onslaught of petitions from young men in their twenties, thirties and forties. One cannot help but ask 'why is this'? what is happening in the outside world that is causing young men to arrive at the west gate seeking to partake with us the mysteries of our fraternity? I suppose one could assume that this may be due, in some small way, to our efforts as a fraternity to become more visible in our communities. Perhaps it could be linked to a more aggressive approach by the brethren towards attracting new initiates. Or perhaps it's just the snowball effect of a few good young men spreading the word among their peers that we have something different to offer. Whatever the reason, we are most fortunate to have these young men in our lodge rooms.

"I tend to think that while the above reasons may each contribute to our good fortune to some degree, there is a more compelling reason that they are gravitating towards our gentle craft. I believe that they are looking for something better in life, searching for answers, and are limited and frustrated with the choices available to them....

[Continues on next page, see "Integrity"]

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

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

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

* Deceased.

[“Integrity”, continued from page 3] They need to challenge and to be challenged. They need to be involved and they need a forum in which to express their views. I believe that Freemasonry can provide these things to them, and much more.

“The very successful Merriam-Webster On-Line Dictionary recorded and published the top ten definitions sought after by its users in 2005.... The word that piqued the public’s interest most ..., the number one word on the hit list, [was] integrity....

The Winnipeg Sun, in their opinion column on February 3rd states that they don’t think you can teach people to have integrity. They say that either you have it or you don’t. I strongly disagree with this statement. There is an organization I know of that teaches good men to be better, and integrity is one of the foundations of this teaching.

“Justice Gomery knows what it is all about. In his 240 page report on the sponsorship scandal entitled “RESTORING ACCOUNTABILITY” [emphasis in original] he said ‘what we need is a new political culture in our country, we need a culture of integrity’. He also said that we need to change certain factions from a ‘culture of entitlement’ to a ‘culture of integrity. I wonder if he is a member of the craft.

[...]

“Could it be that the young men calling at the west gate are searching for an understanding of integrity. Is this what is missing from their lives? If this is so, then one can safely assume that they must also be searching for the meaning of many similar words. Words like truth and honesty and character and brotherhood. Perhaps it is this desire for light that has brought them knocking at the west gate.

“If you are a new initiate, I say to you ‘knock, and it shall be opened unto you’, and if you are a Master Mason I say to you ‘let’s not disappoint those who knock’. When the west gate is opened and their eyes meet yours, they must instinctively know that they have found truth, honesty,

character, brotherhood, but most of all, the thing that binds all of these, INTEGRITY [emphasis in original].”



“In his book Coach Wooden’s Pyramid of Success, with Jay Carty, Coach Wooden defined integrity and its importance in the following manner: [¶] ‘Integrity in its simplest form is purity of intention. It’s keeping a clean conscience. But it is also a composite of some of the other mortar qualities in the pyramid [of success]. To some extent, integrity contains a bit of reliability, a healthy helping of honesty and a portion of sincerity. However, I believe that the component of purity of intention is important enough to give integrity the status of mortar in its own right. [¶] Purity of intention is really a reflection of the heart, and having a pure heart is so important that I placed it near the top of the pyramid, just under patience. The heart of a person with integrity always wants to do what’s right, once he or she is sure what “right” is.’”

Source:

<https://www.thewoodeneffect.com/integrity/>



[Members of our Lodge at Dodger Stadium,
July 7, 2022]

Friendship Grows from Participation and Service

Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from an online article of the Grand Lodge of the state of Louisiana at

<https://la-mason.com/shorthalk/our-most-valuable-asset-friendship/> by Alphonse Cerza, Grand Historian, Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Illinois.

“Freemasonry has many facets which have attracted men of good will of every race, religion, political view, and social position into its ranks throughout the world for many years. Every member has his own individual reason for joining the Craft, but generally its chief appeal is the charitable work it does, the philosophy of life taught by the Craft with its visible exhibition by Freemasons in their exemplary conduct in the everyday world. All these items are important, but to the nonmember who has given this matter any thought whatsoever it soon becomes apparent that the greatest asset in Freemasonry is the spirit of friendship that exists between Freemasons in their relationship with one another and their attitude of thoughtfulness for the welfare of others. For example, many years ago the words “Mason” and “friendship” were often used synonymously.

“Our historical background supports this view. Dr. James Anderson in his Constitutions of the Free Masons, published in 1723, reflected the

traditional fundamental principles of the Craft when he stated in the first Charge that ‘Masonry becomes the Center of Union and the Means of conciliating true friendship among persons that must have remained at a perpetual Distance.’ And in the 1738 edition of the same book, the wording was changed slightly but the meaning was the same when he stated ‘Thus Masonry is the Center of their Union and the happy Means of conciliating Persons that otherwise must have remained at a perpetual Distance.’ This idea was not new with Anderson since the idea of friendship prevailed in the Ancient Manuscripts which required the members to address themselves as ‘brothers,’ attend to their religious duties, respect other members of the Craft, and that all lodge members be considerate of each other both inside and outside the Craft.

[...]

“The member who becomes active in his Masonic lodge and engages in its work by necessity will be in contact constantly with other members who are also similarly engaged. Taking part in meaningful and worthwhile projects with other good men creates a camaraderie between them which blossoms forth into intangible and unexpressed respect by one person for another. Because of these projects, Freemasonry offers unlimited opportunity for the creation of warm and close friendships among its members....

[...]

“This valuable asset of Freemasonry too often is so obscured that few of our members are aware of it. We should call this to their attention. Having a large number of friends will make a person happier, a better person, and happy persons help make this a better place in which to live. This elusive element of Freemasonry is the most valuable asset that each of us has as a member of the Craft and it is also one of the most valuable assets of Freemasonry as an organization.”



On Respect

“We Masons are among the fortunate ones who are taught to meet together with others’ opposing convictions or competitive ideas and yet respect each other as Brothers.” Albert Pike [quoted in <https://www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/masonic.html>].

“Freemasonry is an ancient and respectable institution, embracing individuals of every nation, of every religion, and of every condition in life. Wealth, power and talents are not necessary to the person of a Freemason. An unblemished character and a virtuous conduct are the only qualifications for admission into the Order.” Andrew Jackson [*Ibid.*]

“A true Freemason ought to show tolerance and respect for the opinions of others and be kind to and understanding of his fellow human beings.” Source: Grand Lodge of Washington D.C. at

<https://www.dcggrandlodge.org/about-freemasonry.html>.

“Committing to fairness means treating everyone equally and justly. It’s about making decisions without bias and fostering mutual respect in all your interactions.” Source: Grand Lodge of Massachusetts at

<https://massfreemasonry.org/what-it-means-to-be-a-mason/qualities-masonic-man/>

The Principle of Truth: It Underlies All Other Principles, Even for a Majority of One.

Editor’s Note: The following is excerpted from an online article by RW Bro Raymond Eyiomen, published on July 10, 2025 at <https://www.masonicintegrity.com/>. [“RW Bro Raymond Eyiomen is an active member and Past Master of Lodge de Goede Hoop, No. 1 on the Roll of the Grand Lodge of South Africa. He is a Past Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge Southern Division of the GLSA. Raymond is a father, a lawyer and a committed Freemason. He currently resides in Cape Town, South Africa.”]

“[Henry David] Thoreau believed that the one person who is on the right side of the question counts for more than do all of the people who are on the wrong side. He defines a majority of one as someone whose moral convictions are stronger than the majority opinion, and argues that an individual whose [belief] that they are right [as] inspired by virtuous principles has a moral obligation to act on that belief, even if it means opposing the majority or the ‘authority’.

[...]

[Continues on next page, see “Truth”]

[“Truth, continued from page 6]

“Truth is the foundation on which all other grand principles are built. [For example,] [i]t is truth that guides our charitable deeds, for the recognition that there are those in need of relief rests on the understanding of a truth about the inequities that exist within our society.”

“[A]s Freemasons [in South Africa], we must think seriously about the extent to which we understand the grand principle of Truth to be sacrosanct. Embedded in this Truth is integrity, morality and ethical conduct. Thus, a brother who is baptised in the values and principles of Masonry, who understands that the ritual and symbolism of Freemasonry are not mere formalities but teachings of principles that shape and transform a man from profane to a Freemason who is committed to continuous self-improvement, cannot justify or excuse lack of integrity.

“Freemasons must stand on principle. We may waver on many things, but not on this. And in standing on the principle of Truth, we must recognise that some will deem us confrontational, perhaps even contentious, rebellious, disruptive, unloving and hostile. But it is not hostility that must drive our actions. It is a deep understanding that being a majority of one is not an affront to the architecting of a moral and progressive organisation.”



[First Degree Conferral upon Bros. Rolly and Wynn, Sept. 20, 2025. Congratulations Bros.!]

Feeding the Homeless

One of the principal tenets of Freemasonry is “Relief” (the other two are “Brotherly Love” and “Truth”).

As to Relief, Masons make a “profound difference in the lives of our members and in California communities,” according to the Grand Lodge of California.

On September 27, 2025, some of the members of Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866, F. & A.M, extended themselves to exemplify Relief for and in the community.

They prepared, provided, and served lunch for the homeless at the Glendale facility of Ascencia, “a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing housing and support services for homeless individuals and families.” See, <https://www.ascenciaca.org/about-us/>.

Here are some of the Master’s words expressing his heartfelt thanks to the Brothers who helped:

“A huge thank you to all the Brothers who joined us for the feeding outreach program at Ascencia Shelter Center in Glendale. We’re grateful for Bro. Ely’s tasty food and tireless efforts to support our community. This outreach is a wonderful example of our charity in action, providing relief to those who need it most.”

Images from the day follow below and at the top of the next page. DIK.





[Masons at Ascencia, September 27, 2025, see the article on preceding page.]



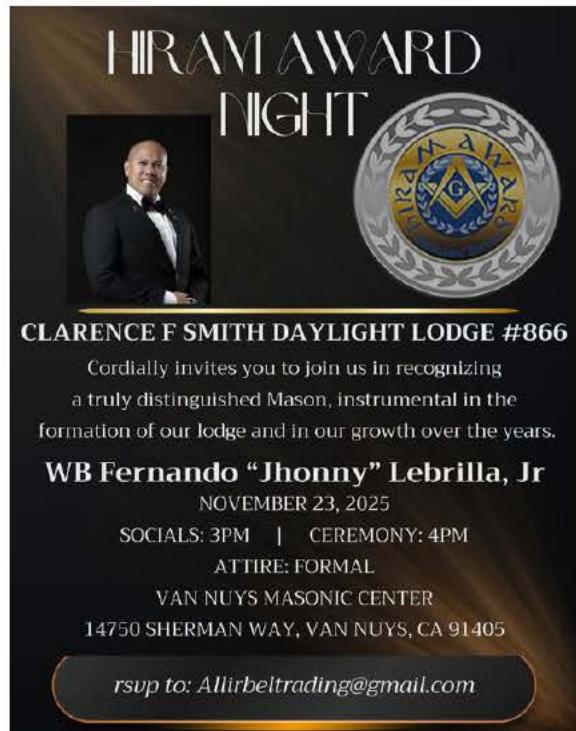
[Stated Meeting, October 4, 2025]



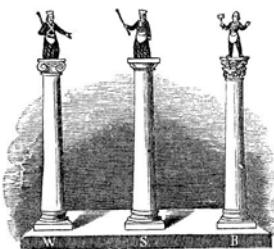
[First Degree, Oct 4, 2025.
Congrats Bro Ernesto]

Please Join With Us to
Celebrate WB Jhonny's Hiram
Award

Here is the flyer:
H



[Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving surrounded by family, friends, and all you hold dear, filled with good food and good feelings, and thankful for all that the Great Architect of the Universe has bestowed on each one of us. Fraternally, Bro. David I. Karp, Editor (and family).]



From the East

Brethren,
I extend my warmest greetings to all. As we prepare to elect new officers, we seek your continued support and guidance for the upcoming year, building on the trust and confidence you've placed in us before. We're also delighted to welcome Bro. Ernesto Reutotar, who took his first step in Masonry last month.

I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all the brothers who contributed to our recent fundraising dinner. Your support is vital to our lodge, and we encourage you to continue helping us in any way you can. Please prioritize supporting our lodge, as we rely solely on fundraising to sustain our future finances and cover expenses throughout the year.

In particular, I would like to thank Bros Ernesto, Tony, Wynn, Harlem, and Rolly for their hard work in preparing, cooking, and serving the food, as well as setting up the dining hall. I also commend Bro Ely for his outstanding efforts in organizing the event, which has been a great inspiration to our new members. Furthermore, I would like to thank his daughter for her assistance in preparing and serving.

We would like to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation to SW Bro Joseph and JW Bro Roland for their unwavering support, hard work, and commitment to our events. Your leadership has been truly inspiring, and your guidance has played a significant role in shaping our new members' understanding of the value of contributing to our lodge. We are also grateful to

Bro Earl for providing an amazing musical experience and being an outstanding host.

Fraternally and Respectfully Yours,
Wor. Gerald Alvarez
Master

From the West

Hello Brethren,
I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all the Masonic brothers, sisters, friends and family members who came together to support our recent fundraiser. Your presence, generosity, and good will turned this event into a truly meaningful and successful gathering.

A special thank you to Brother Ely, his daughter, our amazing EA's (Rolly, Wynn, Tony and Ernie) and DJ Bro. Earl. Their leadership and organization helped make the evening run smoothly: from coordinating the food service to directing the flow of the event, and keeping the music going and serving our guests. Their dedication and teamwork were nothing short of outstanding.

Their efforts embodied the true spirit of service and fellowship, reminding us all that when we work together brothers, family, and friends we can accomplish great things.

To everyone who contributed time, energy, and resources: Thank you. Your commitment strengthens our lodge and uplifts our mission. Let us also remember the importance of supporting our lodge, first attending our functions before visiting other lodges. By standing strong together and showing up for one another, we ensure that our events remain vibrant, well supported, and reflective of the unity that defines our brotherhood.

Fraternally yours,
Bro. Joseph Chavez,
Senior Warden

From the South

GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTH!
GOOD DAY, Brethren. Our Lodge Needs You! Please come out and support our Lodge, especially during events. Remember your obligation, your help is within the length of your cable-tow. Brethren rely on Brethren; we are counting on you to support your Lodge and safeguard our future. No matter how busy life gets, set aside a couple of hours for an occasional event or meeting. Your officers and Brothers set aside time for your degree work otherwise, you wouldn't be a Mason. Return the favor and help us continue our timeless traditions.

According to a Grand Lodge publication, "a Lodge is the local chapter of the fraternity. The term 'lodge' refers to both the members of that chapter and the building in which they meet." As to the building itself, we risk losing it without Brothers supporting it. Let's save our Lodge in both contexts for future generations and for the future of Freemasonry.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Bro. Ernesto Reutotar on the successful conferral of his First Degree. I also wish to congratulate Bro. Ely Ayao, the event coordinator, for the success of the "Grand Lauriat" Fundraising Banquet.

"A team is not just a group of people who work together. A team is a group of people who trust each other." Unity is strength. When there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.

Fraternally yours,
Bro. Roland Cortel
Junior Warden

Bonus Article: The Masonic Connection to Thanksgiving

“On September 25th, 1789 Congressman and Brother Elias Boudinot of Burlington, New Jersey appeared in front of the House of Representatives with a proposition. Brother Boudinot asked that the government create a committee to persuade the President and Freemason, George Washington, to declare a national day of thanks and prayer. Without his Masonic values, Brother Boudinot may have never been inclined to rally for this national day of thanks.

"In 1789, President George Washington delivered the Proclamation of 1789 that assigned November 26th as the National Holiday of Thanksgiving. This proclamation was also a symbol to our former monarchy that the colonies were a self-governing and legitimate state. Washington remarked, 'both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.'"

Source: From an online article of the Grand Lodge of Ohio at
<https://www.freemason.com/the-masonic-connection-to-thanksgiving/>