

In the



Daylight

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

April 2026

Freemasonry Is Not Always Serious

Foreword...

One would think that Freemasonry is always serious. Not so. Occasionally, we Masons must take a step back from all of the pomp and circumstance, to rest and refresh ourselves with stories that may cause a laugh, a chuckle, a snicker, a guffaw, or even a groan. Maybe such reactions will result from your review of this edition, which challenges our members to look on the bright side of life (cue *Spamalot* here.). Maybe not.

Nevertheless, it has been a practice of this editor to substitute such tales, or flights of fancy¹, in April editions in the past in lieu of the Masonic Education and Ideals normally included. However, all mirth aside, the edition also includes some of the usual serious stuff as well. You will have to decide what is true and what is fiction.

There is history to this kind of edition. According to the National Day Calendar at <https://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/national-day/april-fools-day-april-1> :

“Newspapers, television, radio, and social media have had their fun on April Fools' Day. Check out all this April 1 foolishness:

¹“An idea, narrative, suggestion, etc., which is extremely imaginative and which appears to be entirely unrealistic, untrue, or impractical...”

https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/flight_of_fancy

Times of London reported in 1992 that Belgium was negotiating to join Holland.

The Evening Star of Islington advertised in 1864 a display of donkeys at the Agricultural Hall the next day. Those who arrived early soon realized who the donkeys on display really were.

In 1950, *The Progress* in Clearfield, Pennsylvania, published a picture of a UFO flying over the town. Claiming to have "scooped" larger publications of the first-ever published picture of a real flying saucer.

In 2008, the BBC presented a documentary on flying penguins.”

So, there you have it. Please enjoy the read.

Fraternally,

Bro. David I. Karp, Editor

PS Some readers, who haven't taken the path through the three Masonic degrees, or some of them, will not understand the entries fully. If so, you may hang onto this edition until you become a Master Mason.



April Trestle Board appears on page 2.



Bob and Fred's Excellent Adventure

In a remote part of the country, where the deer and the antelope play, a weather-beaten building (housing an old Masonic Lodge) stood at the brow of a hill. It was situated away from town on a rough and rugged road, the only access.

One cloudy late afternoon, two visiting Fellowcrafts, Bros. Bob and Fred, hiking on the road, drew near the old building. The sun was in the west at the close of the day and soon it would be a dark and stormy night. Weary and worn out, they entered to rest and refresh themselves, and to weather the storm which was fast approaching.

As they came inside, Bros. Bob and Fred saw that the building was being renovated. Fortunately, several construction tradesmen were members of that lodge. A few of them, as volunteers, were at labor when the lights flickered and suddenly went out, maybe from the brewing storm.

Bob said to Fred, "Hold!"

"Hold what?" replied Fred.

"Hold onto this flashlight, I have another one in my pack and will retrieve it."

Turning on the two flashlights, the Fellowcrafts found a despondent Brother feeling his way down the hallway in the dark.

Bro. Bob asked, "who comes here?"

The brother responded, "I'm the lucky brother doing the electrical work in the building."

"Being in the dark, what do you most desire?"

"Maybe a new fuse, then we can get the lights back on."

"Maybe it's the storm," offered Fred.

Suddenly, the electricity returned and the interior lit up.

"Ah, relief! Let there be light!"

Reminded that one of the principal tenets IS Relief, the Bro. Bob announced, "I need some relief before we go."

The electrician directed them both to the men's restroom, whereupon they found another Brother working there on the flooring.

It was the tiler, of course.

Ultimately the Fellowcrafts parted (on the square) and hit the road for yet another excellent Masonic adventure.

April 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.)

April 4, 2026 11AM, Stated Meeting.
Casual business (polo shirt). Lunch donation \$15/person.

April 4, 2026 12-4PM, 709th District 1st
Annual Spring Masonic Celebration

April 14, 2026 7PM, OSI (Officer School
of Instruction), @ Van Nuys 451

April 18, 2026 Practice, Degree or
Fellowship TBA

April 23, 2026 Anniversary of CFS
Daylight's Institution

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



Solomon King's Temple

Historically, “[t]he Masons have been one of the few traditional American organizations to readily accept Jewish members.” Schoener, A. *The American Jewish Album 1664 to the Present*. Rizzoli International Publications, Inc.: New York (1983) P. 96.

In fact, Bro. George Washington, in his 1790 visit to Providence Rhode Island, addressed not only King David's Lodge (Moses Seixas, Master) but also the Hebrew Congregation in Newport (Moses Seixas, Warden). *Id.*, p. 41. Many Lodges today have Jewish Masons among their diverse membership.

Bro. Solomon (“Solly”) King is one such Mason.

Through the generations, Bro. Solly's family has suffered from hearing loss, also referred to as deafness or Hard-of-Hearing (HoH). His daughter, Beth, is profoundly deaf. Searching for resources on the internet for her, Solly found that there exists a Synagogue for the Deaf in Northridge, called Temple Beth Solomon of the Deaf. See, e.g.

<https://jewishjournal.com/community/350487/the-sound-of-survival-a-look-at-temple-beth-solomon-of-the-deaf/>. This intrigued Solly because the synagogue's name matched his and his daughter's names, Solomon and Beth, and their needs. They became members of the Temple and Beth grew up there, active in religious studies and its youth programming.

As years passed, Bro. Solomon King, thrived in his business, made good money, and became a large and generous donor in the community.

After being approached to do so, he determined to help fund the construction of another synagogue for the deaf, this one in West Los Angeles.

At Solomon King's Temple, there was not heard the sound of any metallic tool while it was building. This was so because most of the congregation, and the construction crew members themselves, were deaf or hard of hearing.

As a Mason, Bro. Solly saw the irony in such a fact.

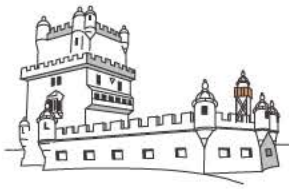
CFS Daylight's Officers for 2026

Worshipful Master Wor. Joseph R. Chavez
Senior Warden Bro. Roland Cortel
Junior Warden
WB Archimedes (“Kim”) S. Cabanig, PM
Treasurer Bro. Ely Ayao
Secretary Bro. Akram Al-Awar
Asst. Secretary WB Gerald Alvarez, PM
Chaplain Bro. Aldrin Perez
Senior Deacon Bro. Ryan Lim
Junior Deacon Bro. Harlem Ruiz
Senior Steward Bro. Lloyd Donasco, Sr.
Junior Steward Bro. Earl Austria
Marshal Bro. Jamille Paas
Organist Bro. Cody Morrison
Tiler Bro. Marvin De Guzman
Officers' Coach
WB Archimedes (“Kim”) S. Cabanig, PM
Candidates' Coach
Inspector WB Leland H. Celestre, PM

Contact information:

Master:
Worshipful Joseph Chavez

Secretary:
Brother Akram Al-Awar



The Stewarts/Stuarts

“It has never been thought derogatory to their dignity that monarchs have, for a time, exchanged the scepter for the trowel, to patronize our Masonic mysteries and to join in our assemblies.” Monitor and Officers Manual, Grand Lodge of California, 1989 rev., pp. 15-16.

One monarch of note was James VI of Scotland’s Stuart clan, or the House of Stuart, who became James I of England in 1603. “He is believed to have played a role in promoting and formalizing Freemasonry.” See, *The Stewart Clan & The Freemasons*” by Adam Stewart Quattlebaum at <https://www.scribd.com/document/753441525/The-Stewart-Clan-and-The-Freemasons> .

Quattlebaum goes on to write that “[s]ome historians suggest that James VI/I granted a charter to the Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary’s Chapel) no. 1 in 1599, which is one of the oldest lodges in existence.” *Id.*

Down the ages there have been other Stewarts involved in Masonry. Some, according to Google’s AI, include: “John Steward/Stewart: A noted Revolutionary War hero in Maryland and active Freemason; Potter Stewart, an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court who was a known Freemason; Randolph Stewart, 12th Earl of Galloway, [who served] as the Grand Master Mason of the Grand Lodge of Scotland from 1945 1949; [and] John Christie Stewart, [who served] as a prominent member of the Grand Lodge of Scotland (1942 1945); [among others].”

In a local lodge recently, there were a pair of Masons, a father and son, with the last name

Stuart. It is unknown if they descended from James VI/I and the House of Stuart. Nevertheless, they were called upon to be appointed as officers of their Lodge.

They were the Senior Stuart and the Junior Stuart.

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)
Gerald J. Alvarez (2025)

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 (2025)
Barry Mann (2021)
John T. Seletos (2017)
Thomas K. Sheehan (2014)*
Rogelio L. Soriano, PM (2018)
Steven A. Wolvek, PM (2019)

* Deceased.

Sciots’ Cornerstone Award

Ely D. Ayao (2025)

Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award

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

Medieval Masons

Editor's note: The following is reprinted from our April 2021 edition simply because I like it!

Medieval Masons moved freely from place to place in order to construct the great edifices of the era. They went where there was employment. See,

<https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/medieval-england/medieval-masons/> .

Wherever they went, a Master Mason oversaw the work of the other masons, glaziers, and craftsmen:

"He would work in what was known as the Mason's Lodge. All important building sites would have such a building that served as a workshop and a drawing office from which all the work on the building site was organized. Anyone who arrived at the building site and claimed that they were a master mason would be tested by the Master Mason and by master masons already working on the site. By doing this they ensured that quality was maintained and that they would have a good chance of future building work." *Id.*

Roslyn Chapel, a 15th-century structure located in the village of Roslin, Midlothian, Scotland, likely was one of those building sites where such a Mason's Lodge was located nearby. There is some speculation that Roslyn Chapel is connected to Freemasonry, the Knights Templar, and the Holy Grail. See,

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

There is even a legend that an Entered Apprentice was murdered there.

<https://freemasonrymatters.co.uk/latest-news-free-masonry/rosslyn-chapel-the-apprentice-pillar/> .

Less well known than the foregoing murder is the incident of the bee hive discovered at the Mason's Lodge. Masonic tradition informs us that a well established beehive was located under its eaves. In the rage that resulted from the EA's murder, the hive was dislodged. Most of the angry bees followed the animated masons away

from the lodge as they scurried for their own protection. One bee remained.

She entered the Lodge, where the Master Mason and one other craftsman were poring over the designs on the trestle board. The overly large bee buzzed around and ultimately landed upon the trestle board itself, whereupon the Master Mason, a man of few words, struck it with his setting maul.

Upon the demise of the insect, the craftsmen acknowledged the deed, simply saying "amen." The Master Mason looked up, grinned, and said, "Smote it. Bee." The rest is history.



Jubilee and the Liberty Bell

Many Masons have made a pilgrimage to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to see and tour the immense Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, an architectural wonder with special meaning. <https://pamasonictemple.org/tour-hours/> . Not far from there is the Liberty Bell Center, where one will find the actual Liberty Bell on display. <https://www.nps.gov/inde/planyourvisit/libertybellcenter.htm> . It, too, has special meaning for Masons and is worth the visit.

"The Liberty Bell bears a timeless message: 'Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants thereof.'"

<https://www.nps.gov/inde/learn/historyculture/stories-libertybell.htm> .

[Continues on next page, see "Jubilee"]

["Jubilee," continued from page 5]

"The Liberty Bell's inscription is from the Bible (King James version): 'Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants thereof.' This verse refers to the 'Jubilee', or the instructions to the Israelites to return property and free slaves every 50 years. Speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly Isaac Norris chose this inscription for the State House bell in 1751, possibly to commemorate the 50th anniversary of William Penn's 1701 Charter of Privileges which granted religious liberties and political self-government to the people of Pennsylvania." *Id.*

Quite possibly, there was another reason Isaac Norris chose to reference the biblical Jubilee. After all, Speaker Norris was also Brother Norris, a Freemason. See, https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Norris-12174#_ref-2.

Perhaps he was also inspired to refer, however obliquely or subtly, to the Masonic story of the building of King Solomon's Temple. It may be that Norris knew, and Masonic tradition informs us, that "Jubilee" was the fourth suspicious brother at the building of that awesome edifice.



[Image attribution:

<https://library.biblicalarchaeology.org/sidebar/the-liberty-bell-ringing-in-an-american-jubilee/>]



Aging In Place

For many years Bob and Mary, an aging couple, occupied an aging house which had been their home for most of the 50+ years of their marriage.

During their early years, Mary, who ran the local bakery, loved to bake even at home. Their kitchen always smelled great and she often opened the kitchen window so the aromas would waft outside to delight her neighbors. Sometimes she sent home cooked desserts to Bob's Masonic lodge; that was always a plus.

Bob, a Master Mason, was always the handyman around the house, fixing things as needed. His working tools he kept in the downstairs closet for easy access. He had a trowel for when he needed to fix the grout in the kitchen, a square and compasses, hammer, nails and so forth for woodworking, screwdrivers and screws, and other miscellany as well in his toolkit.

Even as they aged, Bob and Mary were the cutest couple on the block. They exercised together. When taking a walk they held hands. When visiting a neighbor's home, they brought dessert and then usually snuggled on the sofa. They called each other pet names, like "Honey" or its shortened version "Hon" (pronounced "hun").

As the years went by, the kitchen window became more and more of a problem, sometimes it stuck, sometimes it wouldn't stay open and it slammed shut. Other windows in the house had

[continues on next page, see "Aging"]

["Aging," continued from page 6]

similar issues. By then, Bob's woodworking abilities had waned. Mary would do her best to take his place as handy-woman, but that didn't always work.

One day, as Mary opened the kitchen window while baking, the window simply fell apart. The needed repair was beyond her abilities and she called out to Bob. Bro. Bob couldn't fix it either.

In frustration he called out: "Is there no help for the windows, hon?"

He laughed when he realized what he said. Then he called a carpenter for the fix.



The Undertaker

Brother Don B. Lowe, a member of Good Samaritan Lodge No. 336 (GLPA) at Gettysburg (<https://www.gettysburgfreemasons.org/>), was an undertaker by trade. Today we might refer to him as a funeral director or mortician, but undertaker might be the right designation for the mid 19th century. Among other things, Bro. Lowe was well known for the Masonic Funerals he conducted.

It was July 1863 and residents of the small town of Gettysburg, including its population of Freemasons, began to notice an influx of a great number of soldiers, many of them Masons, both from the North and the South. *Id.* A battle was brewing and Bro. Lowe realized that he had his work ahead of him.

On the third day of battle, one Mason, CSA Brigadier General Lewis Armistead, mortally wounded, was aided by another Brother, US Captain Henry Bingham. They are now remembered by way of the "Friend to Friend" Masonic Memorial (see, <https://gettysburg.stonesentinels.com/other-monuments/friend-to-friend-masonic-memorial/>).

After Bro. Armistead laid down his working tools, his body was brought to Bro. Don B. Lowe for undertaking, and of course, Bro. Lowe immediately knelt for the benefit of prayer. Why?

Because no Mason should ever enter into any great or important undertaking without first asking the blessings of the Great Architect of the Universe.

Now For the Real Stuff:

Here is the golf tournament flyer:

CLARENCE F. SMITH
DAYLIGHT LODGE #866

6TH ANNUAL GOLF FUNDRAISER Tournament

SATURDAY MAY 23RD, 2026
KNOLLWOOD COUNTRY CLUB
12040 Balboa Blvd.
Granada Hills, CA 91344

TOURNAMENT: \$150 per player

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL
\$130 per player
or **\$500** for 4-some
Hole Sponsorship **\$100**

AGENDA

8:30 AM Golf Registration	10:00 AM First Tee Time	4:30 PM Dinner, Awarding, Fellowship
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Gold Sponsors - \$1,000 Company banner Product promotion Verbal recognition Golf for 2.	Silver - \$500 Display placard Product promotion Verbal recognition Golf for 2.	Bronze/Hole Sponsor Display placard Verbal recognition.
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Tournament Coordinators: Bro. Darren Hojjati 818 554-7938
Bro. Ely Ayao 818 335-5919
Zelle Payment to: cfsjuniorwarden@gmail.com

Net proceeds to benefit youth orders and lodge expenses.

April Birthdays: Bro. Allan M.; Bro. Rolly L.; Bro. Michael McQuaig; Bro. Ely A.; Bro. Martin M.; Bro. Ryan L.; WB. Gerald A., PM.; Bro. Nestor M. Happy Birthday Brethren !



From the East

Hello Brethren, I hope this message finds each of you doing well.

I would like to begin by extending my heartfelt congratulations to Brother William C. Raddatz, whom we all know and appreciate as Brother Bill, on reaching this remarkable milestone. Achieving 50 years of dedicated service to our Craft is no small accomplishment, it is a true testament to his commitment, character, and unwavering devotion to the principles of Freemasonry.

It was both an honor and a privilege to be present and take part in his Golden Veterans Award ceremony. To witness such a significant moment in Brother Bill's Masonic journey was truly inspiring. It also served as a meaningful reminder of the legacy we each strive to build within our Lodge and beyond.

Brother Bill's years of service reflect not only longevity, but a life lived in accordance with Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. His example reminds us of the importance of perseverance, humility, and dedication to something greater than ourselves.

On behalf of Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866, I extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Brother Bill for his many years of faithful service. We are better as a Lodge because of Brothers like him.

I wish Brother Bill continued success, good health, and happiness in his personal life, as well as in his continued Masonic journey. May the years ahead be filled with peace, fulfillment, and the same light he has so clearly brought to our Craft.

Congratulations once again, Brother Bill.

Fraternally yours,
Wor. Joseph Chavez
Master

From the West

Greetings from the West.
Brethren,

I hope that everyone had a blessed and joyful spring season. As quickly as this year is flying by, I hope that we all take some time to reflect on brotherly love, relief and truth as brotherhood in Freemasonry has given us all. I would like to thank Bro. David Karp, for his Masonic education, it was a great learning experience, as well as a wonderful opportunity for me to spend some quality time with our new members in the lodge.

Also I would like to congratulate Bros. Rolly Lagsa, Wynn Apao, Tony Bon and Ernie Reutotar on your outstanding achievement in delivering the long form proficiency. Your dedication, discipline and commitment to the Craft are truly commendable. Mastering and presenting these proficiencies is no small task; it reflects not only your knowledge, but your perseverance and deep respect for Masonic [continues on next page, see "West"]

["West," continued from page 8]

tradition. Your efforts uphold the rich heritage of our fraternity and inspire others to strive for excellence. May this accomplishment be one of many milestones in your continued journey in Masonry.

Last, but certainly not least, we honor and congratulate Bro. Bill Raddatz on the extraordinary milestone of your 50th year of dedicated Masonic service. Your enduring commitment to the principles of our Craft stands as a shining example to all who have had the privilege to call you Brother.

Through five decades of steadfast devotion, you have embodied the true spirit of Freemasonry demonstrating brotherly love, relief, and truth in both word and deed. Your legacy is woven into the very fabric of the Lodge, and your influence will continue to guide and inspire generations to come.

May this golden anniversary serve as a reflection of a life well lived in service to others and may you continue to enjoy the respect, admiration, and fellowship you so richly deserve.

Having said all of this, I sincerely hope that you all enjoy each month's trestle board as much as I do. Let's all share in camaraderie as we've been charged to do and spread that brotherly love to all our members.

Fraternally,
Bro. Roland Cortel
Senior Warden

From the South

Greetings from the South!
Brethren,

Allow me to extend my sincere thanks to the Treasurer of our lodge Bro. Ely Ayao, who graciously extended his cable tow by opening his home for our stated meeting lunch. My gratitude as well to our Senior Warden Bro. Roland Cortel, for going the extra mile in providing the food that nourished both the minds and bodies of our brothers.

For our next stated meeting, the Junior Warden's station is open to any food suggestions the brethren may have so long as they remain within our budget. No fancy foods whatsoever are necessary; simplicity served with Brotherly Love is more than enough.

I also encourage all brethren to extend a warm hand to everyone who enters our Lodge as guests, visitors, and Brethren from other lodges alike. A simple gesture of fellowship reflects the true spirit of our Craft and strengthens the bonds that unite us.

To the Officer's line, I respectfully remind each of you to make time to work on your qualifications. Our Lodge thrives when its officers are prepared, confident, and committed to their stations.

To the Brethren who aspire to serve as future officers, I encourage you to approach me with courage and openness. If you have the desire to advance, let me know your intentions. I am here to guide you, support you, and assist you in your continued journey in Masonry. May Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth will always prevail.

Thank you.
Fraternally yours,
Archimedes "Kim" Cabanig, PM
Junior Warden

