In the Daylight

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

December 2026

How My Life is Different as a Mason

Foreword...

The theme for this edition, the last to come from me, is "How My Life is Different as a Mason." This theme was suggested by our 2026 Worshipful Master, Joseph Chavez, and is a follow up from last month's theme, "Why I Became a Mason." Both Wor. Joseph's essay and mine are set forth in this edition, among other entries.

I have kept on my computer desktop a publication of the Grand Lodge of California entitled "Masonic Philosophy and Values." I see it every day as a guide for living as a Mason. In pertinent part, it reads:

"Freemasonry is a fraternity based on the belief that each man has a responsibility to help make the world a better place while being devoted to his family, faith, country, and fraternity. As Masons we value and promote: Ethics; Personal growth; Tolerance; Education; Diversity; Philanthropy; Family; Community."

It gives good guidance for how a Mason should live his life. Knowing the men of Clarence F. Smith Daylight No. 866 as I do, I believe each of them lives his life with these aspirations and guidelines in mind.

I value my connection with the Brethren of this Lodge for their beliefs and actions for the betterment of themselves, the Lodge, and the community. As I retire now from being the editor of this newsletter, I wish each of my Brothers a just, faithful, and true Masonic life.

Fraternally,

Bro. David I. Karp, Editor (Ret.)

December Trestle Board

Dec. 5, 2026 Masonic Education TBA
Dec. 5, 2026 11AM-12PM, Stated Meeting. Attire: Business casual (polo shirt); Officers - CFS Navy Blue Polo.
Dec. 5 12:30- 2:30PM, Practice
Dec. 19, 2026 11AM-4PM, Practice, Degree, and Fellowship

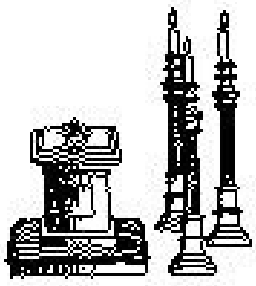
*See Messenger or text messaging for the Master's postings or contact him directly for add'l info or changes.. Ed.

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Dues Notice

Dues for 2027 $230. Pay by check to the Secretary or by credit card via iMember2.0.





My Life as a Mason – Wor. Joseph Chavez

As I began my Masonic journey, I gradually came to understand that the Light I was seeking was not simply knowledge or wisdom. It was also a greater sense of purpose, direction, balance, and a deeper understanding of myself.

I began to realize that being a good person wasn't simply about believing I was one. It required recognizing my imperfections, acknowledging habits I needed to change, and taking my responsibilities more seriously.

I wanted to become more patient, more understanding, and more aware of how my decisions affected those around me. Most importantly, I wanted to become a better husband, a better father, and a better man.

Freemasonry offered something that appealed to me: the opportunity to work on myself while surrounding myself with men who were striving toward that same purpose.

I came to understand that Masonry does not promise to make a man perfect. Instead, it provides him with the teachings and working tools to recognize his imperfections and continually to strive to improve.

The lessons of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, along with the virtues of Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice, began to take on a deeper meaning.

I learned that strength is not always demonstrated by how loudly we speak or how firmly we defend our opinions. Sometimes, true strength is found in patience, humility, understanding, and the willingness to listen.

I also began to understand that our obligations extend far beyond the walls of the Lodge. The principles we are taught should be reflected in how we treat our families, our friends, our coworkers, and even those with whom we disagree.

Looking back, I realize that the Square and Compass may have first captured my attention, but it was the opportunity for personal growth that ultimately inspired me to become a Mason.

And that brings me back to the advice I received before beginning my journey: if I was willing to listen to the teachings, I would find the Light I was seeking.

Today, I understand that receiving Light is not limited to a single moment in our Masonic journey. It is an ongoing process of learning, reflecting, recognizing our shortcomings, and making a sincere effort to become better.

I still have much to learn. I still make mistakes, and there are moments when I must remind myself to practice the very lessons I have been taught.

But perhaps that is one of the most meaningful aspects of Freemasonry. It reminds us that we are all unfinished works, continually striving to transform our rough ashlars into something better.

I became a Mason to become a better man. I remain a Mason because I know that journey is never complete.

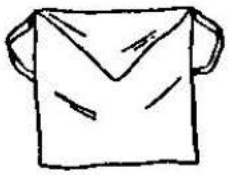
Fraternally,

Joseph Chavez

Worshipful Master, 2026

Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866

Be Just. Be Faithful. Be True.



My Life as a Mason – Bro. David I. Karp

This may be the essence of how my life is different as a Mason:

At my daughter's Bat Mitzvah she gave a speech in which she described me as the kind of person who holds the door open for another. I think that was her 13 year old view of me and my character. For me, character must be the intuition or intention to be kind, courteous, caring and good. Probably my character traits come from having a life imbued by the principles and teachings of Freemasonry.

There may be other sources as well; here's two:

From Scouting "Do a Good Turn Daily."

From Jewish Tradition Hillel said, "Whatever is hateful and distasteful to you, do not do to your fellow man."

All of this is wrapped up in my being.

Without boasting, I try to live a life of kindness, caring, selflessness and helpfulness. I give money to charity; I buy food for a hungry person; I help others to manage conflict; I assist a neighbor with his tasks; yes, I hold the door open for an elderly or disabled person; I care for and provide for my family; I have volunteered and participated in Lodge doings; I try to help make the world a better place. Perhaps these efforts are the result of living my life as a Mason.

Borrowing now from an online article you may have encountered in a recent Trestle Board edition, I try also to include in my life these qualities of a Mason, as set forth at https://massfreemasonry.org/what-it-means-to-be-a-mason/qualities-masonic-man/ :

fellowship with other Masons;

high moral standards;

kindness in the home;

courtesy in society (treating others with respect and kindness);

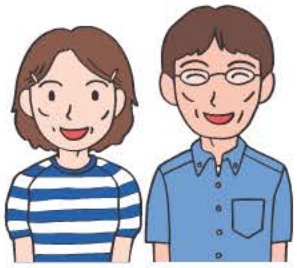
honesty in business (being transparent and truthful);

fairness in all dealing (including treating everyone equally and justly, without bias, and fostering mutual respect in all my interactions.)

All of this is how my life is different as a Mason.

Fraternally,

Bro. David I. Karp.



Masonic Values in my Work as a Mediator – Bro. David I. Karp

Editor's note: In dividing our time within the 24 hours of the day, there is a part for our usual vocations. Consistent with the theme of this edition, "How My Life is Different as a Mason," I quote, in full, the following Blog Post of mine from 2013, updated in 2018, entitled, "Masonic Principles as a Guide in Mediation," available online at https://karpmediation.wordpress.com/2013/12/03/masonic-principles-as-a-guide-in-mediation/. Here it is.

I wear a Masonic ring nearly every day; I am a Mason as was my father and his father. Even my great grandfathers were Masons.

[Continues on next page, see "Work"]

["Work," continued from page 3]

I know that it is not for everybody, but I value my connection with the Craft.

Lately I have been thinking a lot about Masonry and its values.

I have always held in high regard the ethics and morals of Masonry, which I will discuss below, and have tried to live by them (equally, I might add, with the Scout Law, about which I wrote several years ago see, http://www.mediate.com/articles/karpD1.cfm

I have tried also to conduct myself in mediation in accord with these Masonic Principles: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

The Grand Lodge of California says this about these principles:

Brotherly love. We value respect, freedom, kindness, tolerance, and our differences religious, ethnic, cultural, social, generational, and educational and strive for harmony in our individual lives, in our lodges, and in the global community.

Relief. We take responsibility for the well-being of our brothers, our families, and the community as a whole. We provide relief through philanthropy, community involvement, and delivery of excellent care.

Truth. We stay true to our personal code of conduct and ethics honor, integrity, personal responsibility, and the continuous pursuit of knowledge.

[...]

These are all good guides for me in mediation.

These principles remind me, as does my Masonic ring which I wear in mediation:

- to act with respect, kindness and tolerance evenly towards all participants in mediation as we strive for harmony in the management of the mediation process and in the outcome;
- to look out for the well-being of those attending as they attempt to manage their own conflicts, and to work with them towards relief from their distress;
- to conduct myself at all times with honor, integrity, personal responsibility; and
- to continue my learning, about mediation and about people, so as capably to help the participants reach their goals.

Such is the influence of the Craft on my craft, which guides my work as it does my life.

CFS Daylight's Officers for 2026

Worshipful Master Bro. 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

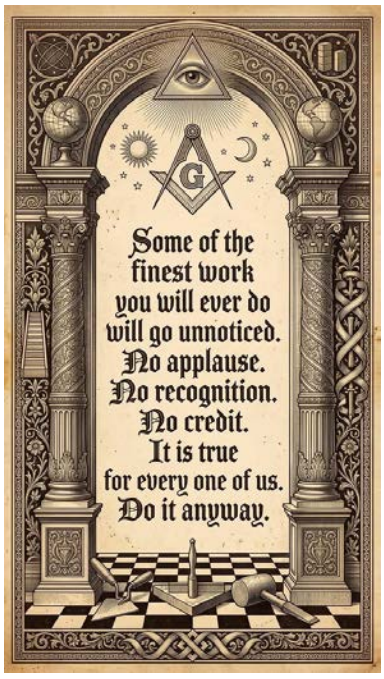
Secretary:
Brother Akram Al-Awar



[A few of the Brothers enjoying lunch together after practice at the Lodge, October 17, 2026.]

Guidance for How One's Life is Different as a Mason

The following was posted on Facebook by Cornerstone Lodge No. 19 (GL of Alberta A.F.&.A.M.) and was retrieved November 4, 2026.



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)
William C. Raddatz (2026)
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)

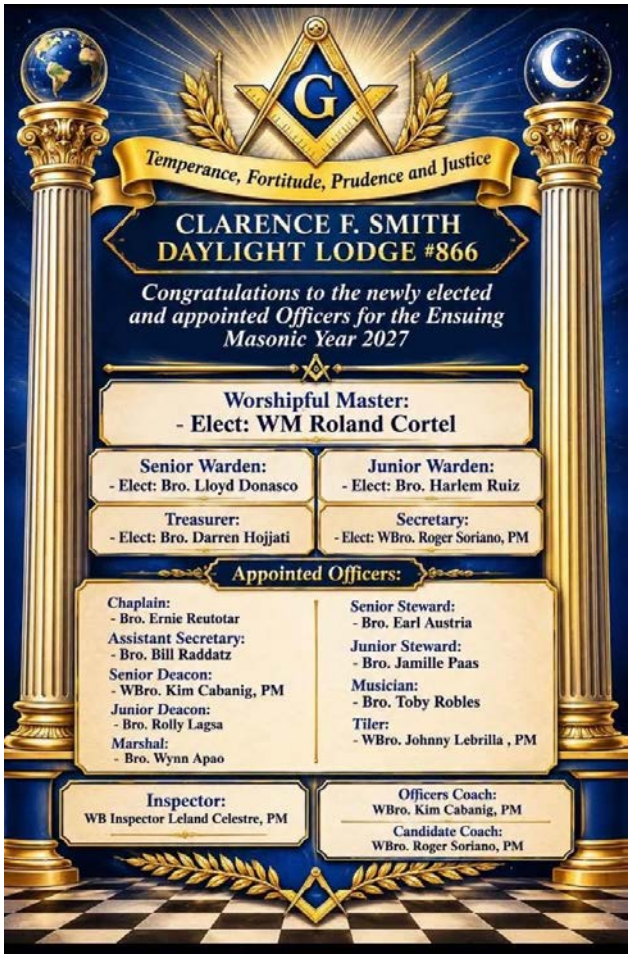
Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award

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

* Deceased.



[Stated Meeting and Annual Election of Officers, November 7, 2026. Congratulations to Bro. Roland, Master Elect; Bro. Lloyd, Sr. Warden Elect; Bro. Harlem, Jr. Warden Elect; Bro. Darren, Treasurer Elect; and WB Roger, Secretary Elect.]



How My Life is Different as a Mason – Bro. Lloyd Donasco Sr.

I came to a crossroads in my life, and I can clearly see the difference between who I was before I became a Mason and who I am now. I went through a terrible experience that even the toughest people could not handle, and I became a headache to my family. But deep inside, I felt that there was no reason to be afraid to show what my heart truly desires. Bad things happened, but I chose to keep going.

My grandfather was a member of Freemasonry many years ago, until he finally laid down his working tools and joined the Celestial Lodge above. My cousin was also part of one of the best youth organizations, DeMolay International, Philippine Chapter. I believe that is part of our journey, like genes passed down through family.

Like water flowing around a boulder, I learned to keep moving forward without wasting energy fighting immovable barriers. Perhaps I was easily influenced when one of our brothers invited me once to an open house at Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge #866. As soon as I saw the ring on his finger, I was convinced to find out what Freemasonry was.

I attended succeeding meetings until I decided to join. It was very difficult to go through the trials and obligations. It is easier to be easy-go-lucky than to fulfill the rules and obligations. But I never gave up.

Now, I am very happy. I am surrounded by good people, friends, or as we call them, brothers. Special thanks to WB Johnny Lebrilla PM for helping me get into Masonry.

7 Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866, F.&A.M. 14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA 91405 Ed: davidikarp@karpmediation.com December 2026

My Journey to Becoming a Mason

By: Young Globetrotter

Reflecting on my journey, I realize how far I've come from my humble beginnings in the farmlands to successfully navigating the bustling world of business and athletics. My rough and rugged travels have taken me through various organizations, but none have felt as rewarding as my acceptance into Freemasonry.

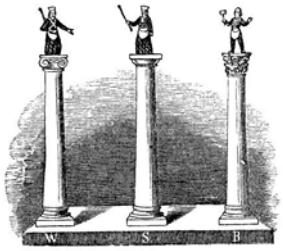
Throughout my life, the journeys I've undertaken have often presented challenges. Yet, as the saying goes, "sometimes, you wouldn't even feel the pains of failures when you have set your sights on becoming better than yourself." It's a reminder that life is not just about the destination, but the experiences and growth we encounter along the way.

I attribute much of my character to my upbringing. Raised by God-fearing parents who instilled values of honesty, service, and community support, I learned early on to focus on helping others rather than seeking personal gain. Their motto, "stand up for what is true and look for what you can do to help the community, not ask for what your community can give you," has been a guiding principle in my life. It has shaped my perspective, making me appreciate the power of service and selflessness.

As the Master-Elect, Bro. Roland, prepares for the upcoming Masonic year of AL. 6027, I see that he is inspired, as I am, by the four Cardinal Virtues of Freemasonry: Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice. Each virtue holds deep significance. Temperance teaches us to govern ourselves by being good and true. Fortitude differentiates courage from cowardice, embodying true strength. Prudence guides us to act fairly and with wisdom. And, Justice compels us to pursue righteousness without regard for personal gain.

To me, being a Mason is about embracing these virtues and striving to become a better version of myself. It's about personal growth, ethical leadership, and the commitment to support our communities.

As we embark on this new chapter for the Lodge, I am excited to delve deeper into these ideals and to share in the journey with my brethren. Together, we can foster a spirit of unity and uplift one another as we strive for excellence in both our personal and communal lives.



Greetings from the East

Hello Brethren,

As we approach the end of 2026, I find myself reflecting on the year that has passed and the privilege of having served as Worshipful Master of Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866.

When I first took my place in the East, I did so with great enthusiasm, hope, and a sincere desire to serve our Lodge and its Brethren to the best of my ability. Like any Worshipful Master, I had goals, expectations, and a vision of what I hoped we could accomplish together.

Although this Masonic year did not unfold entirely as I had envisioned or hoped, I have come to understand that leadership is not measured solely by what we accomplish when everything goes according to plan, but also by how we conduct ourselves when faced with challenges.

[continues on next page, see "East"]

["East," continued from page 7]

This year has certainly brought its share of difficulties, unexpected circumstances, and lessons. Yet through it all, I remain grateful for the opportunity to have served.

To every Brother who attended our meetings, participated in our degrees, or simply made the effort to be present, I extend my sincerest appreciation and gratitude.

Your time, dedication, and commitment have not gone unnoticed. I understand that we all have families, careers, responsibilities, and personal challenges. The fact that you chose to give a portion of your valuable time to our Lodge means more than words can express.

To my officers, thank you for your service, your patience, and the responsibilities you accepted throughout this year. Regardless of the challenges we encountered, I truly appreciate your dedication and willingness to see this Masonic year through to the end.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to Brother David for his continued dedication and contributions throughout this year. I know you had previously expressed that you were finished, but I sincerely appreciate your willingness to see the year through. From providing Masonic education and taking the time to research meaningful topics, to preparing and putting together our monthly Trestle Board, your time and efforts have been greatly appreciated. Thank you, Brother David, for everything you have done for our Lodge and for sharing your knowledge with the Brethren.

As we prepare to welcome the newly elected officers for the 2027 Masonic year, I sincerely ask every Brother to extend to them the support, encouragement, patience, and understanding that every leadership team deserves.

A Lodge cannot succeed through the efforts of its Worshipful Master or officers alone. Its strength comes from the Brethren who stand together in support of one another and the Craft.

We may not always agree, and we may not always see matters from the same perspective. However, our differences should never overshadow the obligations we have taken or the principles that brought us together as Masons.

Serving as your Worshipful Master has been an honor and a responsibility that I will always carry with me. I know that I have not been perfect, and I recognize that there are always opportunities to learn and improve.

Nevertheless, every decision I made was guided by what I sincerely believed to be in the best interest of our Lodge and the principles of our Craft.

To the incoming Worshipful Master and his officers, I wish you wisdom, patience, strength, and a successful Masonic year. May the Brethren give you their full support as you continue the important work of our Lodge.

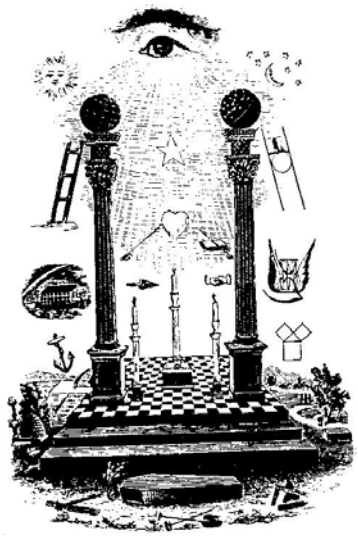
Finally, to all the Brethren and their families, I wish you a joyful holiday season and a healthy, peaceful, and prosperous New Year.

Fraternally and sincerely,

Joseph Chavez

Worshipful Master, 2026

Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866



Greetings from the West

Brethren,, I can hardly believe that it is already almost December and that my year in the West is almost over. It has been an absolute honor and privilege to serve our Lodge, and I am looking forward to moving up to the East as Master-Elect.

Brethren, I stand before you today with a heart full of gratitude and a deep sense of humility. Thank you for placing your trust in me and electing me to serve as Master of this Lodge for the upcoming 2027 Masonic year. To sit in the East is one of the highest honors a Mason can receive. I am keenly aware of the responsibilities that come with the gavel, as well as the rich legacy left by the Past Masters who have stood here before me. I promise to uphold our Ancient Landmarks, protect the harmony of our Craft, and serve you to the very best of my ability.

A Lodge does not thrive on the efforts of one man alone. My success in the East will depend entirely on your continued support, wisdom, and fellowship. I look forward to working side by side with my fellow officers, learning from our Past Masters, and engaging with every Brother on the sidelines. Together, we can make this a year of meaningful ritual, strong brotherhood, and dedicated charity.

Thank you once again for this privilege. I am honored to serve you, and I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

The year 2026 has been a great year for all of us for many reasons. Above all, however, we must remember that we are Brothers of this great and powerful fraternity. Regardless of the challenges we may have faced or the differences we may have encountered, we remain united as Brothers.

I am very confident that 2027 will be another wonderful year for all of us a year filled with Peace, Harmony, Humility, and Unity. With the guidance of the Craft and the continued support of one another, I know we can accomplish great things together as one family.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank each and every one of you for your guidance, support, and confidence throughout this year. I am truly honored and humbled to have been elected as Worshipful Master of our Lodge for the ensuing Masonic year of 2027.

Congratulations as well to all the Elected and Appointed Officers. I look forward to working alongside each of you as we prepare for the coming year. Achieving this goal would not have been possible without everyone's cooperation, dedication, and willingness to work together.

I would also like to share my previous message from our official group chat to highlight the significance of this month's Trestle Board message and express my sincere appreciation to Worshipful Kim Cabanig for accepting my request to serve as Senior Deacon.

"This is an important step along the journey toward the Masonic pillars, and it speaks volumes about your commitment to brotherhood and your unwavering dedication to our Lodge. Your commitment to the principles, values, and teachings of the Craft, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year, is truly admirable.

"I honestly believe that your decision to step back from the position of Senior Warden and allow Bro. Lloyd Donasco to take on that responsibility was not an easy one. We now understand that you are not driven by the desire to hold any particular position, but rather by your genuine love and loyalty to Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866. Your desire to serve, help others, and promote Peace, Harmony, and Unity is what truly defines you as a Brother.

"I strongly believe that everything happens for a reason and that something special awaits you. Whether serving as Senior Warden or taking on the responsibilities of Senior Deacon, what matters most is that your heart remains

[continues on next page, see "West"]

["West," continued from page 9]

committed to your Masonic journey and to becoming a better man.

"Thank you, Worshipful Kim, for everything you continue to do for Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866, both as our Senior Deacon (SD) and Officers Coach (OC), and for your continued support of our Lodge.

"Your dedication as Senior Deacon and Officers Coach, together with your professionalism, wisdom, patience, and guidance, has made a meaningful difference to all of us. Your willingness to share your knowledge and help your fellow Brothers grow as Masons is truly appreciated."

May the Great Architect of the Universe continue to bless us and guide us throughout our Masonic journey, rewarding us for our selfless service to the Craft. May we continue to grow stronger together as we move forward into our new home at Hollywood Lodge in Tarzana.

To the Brethren of Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866: An early Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to ALL! More power to all of us! SMIB!

Fraternally yours,
Bro. Roland Cortel, Senior Warden &
WM-Elect 2027

Greetings from the South

Brethren,

I have been a Mason for thirteen years and throughout that time Freemasonry has given me countless opportunities for self-discovery and personal growth. Through diligent study and a deeper understanding of the values and tenets of our Craft, I have come to know myself better and to strive constantly to improve.

Over the years, I have endeavored to apply the lessons and principles of Freemasonry in my home, within the Lodge, and throughout the community. By putting into practice the knowledge I have gained from our Fraternity, I have sought to become a better man, husband, brother, and citizen.

As we approach the month of December, we enter an important period of preparation for our incoming officers. Before assuming their respective stations and places, our elected and appointed officers must qualify themselves and demonstrate their readiness to serve. Let us offer them our support and encouragement as they prepare for the responsibilities that lie ahead.

The 2027 Masonic year will be led by Worshipful Master-elect Roland Cortel. May his leadership be guided by the Great Architect of the Universe, and may his administration bring continued harmony, growth, and prosperity to our Lodge.

To all our December birthday celebrants, I extend my warmest greetings and best wishes. May you be blessed with good health, happiness, and many more years filled with God's abundant blessings.

Thank you, Brethren, for your continued dedication to our beloved Fraternity.

Fraternally and respectfully yours.
WB Archimedes Cabanig, PM
Junior Warden



11 Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866, F.&A.M. 14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA 91405 Ed: davidikarp@karpmediation.com December 2026

Thank You, From Our Senior Warden Elect

Brethren,

Thank you for electing me as Senior Warden of Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866. I am truly honored by your trust and support. I look forward to serving the lodge and working together during the ensuing Masonic Year 2027. There is nothing impossible for us to achieve if we hold on and help each other. Our lodge will continue to grow and to expand our brotherhood.

We need to be an example to others by keeping our virtue and responsibility. Our dedication as members will keep us united. Our discipline and respect for ourselves will lead us on the path to becoming better men.

Our mentors and colleagues are our fellow Craftsmen, and we can see ourselves in them like a mirror. We help each other achieve the best reflection possible. So let us not be afraid to correct what we see in ourselves.

Thank you again, my brothers. I am proud to serve alongside you.

Fraternally yours,

Bro. Lloyd Donasco Sr.

Senior Warden Elect



Op-Ed: Leadership in the Lodge

Now that we have completed our elections for the ensuing Masonic Year, I have these parting thoughts as I retire from editorship.

The call to leadership is irresistible for some. Sometimes the catalyst is ambition or opportunism, sometimes it is for pride or personal aggrandizement or some other personal benefit.

I hope that our chosen leaders are never motivated by these traits.

In my view, leadership in the Lodge is about service to the Lodge and its members. It is not about seeking power or control. Each of us is equal; as we say, we meet on the level.

The Lodge does not serve the leader; the leader serves the Lodge.

Leadership in the Lodge need not be forceful or demanding. It must, however, be thoughtful, kind, generous, curious, solicitous, creative, careful and caring. Ask yourself, why are you saying this or doing this?

Think of the four way test of Rotary International: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

None of the foregoing questions is about the leader himself. It is about those whom the leader serves.

As I retire from being editor, I give you this “strictly in charge:” Don’t get a big head about being an officer or other leader in the lodge. Be humble, be understanding, be helpful, be a *mensch* (a good person). And you will do well.

Fraternally,

Bro. David I. Karp, Editor (Ret.)