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 2026

Thinking about Freemasonry

Foreword...

Do you think about Freemasonry? I do, nearly all the time.

Maybe it's because I have the time to think, to let my mind wander, mostly uninterrupted by the press of business or, occasionally, by the needs of family members.

I think (there it is!) that maybe I have the time to ruminate about Masonry due to age and circumstances, unlike some of my Masonic Brothers either with young families or work obligations that stand in the way.

I don't think so much about the rituals of Freemasonry any more, although I enjoy attending our ceremonies. After 35 years as a Master Mason I have internalized most if not all of the ethics and principles taught therein. Rather I think deeper thoughts, some of which will be explained in this edition in several of my own essays, and otherwise.

I hope you will bear with me as I explore some of the ideas that have come to mind as I have cogitated and deliberated about what to write for this month ... and what to do.

I also hope that you will appreciate some of the following and take to heart what it means to be a Mason and a member of our Lodge. Enjoy the read.

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. 3, 2026 Masonic Education TBA
Oct. 3, 2026 11AM-12PM, Stated Meeting. Attire: Business casual (polo shirt); Officers - CFS Navy Blue Polo.
Oct. 3, 2026 12:30- 2:30PM, Practice
Oct. 9-11, 2026, Annual Communication (ANCOM) at the Grand Lodge, San Franciso
Oct. 17, 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.





Individual vs. Collective Freemasonry

Years ago, before I joined our Daylight Lodge, when I was younger and much busier with work, I was less active than now in a Masonic Lodge but still a dues-paying member.

At that time, I was a member of a networking group of lawyers hoping to generate referrals and new business.

In that group, I met a business lawyer who, like me, was wearing a Masonic ring. So, seeking some commonality, I asked him what lodge he was involved with. He told me he was raised in a lodge in Israel but was otherwise unaffiliated locally.

Similarly, and much more recently, I met another self-identified Mason who did not go to Lodge anymore. I don't recall if he was just absent from his Lodge or if he had demitted.

I asked both why they were inactive in Masonry. The responses were different but interesting.

The second Mason was running a retail business and did not have time to participate in Lodge. But he said words to the effect that he was uninterested in Lodge activities anymore. "There's nothing in it for me," he added.

Hmm, I thought.

The first-described Mason, the lawyer, had similar feelings, but said he was no less a Mason than if he were affiliated with a lodge.

Thus, I began to wonder if there might be such a thing as Individual Masonry, as opposed to the collective version of Masonry, i.e., being actively involved in a Lodge. This query brought to mind the Boy Scouts' "Lone Scout" program wherein an individual scout in a remote place could enjoy the scouting experience and also absorb scouting principles and ethics without belonging to a Scout Troop.

Like the Lone Scout program, I do think there is such a thing as individual Masonry. A man of good heart, charitable and kind, of good character, dignity and integrity, who embodies the principles and ethics brought to him via the Craft, is certainly no less a Mason than one who is at every meeting and ceremony. (See the article below on the qualities of a Mason.)

I believe it is the internal, not the external, thoughts, actions and intentions of a Mason that matter. And, as the certificate on my wall from the Grand Lodge of California says, such a Mason "is recommended to the friendship and hospitality of the Craft wheresoever disbursed."

Respectfully submitted,

Bro. David I. Karp.





Questions about Inspiration, Motivation, Initiative

This is an essay of questions, including the following:

Are you inspired by being a Mason? Are you inspired by what goes on in the Lodge? Are we doing all we can to improve ourselves, each other and the Lodge? Do you have good feelings about being a Mason? Do you have good feelings about this Lodge? Is it harmonious or not? If not, what can be done? What can you do?

If inspired by the Craft, are you motivated to work on your own personal growth, help others, be charitable, improve your station in life and the workings of the lodge?

If inspired and motivated, will you take the initiative to participate, to lead or help with a Lodge activity or event, or assist the Lodge in some other way? Could you take action to help "repair the world," a concept in Hebrew called *tikkun olam*?

For myself, after 35 years of being a Master Mason, I continue to be inspired by the teachings of the Craft, and they govern my outlook and actions in all that I do. This is different from the Brother in the preceding essay who asked, "what's in it for me?" Moreover, I continue to be motivated to try to improve myself. And, yes, I have taken the initiative with the hope of inspiring others by volunteering in the collection of items to donate, by preparing the Trestle Board over the years, and by asking the questions herein that need to be asked for the success and longevity of the Daylight Lodge.

Even so, your answers rest within the faithful breast, I think. I cannot speak for others, only myself.

Respectfully submitted,
Bro. David I. Karp

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



The Qualities of a Mason

I think about the qualities that define a Mason. In this instance, I could not say it better than as written by Massachusetts Masons at https://massfreemasonry.org/what-it-means-to-be-a-mason/qualities-masonic-man/ :

"The essential qualities Masons share, regardless of their diverse backgrounds, include a belief in a Supreme Being and a commitment to:

" fellowship with other Masons: Imagine being part of a brotherhood where you're always supported and understood. It's about building deep connections and sharing experiences that enrich your life.

" high moral standards: Strive to live with integrity and strong ethics. By upholding high moral standards, you inspire those around you to do the same.

" kindness in the home: Your home is your sanctuary. Filling it with kindness and compassion strengthens family bonds and creates a loving environment for everyone.

" courtesy in society: A simple act of courtesy can brighten someone's day. When you treat others with respect and kindness, you contribute to a more positive and welcoming community.

" honesty in business: In your professional life, honesty builds trust and credibility. Being transparent and truthful not only sets you apart but also paves the way for lasting success.

" fairness in all dealings: Committing to fairness means treating everyone equally and justly. It's about making decisions without bias and fostering mutual respect in all your interactions."

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.



Character as the Essence of Masonry

Someone, I think it might have been Coach Wooden, once defined character as that which a person does when no one is looking. I think, more broadly, that character is the essence of the teachings of Freemasonry.

Think about it. A good and true Master Mason does not knowingly or intentionally cheat, wrong or defraud anyone out of the value of anything. He does not fool around with someone else's wife or significant other. He keeps another's secret if given to him in confidence. He helps other distressed individuals and does not libel or slander anyone. He acts with the best of intentions always. He follows his conscience and the dictates of his faith.

In his private life, likely he makes charitable contributions on his own or buys a meal for a destitute individual suffering from hunger. Or he gives used clothing to someone in desperate straits. Or helps a disabled person across the street. Or holds the door open for the elderly. It could be any of these things which shows his character as a good man and Mason.

He is conscientious and neat in his appearance, kind to family and friends, and follows the Golden Rule, that is, not to do unto others that which he would not want done to him.

He is not racist or bigoted, biased, hateful, or mean to someone not like him. He treats others fairly and does not bicker.. He respects others' opinions and the rule of law.

That's what I think equates character with being a Mason.

Respectfully submitted,
Bro. David I. Karp



Contra: Divisiveness Within Freemasonry. If it exists, it isn't Freemasonry

The following is quoted verbatim from an online post entitled "Divisiveness Within Freemasonry. If it exists, it isn't Freemasonry" by Cameron M. Bailey, Feb 11, 2024, at https://emeth.substack.com/p/divisiveness-within-freemasonry .

"Last week I visited a Lodge that is suffering from a great deal of division. It's been suffering from division for years now. The men of the Lodge just seem unwilling to get along.

"No.

"Let me take that last statement back. They don't seem unwilling to get along. They refuse to get along.

"A few years ago, as Senior Grand Warden I went with our then Grand Master to meet, separately, with two of the men doing most of the fighting in the Lodge.

"His request to each of them was simple: 'Will you please try to get along?'

"The answer, from both, was No.

[continues on next page, see "Divisiveness"]

["Divisiveness," continued from p. 5]

"That tells me that at best, they haven't learned the first thing about Freemasonry, despite their years of claiming to be Freemasons. At worst, that they aren't really Freemasons at all. That the Initiations didn't take.

"As a practical matter, this division has resulted in a Lodge that has barely survived from year to year, and its prospects for the future don't look any better.

"I can't fix that Lodge. No one can.

"Except for the men who are a part of it.

"But I can remember a very wise phrase that I've often heard uttered by one of the finest Masons I know:

"'You can't claim to love Masonry if you hate Masons.'

"What a powerful truth, expressed in so few words. If we can impart that truth to the Masons around us, we will improve Freemasonry."



This is the Last Edition ... and Other Things.

Notwithstanding my enthusiasm for Freemasonry, I am discontinuing some of my efforts for the Lodge and I may not participate quite so much henceforth.

I became active in our Lodge when I affiliated in 2018 and began the work of editor shortly thereafter. By my count, I have prepared almost 100 monthly editions, the first being in October 2018. It is fitting, therefore, that the last will be this edition for October 2026.

In part, the reason for ending this endeavor is that I have run out of ideas for future editions. The well has gone dry, as it were.

Also, there are broader issues at hand that may distance me from the lodge, although I will skip the details here. If it comes to that, I might try "Individual Freemasonry" for a while (see the article on page 2), staying away from the Lodge to stay above the fray.

Regardless, I will now pass the baton of Masonic Education and Trestle Board writing to the next Brother who volunteers or is assigned. For me, it is the right time to reduce my commitments. (Hillel asked, "If not now, when?")[1]

I will of course keep my membership and pay my dues in order to support the Lodge and to retain the benefits of belonging. And I will continue to enjoy fellowship with certain Brother Masons. But less engagement may become the order of the day if harmony becomes an insurmountable challenge for the Lodge.

I regret that it may look like I am abandoning the Lodge's three excellent Pillar Officers, other officers and members, and/or the duties I have undertaken. However I don't see it that way. It's just time to move on.

Don't misunderstand. It has been a pleasure serving the Lodge as editor etc. these past eight years. Thank you for the opportunity.

Fraternally,

Bro. David I. Karp



[Stated Meeting, Sept. 5 2026]

[1] *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of the Fathers) 1:14.



Anonymous Guest Essay: “Strength Based on Our Tenets”

By “The Young Globetrotter”

The essence of Freemasonry lies in the bonds forged among its members, fostering a community where mutual respect and support are paramount. When these principles are neglected, the very fabric that holds the Lodge together begins to unravel.

When Masonic Lodges disregard the three core principles of Freemasonry Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth they risk becoming fundamentally dysfunctional.

A dysfunctional Masonic Lodge often manifests through several troubling signs.

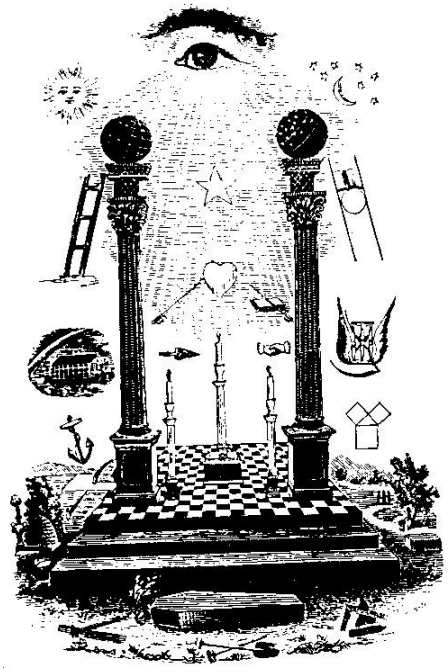
First, a lack of “Brotherly Love” can lead to a divisive atmosphere where animosity replaces camaraderie. Members may start viewing each other with suspicion or resentment, undermining the foundational trust that is crucial for unity.

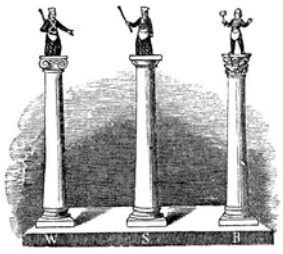
Second, without “Relief, Affection and Kindness”, the collective spirit diminishes, and what was once a sanctuary of support devolves into a battleground of egos. Moreover, the absence of comfort in discussions and interactions breeds an environment of anxiety and discomfort. If members feel that their voices are not heard, or that their contributions are undervalued, disengagement becomes inevitable. Comfort is not merely about the physical space but about creating an emotionally safe haven where ideas can flourish and individuals can thrive.

Third, ignoring the “Principle of Truth” leads to a culture riddled with deception and misinformation. Transparency is vital in any Lodge; without it, trust erodes, and doubts plague the membership. When truths are obscured, allegiances shift, and integrity is called into question. A Lodge that operates on a foundation of half-truths or blatant falsehoods cannot sustain itself in the long run.

In conclusion, a Masonic Lodge becomes dysfunctional not when challenges arise, but when it fails to address these core principles.

To cultivate a thriving Lodge, members must recommit to Brotherly Love, ensure a comforting environment of Relief, and uphold the unwavering pursuit of Truth. It is through these pillars that the Lodge can aspire to fulfill its noble purpose and remain a beacon of light in the community.





Greetings from the East

Hello Brethren,

I hope everyone is doing well. I wanted to share a small experience from this weekend. Perhaps it may not seem like it has much to do with Masonry, but it reminded me of something simple that we can easily overlook: the importance of showing appreciation.

While attending a medical event, I noticed how naturally we thanked the organizers and speakers for putting everything together. But it made me think about all the people working behind the scenes the ones preparing the food, serving the meals, making the coffee, and cleaning up afterward.

The same thing happens in our everyday lives. We grab a coffee, pick up a meal, or sit down at a restaurant and go about our day without always thinking about the person who prepared it, served it, or cleaned up after us.

So I made it a point to try something new. I looked for a few of the helpers and kitchen assistants and simply said, “Thank you. I appreciate what you do.”

It was such a small gesture, but seeing the smiles on their faces reminded me how much a few words of appreciation can mean to someone.

The more I thought about it, the more I realized that this actually has a lot to do with Masonry.

Our Lodge is built upon the efforts of many Brothers, each contributing in his own way. Some of those contributions come from a Brother offering his time, lending a helping hand, sharing his knowledge, checking on another Brother, or simply stepping in when something needs to be done. These small acts may not always receive recognition, but together they are what keep our Lodge moving forward.

We speak often about Brotherly Love, and perhaps one of the simplest ways to practice it is to recognize the efforts of those around us and let them know that what they do matters.

With that being said, I would like to personally thank every Past Master, our Officers and Pillars, our sideliners, and all the Brethren who continue to give their time and support to our Lodge.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank Brother David for his hard work and dedication in always taking the time to put together our Trestleboard. I truly appreciate it.

Remember, sometimes two simple words can mean more than we realize: Thank you.

Fraternally,

Wor. Joseph Chavez

Master

Greetings from the West

Brethren,

I hope that everyone had a blessed and joyful summer season. The lifelong bonds of friendship, brotherly love, peace and harmony and our sense of family are to be cherished and enjoyed.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Bro. Ernie Reutotar on being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. May you continue to grow in the light and knowledge of Masonry and may this important milestone be the beginning of an even deeper Masonic journey.

I would like to thank Worshipful Steve Wolvek, PM, for his excellent Masonic

[Continues on next page, see “West”]

["West," continued from page 8]

Education presentation at our last Stated Meeting. I know the message was inspired by the Brethren, and I truly appreciate the way you reminded us of what Masonry is all about and of the values we strive to uphold in Freemasonry.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Bro. David Karp for his continued dedication to maintaining and preparing our monthly Trestle Board. Your time and effort in keeping our Brethren informed and connected are greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Worshipful Steve Wolvek and Bro. David Karp for your service, dedication, and valuable contributions to our Lodge.

Note: Brethren, this is a brotherly reminder that our DSI/OSI is scheduled for September 19, 2026 and Clarence F Smith Daylight Lodge #866 is the host. To all officers of CFSDL#866 if you are unable to attend, please call Worshipful Inspector Leland Celestre, PM. 709th Masonic District Inspector at (Tel #818-317-8402). Please call only (no text messages).

Fraternally yours,
Bro. Roland Cortel
Senior Warden

Greetings from the South

Brethren,

As your Officer's Coach and Junior Warden of our Lodge, I am committed to helping deepen your knowledge and understanding of our Craft. My goal is to guide and support you as you continue your Masonic journey and to ensure that you develop a strong appreciation for our traditions, principles, and responsibilities.

Masons should strive to read, understand, and apply the Masonic values taught throughout the First, Second and Third Degrees. These degrees are not merely ceremonies or milestones in a Mason's journey; they provide lessons and principles intended to guide a man toward becoming a better person.

The First Degree teaches the foundations of Masonic character, including integrity, brotherly love, relief, truth, and the importance of living an upright and honorable life. The Second Degree encourages a Mason to develop his mind, pursue knowledge, improve himself, and understand his responsibilities to himself, his family, his community, and his fellow man. The Third Degree brings deeper lessons about mortality, fidelity, duty, and the importance of living a meaningful life while we have the opportunity.

To truly benefit from Masonry, a brother should not simply memorize the words or complete the degree work. He should reflect upon the lessons, understand their meaning, and put them into practice in his daily life. Masonic values have their greatest purpose when they influence our conduct, our decisions, and the way we treat others.

A better Mason is ultimately a better man not because he has received three degrees, but because he continually works to live by the principles those degrees teach. The real work of Masonry begins when the lessons of the lodge are carried into everyday life.

Congratulations to our October Birthday Celebrants! May your special day be filled with happiness, and may the coming years bring you continued peace, love, hope, good health, and prosperity. May the blessings of the Great Architect of the Universe guide and watch over you and your loved ones always.

Also, congratulations to Bro. David Karp, our (retiring) Trestleboard Editor! Even with his busy schedule, he has continued to make time to accommodate our monthly publications and to ensure that our Lodge has been informed and connected. Thank you, Bro. David, for your dedication, time, and continued service to our Lodge.

Fraternally yours,
Archimedes Cabanig, PM.
Junior Warden

Bonus Article: "My Masonic Journey, from Applicant to Master Mason"

My journey to becoming a Master Mason began long before I ever submitted a petition. I am the son of a Master Mason who dedicated more than 30 years of his life to the Craft. His name was WB Romualdo S. Lagsa, PM. My father was a Master Mason, a Past Master, a Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner.

Throughout my life, I witnessed the values he carried integrity, humility, kindness, and a commitment to helping. He lived its principles every day.

I saw how he treated people with respect regardless of their status in life. I saw the friendships he built and maintained. Most importantly, I saw a man who lived by his word and who always sought to do what was right.

I chose to become a Mason after years of observing my father's character and reflecting on the life he lived. I became curious. I wanted to understand the values that guided him and to discover what Masonry could teach me as I traveled my own path in life.

I was initiated at Clarence F. Smith Daylight No. 866, while my father had been raised in Antonio T. Cosin Lodge No. 308 in the Philippines. We began our Masonic journeys in different lodges and different countries but shared the same foundation of brotherhood and Masonic principles.

One of my greatest regrets is that my father was not present to witness my initiation, passing, or raising. He had already passed away before I began my Masonic journey. There were moments during each degree when I found myself thinking about him and wondering what he experienced many years before when he stood where I stood. While he could not be physically present, I felt that his example was with me throughout the process.

As an Entered Apprentice, I began to understand the importance of building a strong foundation within myself. The lessons taught me that character is not built overnight but through consistent effort and self-improvement. During my Fellow Craft degree, I gained a deeper appreciation for knowledge, learning, and the responsibility that each man has to continue growing throughout his life. When I was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, the lessons became even more meaningful. They reminded me of the importance of fidelity, perseverance, and living a life that leaves a positive impact on others.

With every degree, I gained a greater appreciation for my father's journey. What once seemed mysterious became clearer. I began to understand why Masonry meant so much to him and why he dedicated so many years of his life to it. Through my own experiences, I discovered that Freemasonry is not merely about titles, honors, or achievements. It is about becoming a better man and serving others with sincerity and compassion.

Being raised a Master Mason was one of the proudest moments of my life. It was not only a personal achievement but also a tribute to my father's legacy. While I could not share that moment with him in person, I believe that every step I took in Masonry brought me closer to understanding the values he lived by and the example he left behind.

Today, I carry forward those lessons with gratitude and humility. As a Master Mason, I recognize that my journey is only beginning. I strive to honor my father's memory by living according to the principles he demonstrated throughout his life and by continuing the work of self-improvement, brotherhood, and service that Masonry encourages. My father inspired me; his legacy guided me through my degrees. Now I hope to carry that legacy forward just as he carried it before me.

Fraternally,

Bro. Rolly Lagsa