



1883–2016

133rd Year of Excellence

200 S. Euclid Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101

Phone (626) 795-5610
FAX (626) 795-8956

Web Site: www.pasadenamasoniclodge272.org

Vol XVIII

May 2016

No.5

Special Days in May



May 8, 2016

Memorial Day



May 30, 2016

Meets Every Tuesday Evening

First Tuesday is our
Stated Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Second Tuesday is our
Family Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Our Temple Board meets
on the **Last Wednesday** at 6:30 pm
Every Month

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Reminder: Dues Are Due

Please Pay Your Dues If You Have Not Already Done So

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 2016

Tuesday, May 3	7:30 p.m.
Stated Meeting Officers Coat & Tie Taco Tuesday Nite	
Tuesday, May 10	6:30 p.m.
Monthly Family Dinner - Trivia Night	
Tuesday, May 17	7:00 p.m.
2nd Degree or Practice	
Wednesday, May 18	7:00 p.m.
OSI at Pasadena—2nd Degree Demo	
Tuesday, May 24	7:00 p.m.
3rd Degree Practice	
Wednesday, May 25	6:30 p.m.
Temple Board Meeting	
Tuesday, May 31	7:00 p.m.
3rd Degree for David Webb	

May Birthdays

(If your Birthday is in May, your dinner is free.)

Enrico R. Rivera, 3, William P. Krieger, PM, 4, Terrill R.C. Gray, 6,
Ghassan S. Ayass, 7, John E. Folsom, Jr., 7, Michael G. Essa, 8,
Michael P. Humphreys, 9, Mark K. Khalaf, PM, 9,
Sergei Goncharoff, PM, 10, Said M. Tweini, 10,
Buenaventura Ugas-Abreus, 10, William L. Vander Meer, 10,
Robert Kantardjian, 12, Tracy L. Parker, 12, William Sandison, Jr., 12,
James F. Halladay, PM, 14, Donald R. Nuss, 16, Floyd S. Reid, 17,
Larry L. Castro, PM, 19, Geoffrey B. Letts, 21, David F. Philips, PM, 23,
Jack H. Abolhesn, 25, Robert S. Kennedy, Jr., 29, John J. Mc Graham, 29,
Kenyon D. Morris, 29, Ronald W. Alcorn III, PM, 31

May 10, 2016 Cinco de Mayo Family Dinner

Chips & Salsa
Green Salad with Avocado Ranch Dressing
Chicken Fajitas, Salsa Verde Carnitas
Rice & Beans
Flan for Dessert

*Please make Family Dinner Reservations by Friday, May 6, 2016
(626) 795-5610 or
email: secretary@emasons.org
\$12.00 per person*



April Was an El Nino Event for Your Lodge

THIS PAST MONTH IT DID NOT RAIN AS ADVERTISED, BUT IT WAS AN EL NINO EVENT FOR YOUR LODGE .

Thanks to all of you members who support this lodge by paying your dues in a timely manner. As you know, no organization can operate without having funds to run their operation and we are no different.

Now let's get to the news of this past month.

1. Our **Senior Warden Ron Lewis, PM**, our **Junior Warden Steve Hawkins** and I attended the three day, two night Master and Wardens retreat held at the Irvine Marriott Hotel on April 8th-10th. Our **Grand Master M. David Perry** was the presiding officer along with his executive team who presented us with the tools we need as officers to run our lodges. They presented their annual budget and other meaningful presentations. FYI, I had budgeted \$3,000.00 for this event. Fortunately, we were able to keep the costs just below \$2,000.00.

2. FYI, We have initiated four new members in the past thirty days. Whew, we've been busy! We want to extend our warm welcome to our newest members of the lodge: **Devon Acosta, John Bowers, Louis Skenderis** and **Jacob Smith**. We were able to make their initiation very special by inviting significant people in the candidates' lives to participate in their initiation.

Devon Acosta was initiated by **PM Greg Gabriel**. Devon is Greg's daughter's boyfriend. John Bowers was initiated with the help of **Junior Steward Garo Tutundjian** who is John's future father-in-law. Louis Skenderis was initiated with his father **MM Spiro Skenderis**, who sat in the Junior Stewards chair. Note: Louis' father Spiro Skenderis flew in from Washington DC just to be in attendance at his son's ini-

tiation. Pretty special isn't it? And **Jacob Smith** was initiated by his Marshall Arts Coach and Mentor **PM Tommie Chavies**.

3. Our lodge was recently requested to perform a Masonic Funeral Service for one of our departed brethren - **Yousef Chamoun** who was originally with Arabic Lodge, which was later merged into Pasadena Lodge in 1995. Yousef passed away on April 3rd, 2016.

Thankfully we have **Worshipful Jerry Harris, PM** who is our expert at delivering the Masonic Funeral Service. Jerry offered **Greg Habib, PM** (formerly with Arabic Lodge) and myself to participate in this ceremony. I must say that this was a very enlightening experience which I personally appreciated being able to participate in. Thanks, Jerry, for including us in this meaningful Masonic Funeral Service.

Following the service, **Jerry Harris** and I attended **Brother Chamoun's** memorial luncheon which was well attended at a Lebanese Restaurant in San Dimas. It was very clear that the family and their guests were very pleased to have representation from our lodge to honor our departed brother.

4. Our 25th Annual Spring Brunch was considered a success. We were fortunate to have good attendance to support our "Best That You Can Be" grammar school scholarship/awards program which **PM Bob Rinker** has created for our lodge. We were fortunate to reach out to some of our non-mason neighbors who live nearby, some Pasadena School District staff members. Betty Kvidahl and her forty members from **Bethlehem Lutheran Church** also attended our brunch. FYI, Betty's husband was a fifty year plus member of our lodge. Bud passed away about four years ago and Betty still supports the lodge. Thanks, Betty, your husband would be proud!

(continued on page 6)



Message from the Senior Warden

TABLE LODGE

Brethren,

As Summer approaches, everyone will be in a hurry to do fun things during the sunniest time of the year. I am no exception for I too have plans over the summer months. However, our Annual District-Wide Table Lodge will be one of those events that I hope my Brethren will join me for a festive evening of fraternal fellowship.

For starters, this wonderful event will take place on Saturday June 18, 2016 with the reception starting at 1700 hours, 5pm for those in civilian attire. If you also closely look at the calendar, you will notice that June 24, 2016 is Saint Jean the Baptist Day. This is no oversight as all Masons know that this is one of the Saints to whom we dedicate our Lodges to.

As to where this wonderful event will take place, rest assured that it is in a temple dedicated to the Saints John and with which you should all be familiar with. It will be held at South Pasadena Lodge #290 at 1126 Fair Oaks Ave in the city of South Pasadena. This social will be a black tie affair and only open to Masons as it will be a tiled Lodge.

Unfortunately, the Table Lodge will not be free! The cost to attend will be \$50 in advance or \$60 at the door. Tickets are now available for purchase and you can contact Worshipful John McDannel, the Master of Pasadena Lodge #272, to make your purchase. For those who are tech savvy, our Brethren at South Pasadena are offering Pay Pal for your convenience. If you take this approach, your name will be recorded

and you will receive your ticket, along with your cannon, when you walk into the door.

So, why the fuss? In Colonial America, our Brethren, some who will go on to establish our country, did not meet in temples or stately edifices which are more common to our era. They met in taverns where food and drink were offered while in the course of conducting Lodge business. The modern equivalent is the stated meeting dinner where friends and family are allowed to attend. Not so in the days of Paul Revere. Hence, the modern ritual associated with a Table Lodge to accommodate food and drink in a tiled setting.

For our discussion, the event will be a 7 course meal, prepared by our **Brother and Master Chef Eusebio Sanchez**, with 7 corresponding toasts dedicated to prominent Masons of the Roaring 20s. The Roaring 20s was chosen because it was a unique time in United States history where Americans felt good about ending "The War to End All Wars," but it was before the reality of the coming Great Depression and the Second World War. We felt carefree without a care for the world, except for the lack of legal booze because of Prohibition. That reminds me, the meal will be served with white or red wine and Martinelli's, for those that are driving. Reception before the tiled event will feature drinks indicative of the Roaring 20s with a limit to 2 drinks per Brother. Passport to get in is: Swordfish. Just see Chico Marx at the door and he will let you in.

The Chef has assured me that a wonderful menu is being prepared. It will feature turkey, beef, fish, soup, and a dessert. If you have a dietary preference, be sure to let the Chef or the Masters of either Lodge know in advance to better accommodate you. By the way, there will be singing between each course and you get to keep the firing cannon at the end of the night. See you there!!!,

Ronald Lewis, Jr

THE 717TH DISTRICT TABLE

1126 Fair Oaks Ave., South Pasadena, CA 91030

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2016

BLACK TIE EVENT

\$50 INCLUDES: BEVERAGES, SEVEN COURSE MEAL, & FIRING CANNON

5PM RECEPTION/6PM TABLE LODGE



Message from the Junior Warden

LOOKING TOWARD OUR FUTURE continued

Brethren:

I write this article for the Trestle Board following the Annual Masters and Wardens Retreat in early April. I found this to be a great Lodge Leadership event and it was a pleasure to receive a lot of good material that all of us, your Master and Wardens, take back home so we can better serve our members and Pasadena Lodge.

I felt that the Grand Lodge officers and presenters had some great topics. The core of the program was creating a good plan for our lodge in 2020. The purpose is creating a membership experience that actually engages the interests and experiences of the individual member. It is designed to make the individual member the key and most important part of the Masonic Lodge. I whole-heartily agree. We are in the "People Business". It is the number of people (or members) which we serve and their activation in the "Masonic Process" that illustrates the strength of each individual Masonic Lodge. That is the leadership direction we should take to serve all of our members. There are some special seminars that I will start to put together in the next few months so that we can take the necessary steps to help go down this road to improve our lodge.

While I feel that this training and leadership program is very important, some of the Grand Lodge Membership assumptions are not. Grand Lodge (GL) feels that we should be more like a British Lodge in its size and scope. The average lodge in California has 170 Masons. The average lodge in Britain has 34 Masons. GL feels that smaller lodges are better lodges because a much higher percentage of the lodge membership is engaged with lodge activities, both ritual and social. So, by GL's own words "smaller is better." Hogwash!!!

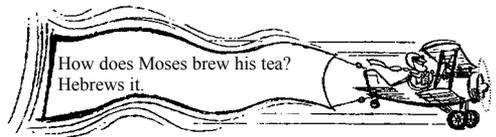
GL does not take into account the many other Masonic Organizations who require Master Mason status in a Blue Lodge as

a membership requirement in their organization. In England, there is the York Rite, but it is different there than here in the United States. (Don't ask me the differences for I am not a member of the York Rite.) In England, the Scottish Rite is smaller than the York Rite. And, the Shrine does not exist there.....as of yet. In England, the Masonic Lodge is the primary focus, while in the United States, there are at least 50 Masonic Based organizations that require active Master Mason status for membership, like the Sciots and the Grotto.

The one factor we can all agree upon is that there are not enough masons in California. About 47% of all cities and towns in California do not have a Masonic Lodge located there. Only 0.01% of all Californians are Masons. Now, not every man can become a Mason, but we should be between 1% and 5%. So, membership growth should be in our future.

As Lodges Leaders, we can pick and choose from GL's resources as to what are some of the best programs for us to use to engage our Lodge Membership. The program "Making your 2020 Masonic Lodge Plan" is a great place to start. I hope you will become involved in it when it comes to our lodge. We can only improve and grow if

Fraternally
Steve Hawkins





The Gift of Gab(e)

Ode to Golf!!!

A Dirty "Fore" Letter Word GOLF...A very dirty four letter word indeed. The following is a poem by Allen Berman entitled *Ode to Golf*. It was given to me by Brother Michael Coye. Whether you are heavy into golf, a duffer, or just like to play miniature putt-putt, you'll enjoy this.

In my hand I hold a ball,
white and dimpled, rather small.
Oh, how bland it does appear,
this harmless looking little sphere.
By its size I could not guess,
the awesome strength it does possess
I've wandered through the Fires of Hell.
My life has not been quite the same,
since I chose to play this stupid game.
It rules my mind for hours on end,
a fortune in dollars it has made me spend.
It has made me yell, curse and cry,
I hate myself and want to die.
It promises a thing called par,
if I can hit it straight and far.

To master such a tiny ball,
should not be very hard at all.
But my desires the ball refuses,
and does exactly as it chooses.
It hooks and slices, dribbles and dies,
and even disappears before my eyes.
Often it will have a whim,
to hit a tree or take a swim.
With miles of grass on which to land,
it finds a tiny patch of sand,
Then has me offering up my soul,
if only it would find the hole.
It's made me whimper like a pup,
and swear that I will give it up.
And take to drink to ease my sorrow,
but he ball knows... I'll be back tomorrow.

Thought for the Month: I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.

Gregory J. Gabriel, P.M.

Master's Message continued from p3

The other key players who made the event special were our **Chairman & PM Greg Gabriel** and his children **Jonathon and Zoe**. All three spent the day making omelets for the crowd. **Bro. Dennis Yen**, our SD, entertained us with background music and a special treat - a photographic slide program reflecting recent lodge events. Dennis employed our newest asset, our fancy state of the art projector in the dining hall, which was focused on the large drop down screen on our stage.

Let's not forget **Eusebio Sanchez** and **Gary Tutundjian** and his future bride **Rosanna** who helped prepare the food along with **Steve Hawkins**. **Joel & Judy Saxberg** and their buddy **Burt Weiner** prepared waffles for the crowd. After expenses and a lot of work, we netted **\$218.00**. That is better than losing money. Good work guys and gals! Thanks for all your hard work .

5. At our family dinner we had the distinct pleasure of **presenting our fourth 50 year pin** to one of our members - Brother **George Agamalian**. Five of his family members were

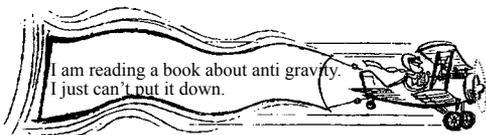
with us to celebrate this mile stone in his life. Our inspector Worshipful Brian Miller made the 50 year pin presentation.

6. Lastly, eleven members of our lodge attended your Grand Lodge's "Raising a Reader". This event was held at Longfellow School in Pasadena. **Grand Master M. David Perry** presented the Pasadena, Glendale and Burbank School Districts with a **\$102,000.00** check representing our Masonic Charity Program - "Raising a Reader" on April 6, 2016. Please see picture on page 7.

This donation clearly expresses one of the good uses of your dues and per capita tax that are donated to our local communities. Masonry is a charitable fraternity!

Thanks for supporting this worthwhile charity. And thanks again for supporting your lodge!

John Mc Dannel, Master 🤗





Grand Lodge donated \$102,000 to the Burbank, Glendale, and Pasadena School Districts to support public education thru California Masons Raising a Reader Program. Attending the ceremony at Pasadena’s Longfellow Elementary School on April 6, 2016 was our **Grand Master M. David Perry** (left) and the magnificent seven members of Pasadena Lodge No. 272. Way to go, guys!



The bag students receive participating in Raising a Reader.

Officers for 2016

- John D. Mc Dannel (Mary), Master** Cell: (626) 806-2623
Home: (626) 791-3221; e-mail: johnmcdannelav8or@gmail.com
- Ronald M. Lewis, Jr., Senior Warden** Cell: (626) 755-4994
e-mail: cdrspot@yahoo.com
- Stephen T. Hawkins Junior Warden**..... Cell: (323) 873-6240
e-mail: sthawkins@lycos.com
- Francis W. Malinowski (Susan), Treasurer**..... Cell: (626) 379-5995
Home: (626) 792-6706; e-mail: yakers@earthlink.net
- Gerald E. Harris, PM (Beverly), Secretary** Home: (626) 445-0949
e-mail: jerryharris@emasons.org
- M. Bruce Chubbuck, PM (Lynda), Chaplain** Home: (626) 797-2641
e-mail: mbrucec@sbcglobal.net
- Dennis Yen, Senior Deacon** Cell: (213) 399-6766
e-mail: dyen457@gmail.com
- George Amirian (Arpinee), Junior Deacon** Cell: (818) 279-3933
Home: (818) 541-9460; Work: (818) 248-0304; e-mail: george_amirian@yahoo.com
- Luis G. Echevarria, (Laura) Marshal**..... Home: (818) 434-1504
e-mail: donlucho11@gmail.com
- Younes Safa, Senior Steward** Home: (310) 430-5759
e-mail: ysafadds@gmail.com
- Garabed H. Tutundjian, Junior Steward**..... Cell: (626) 487-9850
- Bruce M. Blitz, PM (Cirel), Tiler**..... Home: (818) 326-7648
e-mail: bruceblitz@att.net
- R. Melvin Lewis, Sr., PM (Ignacia), Officer Coach**..... Home: (626) 286-9449
- Inspector 717th Masonic District: William Brian Miller** (909) 967-1594
e-mail: xino3rd@xino3rd.com
- Los Angeles Masonic Service Bureau: A. Sherman Ostrom**..... (818) 366-3572
16800 Devonshire St., Suite 201, Granada Hills 91344 e-mail: office@lamsb.org

Pasadena Lodge # 272 F & AM
200 S. Euclid Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

May 2016
TRESTLE BOARD

IMPORTANT
DATED MATERIAL

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