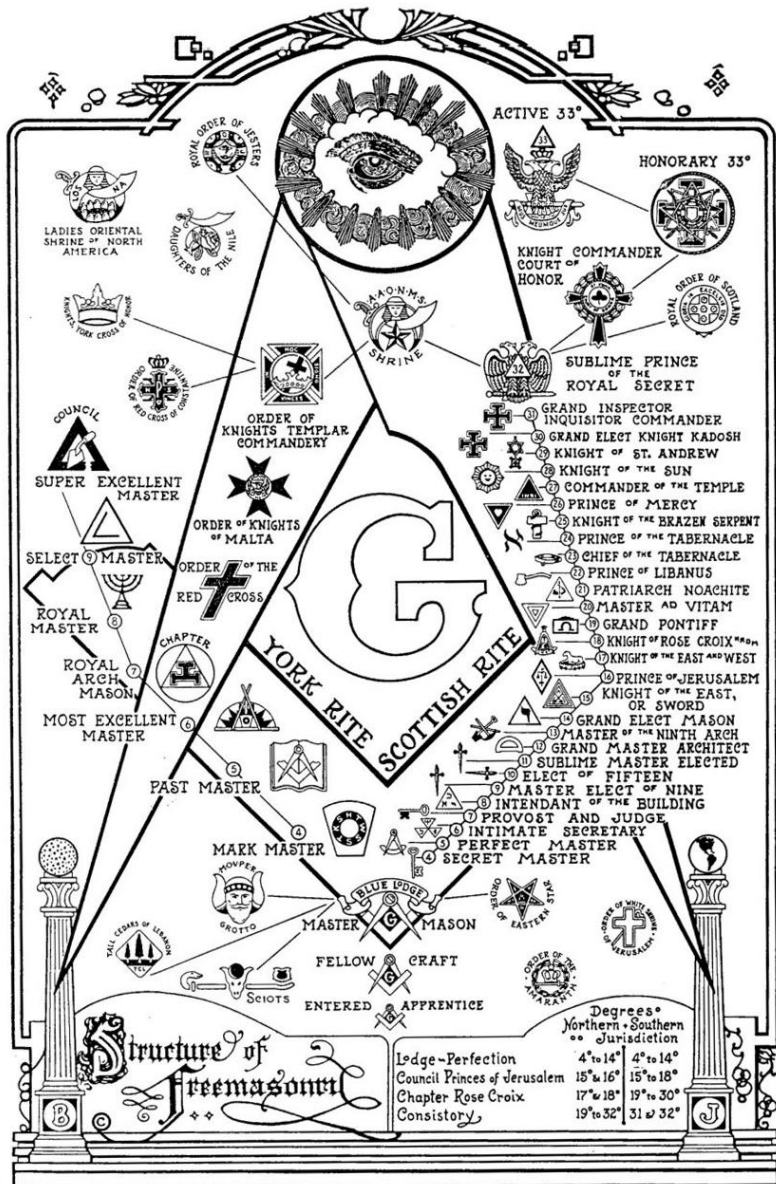




CULVER CITY-FOSHAY

LODGE NO.467 F.&A.M.

APRIL 6022





FROM THE EAST

My Brothers,

This month is about the future. There is much to be done and discussed at this month's stated meeting. Most notably we will begin the long overdue conversation around the raising of our annual dues, what that means, what it looks like, how long it will take, and what it will do for the Lodge and its future. The Lodge IS healthy and we have benefited from the advice and dedicated service or financially savvy brethren - but future planning is all part of owning your own building!

We are builders by profession and that also means that we must maintain the structures that have been gifted to us by our forebears. Our Lodge is a treasure, the only one of it's kind and we are fortunate to be able to practice our craft within. The history of California Masonry is made with each degree we preform. We must all begin to focus ourselves about it's preservation and the way in which we conduct ourselves while within its walls. We must ever remember that it is a temple and that it deserves admiration and adoration. Our efforts to clean last month have been a great start but the work has only begun.

The work of each member in the lodge begins with themselves. The financial future of our Lodge is one thing but we must also inspire ourselves and other masons with the experience of Culver City-Foshay Lodge, No. 467.

- WOR. JOSEPH EMDE, PM

CALENDAR

APRIL 06: 7:30pm - Stated Meeting

APRIL 12 : 7:30pm - Building Assn. Meeting

APRIL 13 : First Degree - August Carpio

APRIL 20 : DARK

APRIL 27 : 7:30pm - OSI @ CCF467 : 3° 1st Section, Call down, and 2° proficiency

SUNDAYS 11am - 1pm : Meet the Masters





INTRODUCTION TO FREEMASONRY : ENTERED APPRENTICE

In the Entered Apprentice's Degree the initiate is taught the necessity of a belief in God; of charity toward all mankind, "more especially a brother Mason"; of secrecy; the meaning of brotherly love; the reasons for relief; the greatness of truth; the advantages of temperance; the value of fortitude; the part played in Masonic life by prudence, and the equality of strict justice.

He is charged to be reverent before God, to pray to Him for help, to venerate Him as the source of all that is good. He is exhorted to practice the Golden rule and to avoid excesses of all kinds. He is admonished to be quiet and peaceable, not to countenance, disloyalty and rebellious, to be true and just to government and country, to be cheerful under its laws. He is charged to come often to lodge but not to neglect his business, not to argue about Free-masonry with the ignorant but to learn Masonry from Masons, and once again to be secret. Finally he is urged to present only such candidates as he is sure will agree to all that he has agreed to.

- Carl H. Claudy

Submitted by Bro. Thomas McIver

BIRTHDAYS

Cheers to Brothers who were born this month :

Apr. 03 - Franchesco Romano

Apr. 06 - Clarence Kussner

Apr. 06 - Mahmoud Ghaffari

Apr. 09 - Adam Wolf

Apr. 09 - Denis Osmanbegovic

Apr. 10 - Tyler Lorenz

Apr. 11 - William Palmer

Apr. 13 - Derek Di Nardo

Apr. 14 - Jerial Smith

Apr. 16 - George Wollin

Apr. 18 - Clive Revill

Apr. 21 - Jose Gonzalez

Apr. 22 - Brandon Love

Apr. 23 - Noel Lefebvre

Apr. 25 - Roderick Wollin

MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

Brothers observing Masonic anniversaries:

Alex Alastarey - 5 Years

Joshua Giron - 6 Years

Marcus Harmon - 8 Years

Michael Ulmer - 10 Years

Todd Jeffery - 11 Years

Carlos Blanco - 12 Years

Ansel Young - 15 Years

Steven Soto - 14 Years

James Boughton - 19 Years

James Gillette - 36 Years



ERRATA

- Brothers Devon Haber and Emmuelle "Khaey" Sorokin received their 1° March 09.
- Brothers Kazutoshi Shimizu and Michael Mikael received the 2° March 16th. Congratulations to all newly initiated and passed Brothers!
- Reminder there is a donation box for non-perishable food items and toiletries. Please bring donations on your visits to the lodge (stated meetings, MtM, etc)

TODAY

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry. Two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension. One of these days is yesterday with its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains. Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control. All the money in the world cannot bring back yesterday. We cannot undo a single act we performed; we cannot erase a single word we said. Yesterday is gone.

The other day we should not worry about is tomorrow with its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise and poor performance. Tomorrow is also beyond our immediate control. Tomorrow's sun will rise, either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds--but it will rise. Until it does, we have no stake in tomorrow, for it is yet unborn.

This leaves only one day - today. Any man can fight the battles of just one day. It is only when you and I add the burdens of those two awful eternities - yesterday and tomorrow - that we break down. It is not the experience of today that drives men mad - it is remorse or bitterness for something which happened yesterday and the dread of what tomorrow may bring. Let us, therefore, live but one day at a time.

Reprinted from THE MASONIC LIGHT

CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

Great guide and ruler; wherever we go in life, time marches on. Life is full of mysteries and wonders. When do our lives become stable? When do we attain our goals? And when can we enjoy the fruits of our labors? May we be always true to ourselves. May we know the balance between good and bad. And may we enjoyed that which has been created. Amen

- Bro. Ed Calzaretto



The Urgency of Civility

By Russ Charvonja, Past Grand Master Grand Lodge of California

As we look at the current state of affairs and progression of social trends and political realities around the globe, we see a world that has become increasingly uncivil. More and more people write and comment on the deterioration in discourse where we seem increasingly unable to be in the same room or meeting with someone who disagrees with us. And yet, if we reflect upon our own Craft and those who comprise members of our Masonic family, we have the principles, tenets, symbols, and the language of civility as well as the human-power to carry these qualities out beyond our Lodges. Essentially, our teachings are all about how to treat others with dignity, respect, care, and compassion—in other words, *civility*. Furthermore, it is incumbent upon us, as members of the Masonic family, to do all we can to repair the broken fabric of society.

Knowing what our ritual teaches, that there are trials and tribulations we shall undergo while on the world's rough and rugged road, a journey to bring greater civility into the world seems elusive, especially in such a divisive environment made even more so by global pandemic.

Freemasonry, notwithstanding, has

not been immune, despite our noble intentions and actions. The stresses and strains of environmental disasters, civil unrest, and reality and politicization of a deadly virus, test the most civil of us. These culminate as deep wounds on many of our lodges, manifesting as disharmony; leading to failed lodges, consolidations, membership decline, and a lower quality of new members and officers.

To repair our world and revive the potency and benefits of civility, we need to first start with our own house; to look in the mirror at our own beloved Craft.

Here are the facts as of 2022:

In the last ten years, Masonry has declined by some 20% across North America. Membership in the US has dropped by about 75% from a high of more than 4.1 million in 1959 — a time when about 4.5% of all American men were members. That number is now down to about 1/10 of 1% worldwide. Consider our legacy, exemplified in the names of the streets, parks, and buildings in our communities, a large number of them are named after prominent Masons of the past. How many of them are contemporary Masons? Consider how few of our current local, state, and national political representatives are Masons.

And the number of lodges across the land has similarly decreased. Within those lodges, where the membership retention rate was once a point of pride compared to other organizations, this is no longer the case. There are more

demits, suspensions, and non-renewals. Anecdotal evidence tells us that growing incivility and divisiveness among the brethren are hastening these disturbing numbers. Prior enthusiasm has given way to an actual *choice* not to show up. The path of least resistance is to sit on the couch and watch a ballgame rather than come to lodge. While most Masons enjoy our important rituals and ceremonies, these become less inviting when personal cliques and animosity rear their ugly heads. Thus, Brothers disengage.

What is happening in our beloved Craft is a microcosm of society as a whole. Connectedness is waning, further exacerbated by the pandemic. Zoom, Facebook, and other social media are insufficient as replacements for a hearty handshake or hug.

As we emerge from a pandemic to endemic approach, we see more face-to-face, in-person gatherings. There are positive signs, one of which is getting back lodge. Furthermore, Freemasonry has some distinct advantages in this re-emergence into normalcy. Our “normal” is infused with the tenets and teachings that not only can revitalize our lodges, but with the potential to be a significant force in helping the world recover from depths of despair now and future times.

Part of the solution to this complex problem is to apply the salve of our Masonic ideals, language, symbols, and tools to the wounds of societal incivility. We heal and grow from the inside out.

Changing views or behaviors must start from within. Masons are taught to constantly work to improve ourselves; to take and own our personal responsibility. When we do this, we are, in fact, exemplifying civility.

Sadly, the concept of civility has been weaponized of late, considered to be merely political correctness. This need not be the case. Rather, civility requires self-restraint, governing our passions and prejudices, so that we are able to uphold our Masonic obligations to one another, and our moral duty to humankind. This is a deeply Masonic tenet—to treat others with the dignity and respect that is due to all. There is no other organization that is better equipped to champion this effort.

So, what have we, as Masons, accomplished thus far?

At the conclusion of the 2014 Conference of the Grand Masters, the Masonic Family Civility Project was launched. A number of Masons have continued this effort, their achievements including:

- MasonicCivility.org is now a site for resources.
- Forming the Civility Task Force.
- Defining the word “civility” in Wikipedia.
- Along with the National Civility Center, we built a Civility Toolkit, with resources to address incivility in the community, workplace, houses of worship, home, or lodge.
- We created the Civility Scorecard,

using objective analysis algorithms to rate the relative level of civility in a person's speech.

- We created CivilityShop.org with books and swag to educate and inspire.
- We hosted two "Urgency of Civility" Conferences at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria in 2019 and again in 2021. We will be back in the Memorial May 21-23 of 2023 for our third conference.
- We developed the Certified Civil™ designation. This designation informs people with whom they are dealing that an organization or individual who is Certified Civil is committed to treating them with dignity and respect. Encourage your lodges and jurisdiction to become Certified Civil. It creates accountability that will be appreciated.
- Seeing the scope of the work in increasingly uncivil times, we formed the Worldwide Civility Council (WCC), a nonprofit organization that now operates all of our endeavors. The board is made up of Masons and non-masons, and we work closely with many other organizations such as the Institutes for Civil Dialogue and for Civility in Government.
- The WCC created the Masonic and Community Civility Ambassador programs. Ambassadors are trained to recognize when there is a divisive issue that is threatening to tear apart their community. That community might be where they live, their workplace, or even their lodge. Ambassadors learn to

engage the community in appropriate dialogue before it is too late, and relationships are ruined, communities torn apart, or even worse. This program has likely saved numerous lodges and kept members from leaving the fraternity. It works with the public as well. Trained Masonic Civility Ambassadors are now in lodges and communities across the globe.

- Most recently (2022), the CGMNA established the Masonic Civility Committee to help advance the Ambassadors program in each adopting and supporting member Grand Jurisdiction.

The ripple effects of each of us working to improve ourselves, sharing what we have learned and the tools we have created to spread this effort into each of our communities is making a profound impact. Let each of us commit today to be that proverbial stone, allowing ourselves to be dropped into the placid waters of complacency, allowing our actions to spread to the far shores to produce change and repair our world.

Perhaps we shall all come together again in the not-so-distant future and agree such an effort is no longer required - not because it has become a lost cause, but because our efforts have been so successful, and harmony has once again prevailed across the land. For even in times of drought, the acacia will surely bloom again.

THE SHORT TALK BULLETIN
Published monthly by the Masonic Service Association of North America, 813 1st Avenue SE, STE 357, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-5001. Tel: (319) 206-5411, under the auspices of its member Grand Jurisdictions.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION
The monthly *Short Talk Bulletin* is furnished to all elective, most appointed Grand Lodge officers and to selected Committeemen in each Grand Lodge which is a member of The Masonic Service Association of North America. "A LODGE COPY" is sent to each constituent lodge of member Jurisdictions through the lodge officer (Worshipful Master, Secretary, Warden, or Lodge Education Officer) designated by the Grand Lodge.

Individuals and other Masonic bodies may subscribe to *The Short Talk Bulletin* at current subscription rates, which are computed on the actual cost of preparation, printing and postage.

To keep the cost of *The Short Talk Bulletin* at a minimum, your cooperation in providing timely notice of changes in address and changes of lodge officers, is greatly appreciated. Six weeks' notice is needed on changes of address. Back issues of *The Short Talk Bulletin* are available at \$2.00 each plus shipping and handling.


Subscription Rates:
To U.S. Addresses (including APO & FPO) \$12.00/yr.
To addresses outside the U.S. \$13.00/yr.

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Printed by the Masonic Home for Children
Oxford, North Carolina

Vol. 100 April 2022 No.4

The
SHORT
TALK
BULLETIN®



The Urgency of Civility

THE MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION
OF NORTH AMERICA

EMESSAY NOTES

April 2022

Kentucky Disaster Appeal Update



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The response to the disaster relief appeal for the tornado victims in Kentucky has been great. As of March 15, 2022, over \$376,567.00 has been collected. Periodic payments are prepared and submitted to the Grand Lodge of Kentucky on a continuing basis. Please forward any donations you feel appropriate to MSA to help our impacted brothers and their families of the jurisdiction.

To donate online with a credit card, go to <https://msana.com/current-appeals/>

To donate by check or money order, make payable to MSA Disaster Relief Appeal and send to: Masonic Service Association, 813 1st Avenue SE, Suite 357, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402. Mark clearly on your check that this gift is for the "Kentucky Disaster Relief Appeal." All such donations are tax deductible. MSA is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Boombas Sock Donation

The Masonic Service Association's Hospital Visitation Program recently received a donation of 3000 pairs of socks to add to the other comfort items that are distributed by our hospital representatives. The socks came in two sizes, medium and large and two styles, ankle, or calf. The donation was made possible through a partnership with Boombas. According to the Boombas website they have donated over 50 million items to over 3500 giving groups. This gift is exciting, and we hope to continue this relationship well into the future in support of our Veterans.

A Word on Ukraine

Many phone calls and emails have been received on the establishment of a Disaster Relief Appeal for Ukraine. Masonic Service Association Administrator, Craig L. Davis, P.G.M. has been in contact with Grand Secretary of Ukraine. Communication with the Grand Lodge of Ukraine has become more difficult as the conflict continues and escalates. The MSA will continue to reach out to the Grand Lodge of Ukraine to receive an official request for a Disaster Relief Appeal. As soon as a request is received, we will send notice to all member jurisdictions and place information on our website, <https://msana.com>.

Nunc Coepi

By Francis Way, Editor of Connecticut Freemasons Magazine

"Nunc coepi," a Latin phrase familiar to fans of retired NFL quarterback Philip Rivers, translates to "Now I Begin." It comes from a quote by 19th century Catholic priest, Venerable Bruno Lanteri, who said, "If I should fall even a thousand times a day, a thousand times, with peaceful repentance I will say, 'Nunc coepi'." It is Rivers' motto, and a touchstone of his Catholic faith.

As we begin 2022, lodges will have installed, or will shortly be installing, new Worshipful Masters for the upcoming year. Some will be brand new and undoubtedly nervous as they preside over their first Stated Communications in command of the lodge. Some of us (for this author will be assuming the Oriental Chair for the 5th time in 25 years) will be returning to the chair as we help our lodges progress and move forward...in truth there may, or there may not, be some butterflies even for those "veteran" Worshipful Masters.

But regardless of how many times one has assumed the Oriental Chair, nunc coepi is well worth remembering. Now I begin....

Incoming Worshipful Masters are always told to "plan your work and work your plan" but anyone who has served any time at all in the East knows very well a corollary, first put forth by Field Marshall Helmuth Karl Bernhard Graf von Moltke, "no battle plan ever survives first contact with the enemy."

It may be that no matter how well laid, a Worshipful Master's plan won't happen as envisioned (just ask any Master installed in January, 2020). In those instances, all he can do is Nunc Coepi. As the Master goes, so goes the lodge, and being flexible enough to pivot if needed, can be a valuable skill for any Worshipful Master.

The Master's Achievement Award can provide a Worshipful Master a wealth of program ideas that will help a lodge grow and prosper. If a plan falls apart, there are more than enough ideas in the program to allow a Master to pivot and turn failure into success. Past Masters can also be a resource if things start to go south. Successful Past Masters always have a memory of a successful program or event that may be worth trying again. Just ask them, and they will surely describe, often in great detail, just what worked.

But even if all is going smoothly, and the Stated Communications are fun, informative and educational, each time a Worshipful Master dons the Crown of Solomon and picks up his gavel, it is an opportunity to excel, to grow the lodge, and to inspire the officers and brethren. Even if the Worshipful Master has not fallen a thousand times that day, he might do well to whisper a little prayer, "Nunc coepi," before he raps his gavel, congregates his lodge, and says, "Brother Senior Warden, proceed to satisfy yourself..."