

Golden Gate Speranza

Brotherly Love

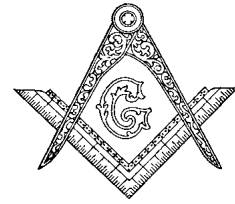
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Lodge No. 30, F. & A.M.

Bulletin



Our 151st Masonic Year

NOVEMBER 2004

Volume 152, Number 10

TRESTLEBOARD

Tuesday, November 2

6:30 P.M. Thanksgiving Turkey
Dinner with the Ladies
7:30 P.M. Stated Meeting
Election of 2005 Officers
Reservations required
Anastasia (415) 221-2907

Tuesday, November 9

6:30 P.M. Light Dinner
7:00 P.M. Officers' Practice 1st Degree

Tuesday, November 16

6:30 P.M. Light Dinner
7:30 P.M. 1st Degree Conferral upon
Mr. Richard Darrell Link
Mr. David George Walda

Thursday, November 18

School of Instruction
Installation Practice
Brotherhood Masonic Center
San Francisco Lodge Hosting
6:15 P.M. Dinner
7:00 P.M. School

Tuesday, November 23

6:30 P.M. Light Dinner
7:00 P.M. Officers' Practice 2nd Degree

Thursday, November 25

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL

Tuesday, November 30

6:30 P.M. Light Dinner
7:30 P.M. 2nd Degree Conferral upon
Bro. Leigh Williams Skilling

FROM THE EAST



November is traditionally the month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving, the landing of the Pilgrims and the start of this wonderful country. As we celebrate this period of Thanksgiving, let us all strive to continue this tradition with renewed efforts to strengthen our bonds of Brotherly Love and Friendship, not only in the outside world, but especially within the Lodge.

November 2nd, 2004 is General Election to be held throughout the State of California and United States of America. As this will be one of the most significant elections in many years, your vote could make the difference. So this is just a gentle reminder that on November 2nd you have dual obligation to vote, one for our great Country and one for new slate of Officers for the Lodge.

The month of October in review:

At our October 5th Stated Meeting, we had the distinct pleasure of officially receiving the Worshipful John A. Bermudez, Inspector of the 162nd Masonic District. Brother Bermudez has given many hours of his time to Golden Gate Speranza Lodge for which we thank him.

155th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, October 9 through 13, 2004 is over. Please read the report on pages 2-3.

On Tuesday, October 26th, the Lodge celebrated its 152nd Anniversary, which was followed by Hiram Award. We had about 75 people in attendance. All enjoyed a sumptuous dinner of Shish Kebab with rice Pilaf, Greek Salad and hors d'oeuvres with homemade dessert. Having been the recipient of the Hiram Award, I want to thank you all for this honor. The Hiram Award is the highest award that a



MEMBERSHIP Awaiting Degrees

FIRST: Richard Darrell Link
David George Walda
SECOND: Leigh Williams Skilling - Initiated May 11, 2004

Lodge can confer upon a brother and it is for years of dedication and devotion to Manonry and to the Lodge, cummunity and society in general. I will continue to assist the Lodge whenever possible, as I feel Freemasonry needs me.

I personally note with mixed feelings that the year 2004 is rapidly drawing to a close. I believe it is never too early to reflect on what to me is a most rewarding year, and neither is it too early to thank everyone who has made and continue to make Golden Gate Speranza Lodge No. 30 F. & A.M. a stand out.

My wife, Maida joins with me in wishing each of you a Happy Thanksgiving.

Fraternally,
Vrej M. Mekhalian, Master

FROM THE WEST

By Patrick J. Burke

Brethren,

Well, here we are in November already. As we look forward to Lodge elections and a new Masonic year, we should also pause and give thanks for our past year. This is, after all, the month of "Thanksgiving." Read on and find out why this is true.

The American tradition of Thanksgiving is based on the experiences of the Pilgrims who sailed to America aboard the Mayflower in the year 1620. These were members of the English Separatist Church who at first fled to Holland in search of religious freedom. Not satisfied with conditions in Holland, they returned to England and negotiated with a London stock company to finance a pilgrimage to America. It is interesting to note that only one-third of the original colonists were Separatists. The remaining two-thirds were non-Separatists hired by the company to protect its interests.

Although they numbered 102 on arriving at Plymouth Rock on December 11, 1620, that number was reduced to 54 by the end of winter with sickness and hunger taking a deadly toll. However, with the help of the native Indians, the colony was stabilized and a bountiful harvest was produced in 1621. The surviving colonists celebrated with a thanksgiving feast that lasted for three

days. The actual date is unknown but probably occurred between September 21 and November 9.

Here is a first hand description of the event written by Edward Winslow on December 12, 1621 in a letter which he later published in a book called, "Mourt's Relation: A Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth:"

Our corn [i.e. wheat] did prove well, and God be praised, we had a good increase of Indian corn, and our barley indifferent good, but our peas not worth the gathering, for we feared they were too late sown. They came up very well, and blossomed, but the sun parched them in the blossom. Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.

Some might be surprised to learn that the Pilgrims did not celebrate Thanksgiving after that although some of their descendants set aside a day in December called "Forefather's Day." Many one time Thanksgiving Day holidays were proclaimed over the years including the 1777 celebration by all 13 colonies and George Washington's National Day of Thanksgiving in 1789. However, there was nothing permanent until 1863 when Abraham Lincoln finally made it a national holiday with his 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation. In that proclamation, he set the last Thursday in November as a national day of Thanksgiving. It stayed that way until 1939, when President Franklin Roosevelt moved the date to the fourth Thursday in November. That date was then made a legal holiday by Congress in 1941.

Brethren:

Herewith for your information are the results, in summary form, of the actions taken at the 2004 Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, F.& A.M. of California:

EMERGENT MATTER DECISION

Should the Grand Lodge Consider the Emergent Matter
Modifying Homes Admissions? **FAILED**

GRAND MASTER'S DECISION:

Decision No. 1:
Senior Deacon Qualification **PASSED**

GRAND MASTER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation No. 1:
Grand Master's Lodge **CARRY-OVER**

Recommendation No. 2:
Candidate's Fees to Grand Lodge **CARRY-OVER**

Recommendation No. 3:
Lodge Funds and Property **FAILED**

Recommendation No. 4:
Executive Committee Appointments to Constitutional Boards **PASSED**

Recommendation No. 5:
Candidate's Contributions to the Masonic Homes, the California Masonic Memorial Temple, and the George Washington Masonic National Memorial **FAILED**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - 2003

Grand Master Holsinger's Recommendation No. 1:
One Day Conferrals **FAILED**

Grand Master Holsinger's Recommendation No. 2:
Flexible Dates for Annual Communication **PASSED**

Resolution No. 03-02:
Reduces Stated Meeting Quorum from Seven to Five **PASSED**

RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION - 2004

Resolution No. 04-01:
Re-establishes Powers of the Hall Associations **FAILED**

Resolution No. 04-02:
Changes Time for Voting on
Grand Lodge Budget **FAILED**

Resolution No. 04-03:
Permits Advertising and Public
Relations by Lodges **PASSED**

Resolution No. 04-04:
Requires Flag Salute at
All Lodge Meetings **FAILED**

Resolution No. 04-05:
Requires Entered Apprentices
and Fellow Crafts to Pay Dues **FAILED**

Allows California Masons to
Belong to the Ancient and Heroic
Order of the Gordian Knot **FAILED**

Resolution No. 04-06: WITHDRAWN
Resolution No. 04-07: OUT OF ORDER
Resolution No. 04-08: OUT OF ORDER
Resolution No. 04-09: OUT OF ORDER
Resolution No. 04-10: OUT OF ORDER

In addition to the above, the following actions
were also taken:

In accordance with California Masonic Code
Section 6100, the action to adopt the budget
of Grand Lodge for the fiscal year 2004-2005
was approved.

The per capita assessment for the fiscal year
November 1, 2005 through October 31, 2006,
as proposed by the Finance Committee of
Grand Lodge, was adopted and is fixed at
\$26.00.

Total registration for the 155th Annual
Communication was 1,219, with 322 of 353
chartered lodges represented.

The elected officers of the Grand Lodge duly
installed for the Grand Lodge year
commencing on October 13, 2004 are:

ELECTED OFFICERS

David R. Doan Grand Master
Frederick L. Sorsabal Deputy Grand Master
Melvyn B. Stein Senior Grand Warden
Richard W. Hopper Junior Grand Warden
Warren J. Blomseth, PGM Grand Treasurer
John L. Cooper III Grand Secretary
Harold A. Macy Grand Lecturer



*Worshipful John A. Bermudez presents the Hiram Award to
Vrej M. Mekhalian, P.M.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

For letting us live
in the beam of Thy love,
For manifold blessings
of Thine from above
Dear Lord we thank Thee.
For beauties of nature
this world so fair
For glories of God
which abound everywhere
Dear Lord, we thank Thee.
For tasks accomplished –
pleasures earned
For ambitions high,
and lessons learned;
For kindness, and humility,
For measure of tranquility;
For peace of fireside and home –
Safe keeping when we need to roam;
For children and the joys we find
In rearing them; for peace of mind;
For all things good that come from
Thee
Dear Lord, we thank Thee.

Pearl E. Auer

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

We extend greetings to the following
members of Golden Gate Speranza Lodge
who will be celebrating their birthday
during the month of November.

- Arthur F. Larsen, P.M. 2
- Jack W. Urch 2
- Hon. John A. Ertola 4
- Arthur D. Gonzalez 5
- Nick Eftimiou 6
- Russell L. Lindquist, P.M. 9
- Raymond G. Meade 10
- Richard L. Delgado 10
- Arthur C. Huser 10
- Gordon Wardlaw 17
- Sean J. Schluntz 20
- W. Martin Smith 22
- Virgil C. Ohlrich 23
- Frank E. Fairchild, P.M. 27
- Walter J. Dixon 28
- Ray Marcotte 28
- Steve J. Doukas 30

Brethren celebrating their birthdays this
month are invited for a complimentary dinner.