

Golden Gate Speranza

Brotherly Love

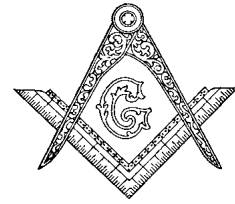
Relief

Truth



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

Bulletin



Our 151st Masonic Year

DECEMBER 2004

Volume 152, Number 11

TRESTLEBOARD

Tuesday, December 7

6:30 P.M. Dinner with the Ladies

Reservations required

Please call Anastasia Jouganatos

(415) 221-2907 by the Saturday preceding

Golden Veterans' Award Night

Recipients:

Ephthemes J. Chituras

Harry Wielen

Lorren E. Abbott

7:30 P.M. Stated Meeting

followed by

Installation Practice

Wednesday, December 8

Happy Hanukkah

Tuesday, December 14

Open Installation

6:00 P.M. Dinner

7:30 P.M. Installation

Dinner Reservations are a must as a

good size crowd is to be expected

Please call Anastasia Jouganatos

(415) 221-2907 by the Saturday preceding

Tuesday, December 21

6:30 P.M. Light Dinner

7:00 P.M. First Meeting Practice

Flag tribute and re-obligation

Saturday, December 25

Merry Christmas

Tuesday, December 28

DARK

Saturday, January 1

Happy New Year

RESERVE THE DATE

April 10-11, 2005

RENO TRIP

FROM THE EAST



We are fast approaching the Holiday Season beginning with Thanksgiving and not too far from Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and the New Year. We all have said before, "time flies by", and it certainly does as we are winding down another Masonic year.



One of the proudest accomplishments this year was the presentation of 50 Year Golden Veteran's Awards to nine distinguished Veterans of Golden Gate Speranza Lodge. The last three to receive their awards in December are: Ephthemes J. Chituras, Harry Wielen and Lorren E. Abbott. Congratulations to each of you! For those who cannot be at Lodge, suitable other arrangements will be made.

Time passed so quickly it was almost breath taking and yet it is with a distinct sense of relief that I turn the administration and guidance of the Lodge over to Brother Patrick J. Burke and the incoming Officers. I feel certain they will competently handle the affairs of the lodge and with the help of all brethren, will obtain greater achievements than they think possible. Thus, the gavel is being passed to Brother Burke on Tuesday, December

MEMBERSHIP Awaiting Degrees

FIRST: Richard Darrell Link

David George Walda

SECOND: Leigh Williams Skilling - Initiated May 11, 2004

14, 2004, which will mark the start of the New Year for the Lodge. The Brethren, their ladies and their friends are all cordially invited to attend the 153rd Open Installation of Officers. Ceremonies will begin at 7:30 p.m. with dinner preceding at 6:00 p.m., please note change of dinnertime. Dinner reservations are a must with Anastasia Jouganatos (415) 221-2907 by the Saturday preceding the Installation. We are all indebted to him for taking on this task and I would like to thank his wife, Margaret for supporting him during his next year as Master. Let's all help him out with degrees as well as other activities that make this Lodge stand tall.

I reflect on the year with great personal satisfaction in both my Masonic commitment and my personal life. The personal pride and gratification one can derive from being a Master Mason is one of the rewards of Masonry. Thanks to you all, I became a Hiram Awardee on October 26th, such a prestigious honor and memorable event to be forever treasured.

Now is the time to thank each and every one of the line officers for their dedication in attending the meetings, the rehearsals and School of Instruction and for having put superb degrees, to Past Masters for their sound advice who participated so faithfully, and furnished so much assistance and guidance, to the sideliners for their participation and encouragement and to the ladies for their year round support and last but not least for the devoted ladies in charge of dinner reservations and kitchen and dining room help and to the Eastern Star for help serve the monthly and special dinners. To the Worshipful John A. Bermudez, Inspector of the 162nd Masonic District who has given many hours of his precious time to Golden Gate

Speranza Lodge, we wish to express our deep gratitude and appreciation for all his hard work.

Congratulations to all the Brethren who have been initiated, passed or raised during 2004 Masonic year. I invite all of you to become active in the running and participation of the Lodge. Without your on going commitment and dedication to Lodge, we will suffer dearly. We must all continue to work hard to see that this Lodge continues to grow and becomes strong.

And to those who have not been coming to Lodge, we would love to see you come back and be active again.

In this season of joy and giving as I end up my last message to you from the East, I would like you to always remember: The Masonic Way is to give without remembering and receive without forgetting.

To everyone, my warmest wishes for the Holidays and a happy, healthy and a prosperous New Year!

Fraternally,
Vrej M. Mekhalian
Master

FROM THE WEST

By Patrick J. Burke

Brethren,

December is upon us and so is the "Winter Solstice." In the Northern Hemisphere, the winter solstice occurs either on December 21st or 22nd. This year, it will occur at 4:42 AM Pacific Standard Time on December 21st. At this time, the sun will shine directly over the Tropic of Capricorn on which lie such places as Sao Paulo, Brazil, southern Madagascar, and the areas north of Brisbane, Australia.

Most of us have known something about this happening since grade school as we are all familiar with the official first day of winter. The solstice occurs when, because of the Earth's tilt, our hemisphere is leaning farthest away from the sun. Therefore, the daylight is at its shortest, and the sun is at its lowest arc in the sky. In fact, the sun's noontime elevation appears to be the same for several days before and after the solstice. This phenomena is behind the origin of the word solstice which comes from the Latin word solstitium with sol being "the sun" and stitium being "a stoppage."

No one's really sure how long ago humans recognized the winter solstice and began heralding it as a turning point in the year. One line of thought says that the Mesopotamians were first with a 12 day festival of renewal, designed to help the god Marduk tame the monsters of chaos for one more year. Others cite the Neolithic peoples that existed 10,000 years ago. These were the first farmers, and they carved notches into bone that appear to count the cycles of the moon. Being farmers, it almost certain that they watched the movement of the sun as well as the moon.

Although it is the time of greatest darkness and the longest night of the year, the solstice is as much about the light as is about the dark. It is the day that marks the return of the sun. We know that there are many winter storms ahead, but we now have the promise of summer to warm our winter thoughts. We call this the holiday season. It is full of brilliant lights and carries with it the seeds of hope and the joy of renewal. Once again, we are reminded that even in the darkest nights, there is the promise of dawn and that in the worst of times, there is the glimmer of hope.

So, it is during this time of Winter Solstice and in the spirit of hope, joy, and renewal, that I wish you all the best of holidays and a Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy 2005



A Man is a Mason

When he can look over the rivers, the hills, and to the far off horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and still have Faith and Hope and Courage, for these are the root of every virtue.

When he has learned to sympathize with men in their sorrow, yea, even in their sin, bowing that each man fights against many odds.

When he can be happy and high minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life.

When he has learned how to make friends and how to keep them, but above all to keep friends with himself.

When he loves flowers, and feels the thrill of a long forgotten joy when he hears the laugh of a little child.

When no voice of distress reaches his ear in vain, and no hand seeks his aid without response.

When he can find good in every faith that gives any man a hold of Divine things and teaches him the Majestic meanings of life.

When star crowned trees and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters subdue him like the thoughts of one much loved but long dead.

When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something besides mud, or into the face of the most forlorn fellow mortal and see something besides sin.

When he knows how to love, how to hope, how to pray.

When he has kept faith with himself, his fellow man, with his God, in his hand a sword for evil and in his heart a bit of a song, glad to live but not afraid to die.

That man has found the real secrets of Masonry.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

William S. Calvert	2
Arthur A. Apostolou	4
George S. Youngling	4
Donald E. Fontaine	5
Gregory G. Dillender	6
H. Paul Martin	9
Gerald D. Davis	10
Gordon F. Rathburn	11
Harvey C. Martin	13
R. Edward Burton	13
William J. Bennecker	15
Lloyd O. Bullard	15
John W. Hartman	17
Charles W. Daniels	17
Adam N. Factley	19
William R. Parker, Sr.	22
George Poon	22
Elroy D. Joyce, P.M.	23
George E. Mullen	24
Frank A. D'Amico	25
Philip Vuljan	25
Tom H.C. Kim	28
Kach Papazian	30
Donald H. Felter	31

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



IN MEMORIAM

John Hart Kneass

Raised November 27, 1928

Entered into Rest

October 28, 2004

Almighty Father

Into Thy Hands

We Commend the Soul of our

Dear Departed Brother