

Golden Gate Speranza

Brotherly Love

Relief

Truth



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

Bulletin



www.ggs30.org

Our 153rd Masonic Year

MAY 2006

Volume 154, Number 5

TRESTLEBOARD

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

6:30 P.M. Dinner with the Ladies

Reservations required: 415-221-2907

Presentation by Rainbow Girls of San Francisco

Assembly #1

7:30 P.M. Stated Meeting

Second Degree Proficiency

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

6:30 P.M. Dinner

7:00 P.M. Officer's Practice

Second Section - Third Degree

Tuesday, May 16, 2006

Officer's School of Instruction

First Degree: Host - Mission Lodge

Officers are required to call off with the Inspector

Brotherhood Masonic Center

6:15 P.M. Dinner, 7:00 P.M. School

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

6:00 P.M. Open Lodge

6:30 P.M. Dinner

Reservations to the Junior Warden: 415-566-7255

7:30 P.M. Third Degree Conferral

Sunday, May 28, 2006

Widow's Event - Lunch and Musical

Parking at the Scottish Rite Center

Leave at 11:30 A.M., Approximate return at 6:00 P.M.

Tuesday, May 30, 2006

6:30 P.M. Dinner

7:00 P.M. Officer's Practice

First Degree

Looking Ahead

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

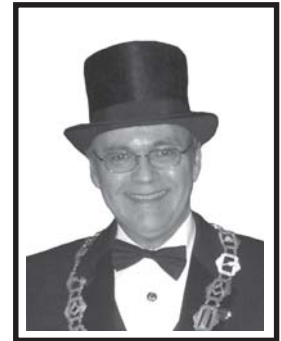
6:30 P.M. Dinner with the Ladies

7:30 P.M. Stated Meeting

FROM THE EAST



The flower is the lily of valley and the birthstone is the emerald. Yes, of course, it is the month of May. Did you know that in any given calendar year, no other month begins on the same day of the week as May? And if you are a traveler, May in the Northern Hemisphere is the seasonal equivalent to November in the Southern Hemisphere and vice versa. And in your travels, you might also learn that in Finland it is called the "month of sowing," and in Eastern Europe it is called the "month of the high grass."



May 8th is VE Day or Victory in Europe Day. It is a date that has been almost forgotten in this country. It was on May 8, 1945 that the Allies formally celebrated the defeat of Nazi Germany and the end of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich. Millions celebrated in the United Kingdom and in the United States. In London alone, over a million people crowded into Trafalgar Square and The Mall to Buckingham Palace.

Vision Statement: Golden Gate Speranza Lodge #30 is an organization which values harmony and is friendly to all men. It supports public education and the Masonic youth groups because Masonic values are vital to our youth and their future. It imparts worthwhile Masonic education to its members as well as educating the community about Masonry. Membership in this Lodge will result in lifelong friends, a feeling of belonging, support when needed, an understanding of Masonry, and an understanding of service to others.

MEMBERSHIP Awaiting Degrees

THIRD: Michael P. Burke - Initiated February 22, 2005
Timothy C. Craig - Initiated January 17, 2006

And did you know that Princess Elizabeth (the future Queen Elizabeth II) and her sister Princess Margaret were allowed to wander anonymously among the crowds and take part in the celebrations in London. Now there is something that would never happen today. In the United States, President Harry Truman dedicated the day and the victory to Franklin D. Roosevelt who had passed away less than a month before on April 12th.

In recent times, our remembrances have been more general in nature. Memorial Day has been the defining holiday on which we honor those who have fallen in service to our country. Did you know that beginning with the American Revolution and ending with the first Gulf War approximately 1,090,200 Americans have died while serving in wartime. This includes those who fell in battle, as well as the many who perished from accident and disease. There are over 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery alone. It is estimated that over 41,000,000 have severed in uniform over those years. Memorial Day was first known as Decoration Day. It was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11. It begins with the following words:

“The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.”

Memorial Day was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. By 1890, it was recognized by all the northern states, but the southern states refused to acknowledge the day until after WWI. And to this day many southern states have a separate day set aside to honor the Confederate war dead. May 30 continued to be the date of observation until 1971 when Congress passed the

National Holiday Act, and it was changed to the last Monday in May to ensure three day Federal holidays. This change may be the reason why the traditional observance of Memorial Day has diminished over the years. To many it has become just another three day holiday. What is needed is a full return to the original day of observance. After all, it was originally instituted as a solemn and sacred remembrance of those who gave their all for their country.

One of the most poignant portraits of death on the battlefield was penned by John McCrae, a Canadian physician, who served on the Western Front during World War I. He was himself a casualty as he perished from pneumonia while on active duty in 1918. In April 1915, he was in the trenches near Ypres, Belgium, or what is traditionally known as Flanders. This area saw some of the heaviest fighting during the war. It was here he wrote the following:

In Flanders Fields

By John McCrae (1872-1918)

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

This was answered the same year by an American teacher at the University of Georgia named Moina Michael. She was a volunteer on the staff of the Overseas YMCA Secretaries, and on reading Flanders Fields she penned the following:

We Shall Keep The Faith

Moina Michael, November 1918

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!

We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a luster to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honor of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.

She then thought of the idea of wearing red poppies on Memorial Day to honor those who served in wartime. Starting with a \$10 donation, she made 25 Flanders Fields Memorial Poppies. These were sold to help servicemen in need. As we all know, this idea spread around the world as a symbolic reminder of those who perished in battle. In 1920, the National American Legion made the red poppy its National Emblem of Remembrance, and in 1921, it was decided that disabled American veterans should make the poppies in the United States as a means of providing income for those veterans in need.

Well, my friends have a safe Memorial Day weekend. Enjoy yourselves for sure. However, at some point during the weekend, stop and think of the reason behind this holiday. If it wasn't for those who gave up their lives, this holiday and this country might not exist.

Fraternally,
Patrick J. Burke, Master

MODERNIZATION OF FREEMASONRY

Alex G. Davidson, PhD, IPM, and Master of the United Masters Lodge No. 167, New Zealand, ended his term of office with the observation that “modernization of the Craft was an *ignis fatuus* (deceptive or false goal)”.

His thesis advocated a return to the form of the 18th century lodge, with a shorter, simpler ritual, and improved opportunities for socialization and fraternization in convivial surroundings

and circumstances. Openness, and the drive to recruit any man who can be enticed through the front door, were seen as counterproductive whereas Masonry should be focused on quality rather than quantity. In his opinion, openness and active recruitment have accelerated membership decline, while secrecy and exclusiveness, particularly on continental Europe, have resulted in growth and vitality.

This opinion seems to be garnering some support, but it may also be observed that current attitudes do not favor a change in ritual.

[From the United Masters Lodge No. 167, April 2005. Southern California Research Lodge, May 2005]

FROM THE WEST

By James L. Adams

Continuation of Walter Leslie WILMSHURTS's comments in Chapter 1 (From Darkness to Light) of his book MASONIC INITIATION.

Every system of real initiation, whether of the past or present, is divided into three clear-cut stages: since before anyone can pass from his natural darkness to the Light supernal and discover the Blazing Star of Glory at his own center, there are three distinct tasks to be achieved. They are as follows: first, the turning away from the attractions of the outer world, involving detachment from the allurements of all that is meant by "money and metals," and the purification and sub dual of the bodily and sensual tendencies. Not everyone is able or ripe for doing this; the natural life maintains a powerful hold over us, and our ingrained habits are not readily changed. Yet as long as any of these sensible attractions magnetize and chain us to physical enjoyment, so long are we "in worldly possessions" and precluded from attaining real initiation into what is super-physical. This work of detachment and self-purification is our Entered Apprentice work, and to it, as you know, is theoretically allotted the long period of seven years. The reason for the seven years apprenticeship is based on the septenary principle operating in Nature. In the course of each seven years the material particles of the human body become entirely changed and reconstituted. By a course of

pure living, diet, and thought for that period, therefore, the physical organism is clarified, sublimated and made a more efficient vehicle for the transmission of the central inner Light. This is the true reason for asceticism; the gradual substitution of refined physical tissues for grosser, impure ones.

Second, the analysis, discipline and obtaining control of one's inner world, of the mind, of one's thoughts, one's intellectual and psychic faculties. This extremely difficult task is that of the Fellowcraft stage, to which is allotted a further five years, which with the previous seven make twelve. Because of this, the candidate who had duly completed this period was said, in the ancient systems, to be mystically "twelve years old," a point to which we will refer again presently.

Third, the "last and greatest trial," lay in the breaking and surrender of the personal will, the dying down of all sense of personality and self-hood, so that the petty personal will may become merged in the divine Universal Will and the illusion of separate independent existence gave way to conscious realization of unity with the one Life that permeates the Universe. For so only can one be raised from conditions of unreality, strife and gifurative death to a knowledge of ultimate Reality, Peace and Live Immortal. To attain this is to attain Mastership, involving complete comination of the lower nature and the development in oneself of a higher order of life and faculty. And he who thus attained was said to be of the mystical of thirty years, of which I will say more presently.

Sunday, May 28, 2006

Widow's Event - Lunch and Musical
Parking at the Scottish Rite Center
Leave at 11:30 A.M.
Approximate return at 6:00 P.M.



IN MEMORIAM

David Paul Leaf

Raised March 23, 2004

Entered into Rest

December 15, 2005

Almighty Father

Into Thy Hands

*We Commend the Soul of our
Dear Departed Brother*

MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!

No-shows for your Lodge dinners continue to be too high. If you make a reservation and cannot come, please call and cancel by the night before the meal. This is an unfortunate waste of food and money. Please call 415-221-2907 to cancel. The Master asks for your due attention to this matter.

Mark your calendars for our

RENO TRIP

September 10-11, 2006

Sands Regency Hotel Casino



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

John G. Peterson	2
Moses D. Garay	3
Marco A. Machado	4
Joseph Arone	5
Lorren E. Abbott	7
Eugene H. Latter	9
Edward G. Woodward, P.M.	9
A. Jack Podesta, P.M.	12
Preston M. James	13
Laurence A. Schriber	15
William A. Capilos	15
Robert F. McFadden	16
Aden Lyle Cuykendall	16
John A. Loscutoff	16
Herbert L. Werner	16
Gerald W. Maurer	26

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