

Golden Gate Speranza

Brotherly Love

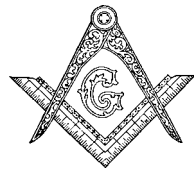
Relief

Truth



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

Bulletin



www.ggs30.org

Our 157th Masonic Year

May 2010

Volume 158, Number 5

TRESTLEBOARD

May 1 & 2nd

Reno Trip

Bus leaves 8 AM SHARP

20th Ave & Wawona

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

6:30 PM Dinner with the ladies

Reservations required: 415-221-2907

7:30 P.M. Stated Meeting

25 Year Pin Investiture

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Officers Practice: 1st Degree 1st & 2nd Sections

Attire: casual

Dinner 6:30 PM, Practice 7:00 PM

Monday, May 17, 2010

School of Instruction

Pacific Starr-King, Host

1st Degree, 1st & 2nd Sections

7:30 PM

All Officers must call off with the Inspector

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Officers Practice: 3rd Degree 1st Section,

Opening & Closing

Attire: casual

Dinner 6:30 PM, Practice 7:00 PM

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Patrick Burke Night

Egyptian food & belly dancing

Dinner: 6:30 PM

Special Recognition of Pat Burke, PM

Wives & Widows Invited

Reservations for dinner required: 415-221-2907

Looking Ahead

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

6:30 P.M. Dinner with the ladies

Reservations required: 415-221-2907

7:30 PM Stated Meeting

FROM THE EAST



May is a special month during the year. There is Mother's Day on the 9th; Cinco de Mayo (6th), Military Spouse Appreciation Day (8th); National Maritime Day (22nd) and Memorial Day (31st), which is a long weekend for us working stiffs. I am, however, partial to May 4th which is Star Wars Day. I waited in line when this movie first came out, and saw it at the theatres over 40 times. May 4th gets the honor of being so designated from the Star War's famous line "MAY THE FORCE be with you". Say it a few times, and you will get the significance.



National Maritime Day recognizes the industry and benefits of shipping and seafarers. The date marks the first successful crossing of an American steamship, the Savannah, from the United States to England. This recognition originated in 1933. Over the years, there have been over 250,000 merchant marine members, and over 6700 have lost their lives, primarily in the wars.

As many on my email distribution know, the Official Visit of the

MEMBERSHIP

Awaiting Degrees

Second: Bro. Jason A. Benton - Initiated October 31, 2006

Second: Bro. Jonathon Paul McCluskey - Initiated April 24, 2007

Second: Bro. James C. Steinway - Initiated January 30, 2007

Second: Bro. Nestor Guia Reyes - Initiated February 12, 2008

Second: Bro. Joe Lyde White Jr. - Initiated November 11, 2008

Second: Bro. Craig Charles Peden - Initiated April 28, 2009

Second: Bro. James Vladimir Adams - Initiated September 15, 2009

Third : Bro. Bryan James Clifton - Passed October 20, 2009

Vision Statement: Golden Gate Speranza Lodge may be a place where our Brothers can join in fraternal and social activity, and accomplishment in their Masonic work together.

District Inspector, originally planned for our May Stated Meeting was postponed due to the hospitalization of my mother. As of this writing, she is under hospice care, and does not have long to live. Her 89 years living has taken a toll on her, and prescription drugs can no longer help. The re-scheduled Official Visit will be announced later.

At our April Stated Meeting, the Brethren were witness to the 2nd Degree Proficiency of Brother Bryan Clifton. He did the full form and I was pleased to see him accomplish this given his studying at law school. His 3rd Degree will be held in June, of which the specific date will be announced later.

Our Social Committee Chair, Brother William Bellamy III, P.M. brought to my attention a flyer he received advertising a cruise in late November/ early December going to Barcelona, France, and other ports. As this cruise was priced attractively, the Brethren voted to subsidize the trip for those wishing to go. Everyone should have received the information by now. Bro. Bellamy informs me that, according to the travel agency, there is one Balcony Cabin and one Inside Cabin left. Anyone that desires to go should contact the travel agent very quickly.

May 25th will be a special occasion. We will not only have an Egyptian meal and belly dancing, but the Lodge will recognize the unselfish contribution of Brother Pat Burke during his *five years* as Master. In fact, I have declared that evening **Patrick Burke Night**. *I'm pretty sure I can do this. Others tell me I can do a lot of things in the lodge as Master.* Please be sure to make reservations, and join me and others in recognizing Brother Pat that evening.

Looking at next year's officers line, I have a concern about the lack of members willing to serve, particularly in the lower chairs. I have been informed that our Junior Warden and Senior Deacon will not be continuing as an officer in 2011. Fortunately, I have commitments for replacements in those two offices. But there is no one going up the line. Without members willing to go up the line, this Lodge will face a crucial and difficult decision as the current Past Masters and other senior members step out of the line. This decision is likely to occur in the short term, than several years down the road.

I am asking *each* member of this Lodge

to *seriously consider* his lodge; to remember the obligations taken in the degrees, particularly as it pertains to attending to the lodge when called. I direct this call for help not just to the new members, but to the members who have not been to this lodge for some time.

I know that Golden Gate Speranza Lodge has faced this issue before. I hope that its members will come to its aid.

FROM THE WEST

By Vrej M. Mekhalian, P.M.



The Revelation of Dan Brown

I read the following article in Knight Templar, April 2010, by Sir Knight Jeff Kuntz, Officer in Baldwin II Commandery No. 22 in Williamsport, PA, and found to be worth sharing.

"Like a good many of my fellow Masons, I had been waiting for over two years for Dan Brown's latest novel to come out. We knew it was going to be set in Washington, D.C., and we knew it was going to be about Freemasonry, at least to an extent. I needed to read it, not only because it was to be about Masonry, but also because millions of others, including many Masonic brothers, would be reading it.

When barely halfway through the book, I asked a brother, a thirty-third Degree Scottish Rite Mason, if he started to read Brown's latest book. He responded, "No, but my wife is reading it." Then I said; "Good! Let her read it, and then *you* be sure to read it!" Every Mason and every Mason's wife should read it, as well as every prospective Mason.

The Lost Symbol, as the title turned out to be, goes quite beyond my expectations. Yes, the book is a work of fiction, and Dan Brown is a master of suspense, but he certainly did his homework-perhaps too well-on his research of Freemasonry and esoteric knowledge, or as he calls it in his novel, the Ancient Mys-teries.

First of all, it must be pointed out that this especial knowledge of the Ancient Mysteries is *not* synonymous with such things as black magic or any other weird, sinister occult activities. In fact, one of

the many statements in *The Lost Symbol* that would, no doubt, dumbfound many is one made by one of the main characters in the story; "The Ancient Mysteries and the Bible are the same thing."

Throughout the book, Brown superbly expounds upon and correlates the relationship between the Ancient Mysteries, the Bible, and Freemasonry. One of the many ways he does this is by quoting statements of Jesus in the Gospels, such as; "Greater works than these shall ye do" (John 14:12) and "The Kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21). He also points out that Scriptures *do* speak of things like secrets, mysteries, and wise sayings, and that Christ indicated in the Gospels that some were ready to receive certain knowledge for which most others were not prepared.

Another very interesting and important matter that Brown seems to elucidate quite well is that there is really no quarrel between *true* science and *true* religion. Some have said that some of the great scientists such as Newton, Darwin, and Einstein were atheists. These assessments are grossly unfair. Their concepts of God may not have been traditional, but how does one really define God? Scripture makes it clear that God's power is beyond our human understanding, but it also makes it clear that His kingdom is among us, and yes, even *within* us. What wisdom and understanding we *do* attain is by grace and faith. At the same time, Brown brings out how some prophecies and other passages in the Bible have been misunderstood or even distorted.

As a lifelong student of mysticism, Freemasonry, *and* the Bible, I strongly agree with Dan Brown's claim that much in the Bible has been misunderstood. I also believe that Freemasonry is a channel-if but a somewhat contracted one-through which some of this greater knowledge and wisdom is passed on, largely in the form of symbolism.

Will *The Lost Symbol* have a positive impact on Freemasonry? My guess is that, in the end, it will have little really favorable effect on either the fraternity's membership or its public relations. I hope I am wrong. Dan Brown said in an Associated Press interview that he believed his book would greatly increase interest in Freemasonry.

On the other hand, there will likely be some repercussions, especially from church leaders. Some of the more

hidebound and radical ones will surely have something to say. Some of the clergy in various denominations have always considered the Masonic fraternity, or any other such mystically inclined or open minded organization, a threat to the traditionally established church.

There is much said and written these days about a soon to come shift or a new awakening of consciousness, collectively, as well as among individuals, on which, by the way, Brown also touches in his book. The flip side of this seems to be that this spiritual awakening, which some say is already in progress, is co-knight templar inciding with an increase in evil in the world. One needs only to look to the 24th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew or the third chapter of Paul's second Letter to Timothy to read biblical passages that seem to describe present-day troubles.

The Book of Revelation says, " ... the time is at hand." Dan Brown is, indeed, a brilliant writer of intriguing fiction, but could it be that he has a much greater purpose? He professes to be a non-Mason, but maybe we need to intently heed what he seems to be trying to tell us about our great fraternity and what it is *really* about. Is it a stretch to say that perhaps Brown has a knowledge of its teachings and a wisdom greater than that of the most enlightened among us?

Maybe the question we should really be asking ourselves, as Masons, is whether we should look beyond our great fraternity as merely a social organization and take a much closer look at its teachings and real purpose. Maybe we should be asking ourselves if we are being called to disseminate our true teachings while we still can, for perhaps *the time IS at hand!* "



Happy Mother's Day

Ritual Development in the United States

Excerpts from the Short Talk Bulletin, The Masonic Service Association of North America, April 2010.

Masonic ritual came to the United States from many sources: principally England, Scotland, and Ireland,, but also France and Germany. There was no ritual guidance for American lodges from their mother Grand Lodges and certainly none in the colonies. Lodges had little choice but to rely on oral tradition and printed exposés before the appearance of William Preston's *Illustrations of Masonry* in 1772. (Preston was born in Scotland and became a printer.) Even then, there wasn't much help with the details of conferring degrees or opening and closing a lodge, only lots of lectures. The first American editions of Preston didn't appear until 1804.

The best idea of the ritual used in American lodges before 1826 comes from ritual exposés. English, French, and other such volumes were surely imported as soon as they were printed, but American imprints would have been less expensive, and the relative popularity of different exposés is probably a good indication of their acceptance and use by American lodges.

The exposé *Jachin and Boaz*, published between 1774 and 1826 was the most popular. Thomas Smith Webb, born in 1771, a printer, had a copy of this work. He became a Mason in New Hampshire, but later moved to Albany, New York, where he established a printing business. He became friends with an English Mason who taught him the lectures of William Preston. Webb published *The Freemason's Monitor; or, Illustrations of Masonry: in Two Parts* in 1797.

Thomas Smith Webb also organized, regularized, and systematized American Masonic ritual. Using other books, Webb produced the "American Standard", which was contained a consistent and impressive set of ceremonies that became immensely popular.

SUPPORT YOUR MASONIC YOUTH ORDERS

San Francisco Assembly #1, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls

Please join us at Chevy's for our Fundraising event

Wed. May 12, 2010

11:am to 10 pm

where: At Chevy's, 141 Hickey Blvd., So. San Francisco, CA 94080

Chevy's will donate 25% of the proceeds to San Francisco Assembly

June 11, 2010

6:30 p.m to 10:00 p.m.

Golden Gate Masonic Temple
Second Annual Dinner
and Trivia Night!

What do you know????

Come and test your knowledge!
Just \$10.00 to eat and play!!

rsvp: Jim Kamariotis 650-580-9500
or Pat Burke 415-566-8565

San Francisco Chapter, Order of DeMolay

Installation of Officers
May 7, 2010 - 7:30 P.M.

Golden Gate Masonic Center

Become an Advisor

The youth of today will be our new adults of tomorrow.
For more information, go to the *Links* page of our lodge website.

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
Lorren E. Abbott	7
Eugene H. Latter	9
Edward G. Woodward, P.M.	9
Preston M. James	13
Laurence A. Schriber	15
Aden Lyle Cuykendall	16
John A. Loscuttoff	16
Herbert L. Werner	16
Gerald W. Maurer	26

Brethren celebrating their birthday are invited for a complimentary dinner.

25 YEAR PIN INVESTITURE

May 4, 2010

**For all members who have 25 years or more as a Mason
Plan to attend the Stated Dinner and Meeting.**

If unable to attend, please contact Bro. Glenn Whiteside P.M., Secretary.