

# Golden Gate Speranza

Brotherly Love

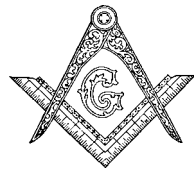
Relief

Truth



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

## Bulletin



www.ggs30.org

Our 157th Masonic Year

July - August 2010

Volume 158, Number 7

### TRESTLEBOARD

Tuesday, July 6, 2010

Official Visit of the District Inspector

Attire: Officers will wear Tuxedos

6:30 P.M. Dinner with the ladies

Reservations required: 415-221-2907

7:30 P.M. Stated Meeting

#### **Remainder of July is Dark**

Tuesday, August 3, 2010

Stated Meeting 7:30 P.M.

6:30 P.M. Dinner with the ladies

Reservations required: 415-221-2907

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Officers Practice: 1st Degree Complete

Dinner: 6:30 P.M. Practice 7:00 P.M.

Attire: casual

Tuesday, August 17, 2010

Officers Practice: 2nd Degree Complete

Dinner: 6:30 P.M. Practice 7:00 P.M.

Attire: casual

Thursday, August 19, 2010

School of Instruction: Phoenix Lodge Host 2nd Degree

Dinner: 6:30 P.M. School: 7:30 P.M.

Attire: casual

All Officers must call off with the Inspector

Tuesday, August 24, 2010

Officers Practice: 3rd Degree, 2nd Section

Dinner: 6:30 P.M. School: 7:00 P.M.

Attire: Casual

Tuesday, August 31, 2010

Officers Practice: 1st Degree Complete

Dinner: 6:30 P.M. School: 7:00 P.M.

Attire: casual

Tuesday, September 7, 2010

Stated Meeting 7:30 P.M.

Attire: Suit or Sport Coat & Tie

6:30 P.M. Dinner with the ladies

Reservations required: 415-221-2907

### FROM THE EAST



We approach that time of the year when we celebrate the Fourth of July. Being July, the lodge will be dark after the Stated Meeting. This is also a combined bulletin for July and August.

*Patrick Burke Night* on May 25th was a great success, with a fairly large crowd, approximately 60 persons. The Egyptian meal was prepared in the kitchen. After dinner we moved to the lodge room where everyone was entertained by a belly dancer.

Some of us (the brave ones) even got to try our hands (or should it be bellies) at the dancing too.

Pat Burke was also honored for his 5 years as Master of Golden Gate Speranza Lodge. Pat has worked very diligently during his 5 years in the East. His years were not easy. Facing declining participation at lodge, he had to rely on Past Masters and others to keep Golden Gate Speranza going. I have come to appreciate Worshipful Pat for being someone who is very fair and knows how to lead, and as well as being a good mentor to me. I am glad that Pat was Master when I joined the lodge.

Brother Burke has also been selected to receive the Hiram Award this year. I am working out the details. Watch for a future announcement.

My hearty thanks to our Senior Warden Vrej Mekhalian PM for his arrangements with the caterer and the entertainment. His exceptional planning made this evening a big success.

At our June Stated Meeting, we were visited by Miss Sarah Boone, Grand Lecturer of the Rainbow for Girls of California. She spoke to us about the Philanthropic Project of the California Assemblies for this year. They are collecting donations for Kristie's Foundation, which is a non-profit that provides support and assistance for children



**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.

with special needs. One of their programs is a wish program where children with special needs are transported to Southern California for fun excursions to theme parks, and other such venues. Persons that would like to make a donation can send a check to the San Francisco Assembly #1 I.O.R.G., 2404 14th Ave San Francisco, Ca 94116 and remember to write Kristie's Foundation on the memo line. The SF Assembly will forward the donation.

My congratulations to Brother Bryan James Clifton who was conferred with the 3rd Degree on June 22nd. I will remark on that in the next bulletin.

It is important to note that our lodge has not received any new applications for membership for some time. The Grand Lodge of California has sent to us persons that have indicated an interest in Masonry, to which there has been some contact made. A few men have visited the lodge seeking more information on Freemasonry. None of these men have come to us requesting an application.

Though there is a prohibition to solicit new members, we are certainly free to inform a man about Masonry. After all, no one will join an organization if he does not know anything about the organization. That is the reason why interested men are invited to the lodge and we talk to them about Freemasonry in general terms, and give them some printed information to take with them. Grand Lodge has programs and material that individual lodges can use to provide this information.

I am asking for the membership to consider two things during July:

- 1) Consider being part of the Formation Committee, especially someone that can assist with contacting interested persons, and give them information about Masonry. There will be some training needed so he is familiar with the materials and processes for engaging and talking to prospective men. If you are interested, please contact me. If you don't want to be on the Formation Committee, but are willing to meet with prospects, that would also be welcome.
- 2) Ask yourself if any of your friends might be a person that would make a good member. Not every man will be

a good Mason. A good prospect is one who is involved in community activities, has service-oriented interests, and wants to improve himself. A good prospect is someone that you trust and with whom you would want to spend time. If you do know anyone who may be a prospect, please let me know so we can arrange to meet with him sometime, or least so you can get some information that can be given to him.

Let's see if we can get some more applications to read at our Stated Meetings.

## MASONS4MITTS BACK FOR 2ND YEAR

The SF Sluggers Team is back for the 2nd year, raising contributions for the Massons4Mitts programs. Our success in 2009 was unbelievable with the Grand Master presenting a check to the Giants Community Fund for over \$27,000.00 at home plate. This allowed the Junior Giants to purchase over 1350 new gloves for needy boys and girls. Over 30,000 fans witnessed this great event at AT&T Park while being shown in real time on the jumbo screen. What a win-win for everyone that evening last August!

Our web site <http://www.masons4mitts.org> is up, running and it is the best way to give, and each gift is given a printed receipt, but as the Wolf Man use to say, "We'll take cash, check or money order." For only a \$20.00 donation a young boy or girl will be given an opportunity to play baseball, with glove in hand, and a life time of memories. It isn't about the Lodges giving but about the members, their family, friends and business's giving to this great cause, not to mention it is Tax Deductible. But you can mail in whatever amount from \$5.00 \$10.00, \$20.00 or more to: Masons4Mitts, 1111 California St, San Francisco CA 94108-2284, remember to note "SF Sluggers" on your gift.

On Tuesday evening, August 24 the Grand Master will once again be standing on Home Plate at AT&T Park, with check in hand, waiting for that one moment in time! As Masons we will not be

remembered by our words, but by our kind deeds... Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath.... See you at the Game.

Fraternally,  
David G. Walda, Master

## FROM THE WEST

By Vrej M. Mekhalian, P.M.



### Harry Blackstone, Sr.

Original name: Harry Bouton

Birth: Sep. 27, 1885

Death: Nov. 16, 1965

Magician and Author. Perhaps the most innovative magician after Houdini, Harry Blackstone (born Harry Bouton) started doing magic at the age of eight after receiving a magic kit for a birthday present and seeing a performance by the great Harry Kellar. He began his career professionally in 1904, and following Houdini's death, Blackstone would become the most well-known magician in America in the 1930s. His shows mixed small-scale slight of hand and elaborate prop-based illusions, and he pioneered such now-classic routines as the "buzzsaw illusion", "dancing handkerchief", "floating lightbulb", and his unique "frames of paper" illusion where he would smash his hand through a framed sheet of paper and withdraw various objects, livestock, and even his wife seemingly out of nowhere. In the 1940s, Blackstone toured 165 military bases with the USO. In 1942, Blackstone performed perhaps the greatest illusion of all time at the Lincoln Theater in Decatur, IL. In mid-performance, he announced that the next trick was so elaborate that the audience would have to adjourn in an orderly manner to the street outside to witness it, and he ushered the patrons out row by row. Upon reaching the outside, the audience learned how great a trick had been played on them—Blackstone had learned that the theater was on fire, and his efficient evacuation had probably saved lives. Blackstone would retire from touring in the 1950s, but would continue to make television and other appearances for the rest of his life, including a memorable interview with Edward R. Murrow on "Person to Person" and a surprise feature on "This is Your Life." (bio by: Stuthehistoryguy)

# FROM THE SOUTH

By Patrick J. Burke, P.M.

I would like to thank the Master and Senior Warden for hosting a night in my honor. I did not know what to expect but was pleasantly surprised by the energy and uniqueness of the event. I must admit my dance with the Belly Dancer took a good deal of that energy. Although my dancing was suspect, the performer was indeed very excellent. I also want to thank all who attended and hope they had an enjoyable evening.

Five years is a long time to serve as Master, and I came away with some very definite feelings about the Oriental Chair and the Lodge. The Master is the final arbiter. His decision determines the present as well as the future direction of the lodge. These decisions often weigh heavily on the Master as he knows there are those who agree and those who disagree. However, the manner in which the membership accepts these decisions is directly related to their understanding of the craft, and its basic principles. This is not a social club. As the saying goes: it is a cut above the norm. It is a fraternity built upon Masonic philosophy assembled over hundreds of years. When men understand that and follow their obligations, they understand the framework within which the Master works. They also recognize the need to treat their brothers with respect. With respect comes an appreciation of each other as human beings. It is this atmosphere that allows the Master to lead and the brothers to follow. It is all there in the obligations and lectures of the three degrees.

Well, nice thoughts and words, but how do we create an atmosphere where the Master and the membership can work together and prosper. The answer is with strong ritual. A well performed degree with sideliners gives great support to the candidate and makes him feel that the Lodge believes in him and the craft. This opens him to new ideas. Ritual is the seed, whence planted, can lead members to recognize, comprehend, appreciate, and then identify with the principles of the Craft. Masonic Scholar, Brother George Draffen, writes, "It is no part of

the function of ritual to act as a medium of instruction. The function of ritual is to enshrine the teachings or dogma of the society to which it applies, in such a way as to be recognizable only to the initiated. It provides the neophyte with the background or framework upon which he must build the superstructures." [Southern California Research Lodge, May 1, 2010]

Golden Gate Speranza Lodge has had a reputation for strong ritual. I like to think this is the reason it has been for the most part a gentle and caring Lodge. Remember, for success there must be sacrifice. Officers must commit their time and energy. The Master and the officers must commit themselves to learning the ritual. The members must commit themselves to participation at degrees as well as Lodge functions. And lastly, the Master, officers, and members must understand their obligations and pass these ideas on to new members. Talk to them. Teach them how the Lodge operates. Tell them why you are a Mason. Talk about their obligation. With knowledge comes understanding. Hence, the next time the Master makes a decision, you and they will understand his actions.

So now you know! See you at lodge.

## SUPPORT YOUR MASONIC YOUTH ORDERS

*All Masons welcome to attend the meetings of our Youth Orders*

### San Francisco Chapter, Order of DeMolay

Meetings on the 1st & 3rd Friday's of each month 7:30 PM  
Golden Gate Masonic Center

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

Meetings on the 2nd & 4th Friday's of each month 7:30 PM

### 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 months of July and August.

### JULY

Rodney E. Lotspeich .....	6
Carl H. Holzinger, Jr. ....	13
Arakel S. Derounian, PM .....	17
Robert M. Valera .....	19
Victor H. Raineri .....	21
Platon Kavvadias .....	21
Kenneth W. Kyle, PM .....	24
Michael H. Dillon .....	29
Joe L. White .....	30

### AUGUST

William B. Bellamy III, PM .....	3
Ephthemes J. Chituras .....	8
Robert S. Hansen .....	8
James E. Ryan .....	8
Arthur Guerrazzi .....	9
William L. Batty .....	10
Vrej M. Mekhalian, P.M. ....	12
Robert L. Moore, P.M. ....	13
Donald W. Bierey .....	13
Robert R. Tweedie .....	14
Henry Dosdorian, Jr. P.M. ....	17
Louis E. Hutzler .....	22
James Poulos .....	22
Edward F. Belluomini .....	22
Patrick J. Burke, P.M. ....	23
James J. Kamariotis .....	24
Gerald S. Rinker .....	26
Frank Feldman .....	28
Bryan J. Clifton .....	31

*Brethren celebrating their birthday are invited for a complimentary dinner.*



*Happy  
4th of  
July*