

WLN20 Trestle Board

July 2023

FROM THE EAST – MAURO LARA – WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Hello Brethren, Family, and Friends.

Well, as most news programs typically start by talking about the weather, I'll continue in that same tradition. It is hard to believe that we are now in summer. By this time last year, our area in the Sacramento Valley experienced 14 days of over 95 degrees weather in June, of which 11 days were well over 100 degrees. Is it me, or do we seem to be having a milder start to the summer season? In either case, enjoy the good weather as we enter our annual patriotic celebrations commemorating the 247th anniversary of our country. More a little later.

Currently, I'll highlight upcoming events and activities in the near term.

EVENTS THIS MONTH (JULY)

Above and beyond the 4th of July celebrations, there are some activities that our Lodge is looking forward to.

As I have mentioned in various articles, we are most honored to be celebrating a reception for our very own **Worshipful Joseph Dongo (PM)** in recognition of his service this Masonic year as Grand Standard Bearer. We aren't often blessed with having a Brother from our Lodge serve as a Grand Officer. Few are more involved and well positioned for the Office than Worshipful Dongo, and very much deserving of recognition by our Lodge. Please join us in his honor at the dinner and program that will be held on July 20, with dinner at 6:00 pm and the program at 7:00 pm in the ballroom on the third floor. Grand Lodge officers are attending including the **Grand Master, Most Worshipful Randy Brill**. See you there.

On July 29, 2023, from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM, we will be hosting a **Ladies' Luncheon** at our Club Room on the third floor that will comprise Bingo and Wine Tasting. This is, once again, to honor our ladies and to thank them for their support of our Fraternity and our time commitments to the Lodge. I know our activities and events take us away from time at home and we want to

recognize our ladies for that encouragement. The lunch will be simple, pizza, but this will be a most interesting combination with the wine tasting. Please join us, like the last Ladies' Luncheon. This promises to be a lot of fun.

EVENTS NEXT MONTH (AUGUST)

On August 12, our **Annual Family BBQ Picnic** will be held at Ben Ali Shrine. It is scheduled to start at noon with great fellowship and fun games. Be sure to have this on your calendar, as it is a traditionally enjoyable event with a lot of entertaining activities.

The following Saturday, August 19, our Lodge will participate in supporting the **River City Food Bank** by offering time and service in the distribution of food to those less fortunate. I highly encourage you to participate. This is a very comfortable and significant way of providing service to make the life of others better. The scheduled time is 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This is a good opportunity to invite others outside our Lodge to observe some of the good work we do in our community. Can we count on you to join us in support of this?

FUTURE EVENTS

- **Annual Past Masters Night** on Sept 21
- **Constitutional Observance Night** on Sept 28



FOUNDING FATHERS AND FREEMASONRY

The Influence of Freemasonry on Our Founding Fathers

When examining the history of the United States and the individuals who laid the foundation for this great nation, it becomes clear that Freemasonry played a significant role in shaping the ideals and principles that guided our founding fathers. Freemasonry, a fraternal organization that promotes moral and ethical values, had a profound influence on many of the key figures of the American Revolution and the subsequent establishment of the United States.

Several of our founding fathers, such as **George Washington**, **Benjamin Franklin**, and **John Hancock**, were Freemasons. They were active members of their local lodges and held important positions within the organization. This affiliation with Freemasonry provided them with a unique network of like-minded individuals who shared a common belief in the importance of personal virtue, civic duty, and the pursuit of knowledge.

One of the fundamental tenets of Freemasonry is the belief in the inherent rights and dignity of the individual. This principle strongly resonated with our founding fathers and played a crucial role in shaping their vision for a new nation. The Masonic emphasis on equality, liberty, and justice greatly influenced the development of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. The idea that all men are created equal and possess certain unalienable rights was a core concept derived from the Masonic teachings.

Moreover, the symbolism and rituals of Freemasonry had a profound impact on the iconography and architecture of the early United States. The eye of Providence, the unfinished pyramid, and other Masonic symbols can be found in various national emblems and government buildings, such as the Great Seal of the United States and the layout of Washington, D.C. These symbols serve as a testament to the enduring influence of Freemasonry on our nation's identity.

It is important to note that while Freemasonry influenced the thinking of our founding fathers, it is not accurate to claim that the United States was founded as a purely Masonic enterprise. The principles and ideals put forth by Freemasonry were combined with other Enlightenment philosophies, classical republicanism, and a deep respect for ancient Greco-Roman ideals of democracy and civic virtue.

The influence of Freemasonry on our founding fathers cannot be understated. The fraternity's emphasis on personal morality, individual rights, and the pursuit of knowledge helped shape the ideals that laid the groundwork for the United States of America. While not the sole driving force behind the American Revolution and the establishment of our nation, Freemasonry provided an intellectual and philosophical framework that helped guide our founding fathers in their quest for independence and the creation of a democratic society.

The principles espoused by Freemasonry continue to resonate in our society today, reminding us of the importance of virtue, equality, and freedom. The legacy of the Masonic influence on our founding fathers serves as a testament to the enduring impact of fraternal organizations in shaping the course of history.

IN CLOSING

To bring a smile to you:

Question: Did you hear the one about the Liberty Bell?

Answer: Yeah, it cracked me up!

Question: Where is the Capital in Washington D.C.?

Answer: at the beginning!

Smile

Happy Independence Day!



FROM THE WEST – MATT MASON – SENIOR WARDEN

Brethren,

As the final and highest honor in Freemasonry, the Master Mason Degree symbolizes man's maturity through increased knowledge and wisdom. It is the culmination of all he has learned through the first degrees, including how to prepare for spiritual enlightenment through the Craft's teachings.

In the Third Degree, a candidate now learns to act with courage, fidelity, and devotion to the Supreme Architect. The Master Mason ritual emphasizes the immortality of man's soul and encourages us to contemplate how this should influence our actions and decisions.

One of the more important lessons I learned in my journey was that of mortality and not to fear it. For me, it means to act always in the interest of others and what my mark on man and society will be in the end.

During our lives, we are given chances to reflect on this. Sometimes it is because we are in deep conversation with friends and other times it is hoisted on us by life events. No matter what the reason, when it does hit, you take the time to explore what your mark will be.

Will it be that of creating a family that will carry on your values to the next generation? Will it be people remembering your acts of charity to children or others? Will it be that you were that friend that your fellow man could lean on without question?

All of those are great admirations but is definitely not an exhaustive list.

I encourage you to think about what you want to leave with this world. It is one of the things that make you a Mason and a quality others see in us. And the question of what that legacy it will mean for you is absolutely up to each Mason to answer.

FROM THE SOUTH – JOE WALLACH – JUNIOR WARDEN

Masonic education is the study of Masonic values, history, symbols, and myths. It also encompasses lessons in leadership, self-improvement, and community building.

The Grand Lodge's online educational resources help members learn more about Freemasonry and the daily business of leading a lodge.

- [Masonic education events](#) - View a complete listing of upcoming symposia, conferences, colloquiums, and more.
- [Videos](#) - Access a variety of original documentary films about the fraternity and its history.
- [Henry Wilson Coil Library and Museum of Freemasonry](#) - Grand Lodge of California's on-site library and museum offers a wealth of online resources for researchers.

Research lodges and organizations

Research lodges and organizations in California and worldwide hold discussions, gather and preserve Masonic information, maintain libraries, supply papers, and speakers at the request of other lodges, and provide general knowledge in the field of Masonic education.

Research lodges in California include:

- El Camino Research Lodge - San Jose
- [Northern California Research Lodge - San Francisco](#)
- Orange County Research Lodge - Anaheim
- [Southern California Research Lodge - South Pasadena](#)
- [Golden Compasses Research Lodge - Sacramento](#)

Research organizations around the world include:

- [The Masonic Society](#)
- [The Philalethes Society](#)
- [The Masonic Restoration Foundation](#)
- UCLA Freemasonry and Civil Society Program
- [The Scottish Rite Research Society](#)



Masonic Education

Francisco Marques (PM) - Secretary

Brethren,

I recently came across a fascinating article by WB [Arturo de Hoyos](#), 33° Mason, and Grand Archivist and Grand Historian of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, entitled **Our Scottish Rite Blue Lodge Ritual**, from which I here share a few excerpts with you:

"One of the pleasures of Masonic membership is the opportunity to visit lodges in other jurisdictions. With few exceptions, the Grand Lodges in the United States work rituals that have much in common, although small differences in language and action may be experienced. This is because the form of Blue Lodge ritual generally used throughout the United States owes much of its uniformity to the work of [Thomas Smith Webb](#) (1771-1819), author of [The Freemasons Monitor or Illustrations of Freemasonry](#) (1797), which was the first guidebook to the American Freemasonry. If, however, you have seen Pennsylvania's "Ancient York Masonry," you know that ritual is not the same everywhere. An even bigger surprise awaits those who see a Scottish Rite Blue Lodge ritual for the first time.

Why are there different versions?

Webb's rituals were partially based upon the book [Jachin and Boaz](#) (1762), which claimed to reveal the ritual of the "Moderns" Grand Lodge, founded in London in 1717. Webb promoted his ritual by teaching it to students who preserved the text by making their own copies as *aides-mémoire* (the ancestor of today's ritual cipher texts), several of which still survive today.

Written as "ciphers," they usually were inscribed with one to three letters representing each word. Webb's students traveled around the United States as itinerant degree lecturers, paid to teach Masonic rituals to other students and sometimes also paid to give the lectures in local lodges. This became a common practice at the time.



The preface to Webb's **Freemason's Monitor** noted, "The whole are here digested and arranged in such order, through the several degrees, from **Entered Apprentice** to **Royal Arch Mason**, that they will be easily understood..."

He thus not only created a model work for the **Blue Lodge** (a.k.a. Craft or Symbolic Masonry) ritual, but he also laid the foundation for, and was the driving force behind, the creation of the **York Rite**. Today, most American Grand Lodges continue to have their own unique forms of ritual, although most show Webb's influence.

Since its founding in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1801, the **Scottish Rite** has required Blue Lodge membership, and its members joined, as they still do today, at the Fourth Degree, **Secret Master**. However, in 1804, a unique Scottish Rite Blue Lodge ritual was created in France. For more than 220 years, the Scottish Rite Craft ritual has become the most popular form in terms of distribution. It is used in more Grand Lodges than any other form of ritual.

Curiously, the ritual's sources and origins remained unknown until discovered by Brother **Pierre Noël**, who described them in his critical edition of the **Guide des Maçons Écossais** (Paris, 2006). Brother Noël explained that in the archives of the Supreme Council for Belgium, he discovered a 48-page Scottish Rite ritual of the **First Degree Apprentice** (*Rit ancien accepté. Premier Grade d'apprentif*), stamped with the seals of the "**Scottish Triple Unity Lodge**" (Triple Unité Écossaise), in Paris, which seals are dated 1804.

One of the distinguishing characteristics of the Scottish Rite is that its rituals are more dramatic and esoteric than the Webb-form rituals. To be sure, the Scottish Rite's rituals share many similarities with Webb-form Freemasonry, in terms of the working tools, regalia, and accouterment, but there is purposeful attention devoted to exploring and explaining such things as the symbolism of numbers, the elements, and the planets in terms of Masonic philosophy.

Webb-form rituals generally provide ceremony and symbolism, whereas the Scottish Rite occasionally adds a deeper analysis by comparison to other practices and philosophies. Its lessons are sometimes akin to a course on comparative philosophy and religion, which aids participants as they compare and contrast and perhaps discover a personal harmony of ideas, or points of intersection, which may add value to the Masonic experience.

Although any Grand Lodge can permit the use of any ritual, there are only a few that work the Scottish Rite ritual. Yet the number is growing. Today in the United States, there are Scottish Rite Blue Lodges in California, New York, D.C., and elsewhere.

Readers familiar with Pike's many addresses and lectures already will know the high regard in which he held rituals of Craft Masonry. His devotion to Blue Lodge Masonry also led him to write what many consider his most important work, **Esoterika: The Symbolism of the Blue Degrees of Freemasonry** (1888).

Although Grand Lodges had approved using a Scottish Rite Blue Lodge ritual, it was not until 1868 that the Southern Jurisdiction developed a version of its own. Albert Pike's high regard and the desire to have a complete system resulted in his Blue Lodge ritual, which he named **The Porch and the Middle Chamber: The Book of the Lodge**.

How important is it to study these rituals?

In 1882, **Albert Pike** took it upon himself to answer this question: "For if men can never have the Rituals to study, they can never be fully and perfectly invested with the Degrees."

La Parfaite Union Lodge No. 17 - founded in 1851 and located in San Francisco - conducts Degree Ceremonies in an ancient Ritual very similar to the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite's Degrees.

Early next year, that *loge maçonnique* will be performing a very special First Degree in the Sacramento Area, and Brethren from all over California will be invited.

This is a unique experience with Masonic Ritual performed entirely in the French language, and an occasion that should not be missed by our Brethren.

The event will be open to all regular Masons in good standing and reservations required.

As done in the past, each Brother should bring his own Masonic Apron and current Dues Card, as this will be a tiled event.

Additional details will be forthcoming as they become available.

Washington Lodge No. 20

Mission Statement

To practice and promote a way of life that binds like-minded men in a worldwide brotherhood that transcends all religious, ethnic, cultural, social and educational differences.

Through Masonic principles and tradition, and by the outward expression of these through its fellowship and compassion, Washington Lodge No.20 Free & Accepted Masons provides ways in which to serve God, family, country, neighbors, and self in an environment that contributes to the enrichment and betterment of its members, mankind, and its communities.