

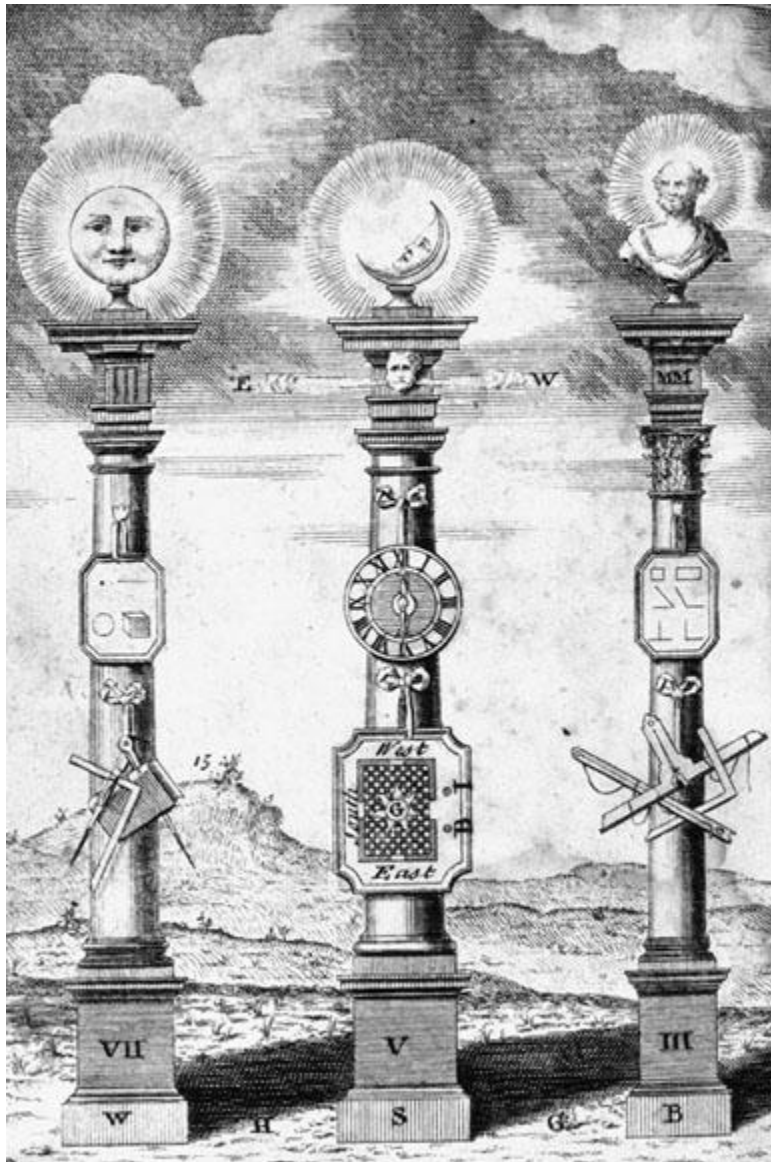


Vista Masonic Lodge No. 687



February 2022

Trestleboard



From the East



by **Worshipful Ken Johnson**



2022 has already finished its first month and I am excited for this year. Behind the scenes, your line is getting ready for upcoming degrees, and we are lining up many great events. So, if you haven't already, check and like the Facebook page, download the Band App, and get in the know. Please reach out to any of your officers if you need assistance. It has also been exciting to see brothers come back after a long hiatus and others visiting our lodge. Life is returning to the lodge and we have more surprises in store for you. We look forward to seeing more of you coming back soon. Please be safe and know we are here for you. See you in the lodge.

From the West

by **Brother Steve Lerner, Senior Warden**



As I write this I hope you all had a safe and happy holiday season enjoying all the parties and celebration with families. We are sadly reminded that this COVID thing hasn't left us and San Diego is seeing record numbers of new cases and hospitalizations. Please be safe and take care of yourself and family.

I want to tell you how enthused and honored I am to serve as your Senior Warden. The Master and Junior Warden and I are striving to charge the lodge with events and fellowship. I invite you to give us your thoughts on an event you would like to see this year whether one time or recurring. One thing we want to work on is a Brothers Night

for socializing.

I also wanted to check and see how your new year's resolutions were progressing? Did you make any? Well I have a great resolution for all of us. Let's all be resolved to greater attendance at lodge events. Certainly both a very enjoyable resolution and one that is easy to keep. See you in lodge!!

From the South

by **Brother Sevan Serafino, Junior Warden**



Wisdom, Strength, and.....Beauty?

Next time you're in the Lodge room, take a gander at the banners that adorn the lecterns of the three pillar's chairs. In the Master's chair you'll see *Wisdom*" In the Senior Warden's chair, you'll see *Strength*. And, finally, in the South, you'll see *Beauty*. When it comes to Lodge leadership, and the mysteries of Freemasonry in general, we can easily make connections to the words *wisdom* and *strength*. Strong and wise are how most Masons would like to be known. But what of *beauty*? In modern nomenclature, we might think of beauty in terms of

attractiveness - whether it be the visual appeal of works of art, or the visual appeal of a person. But like anything in Freemasonry there's more to it than that.

The answer lies in numbers, and more particularly in geometry. How does geometry or math have anything to do with beauty? What is the geometrical definition of beauty? The answer is this: **geometrical beauty is symmetry**. In nature, symmetry is appealing to the eye in most cases. But it's not appealing to the eye for the sake of appeal alone. Nature isn't concerned with superficial characteristics, and neither is any man that would call himself a Mason. Symmetry is mathematical beauty. Symmetry signals proportionality, it signals balance; and, in terms of morality, it signals a Mason's emulation of that goodness and grace we learn from our Craft. And this is the connection that Masonry implores men to be attentive to in their personal lives. Balance. As Masonry endeavors to make good men better, it makes those men better not just for the sake of Masonry or their conduct in the Lodge, but for their families, their communities, and their service to their faith, whatever that may be. Beauty is balance, and we hope, a symmetrical reflection of applied morality outside of the Lodge.

Think on how you apply Beauty in your lives both inside and outside of the Lodge.

The Secretary's Desk



by **Worshipful Tom Colgan, PM**

Brethren, Thanks to all those who were prompt in getting their dues payments in on time. We have to keep pushing though as we still have 30 brothers who have not yet paid their dues. Please remember, your dues keep the lodge operating and paying its bills.

There are three ways you can pay your dues:

Send a check for \$220 payable to Vista Masonic Lodge to the lodge address at the bottom of this Trestleboard.

Go online to iMember (member.freemason.org), login and pay your dues then print out your dues card.

Bring \$220 cash or check to the meeting!

Are you interested in never paying annual dues again? Contact me about a Life membership!

Are you on the BAND mobile app?? On your phone or tablet, download the free BAND app from your app store. Once you have it downloaded, call or text us and we can send you the link for the lodge app. There is also a Band app for Helix Council, Wohlfarth Chapter RAM, and one for all North County Masons. It's like the previous app we had before the GL switched to iMember.

The Chaplain's Chair

by **Brother Tom Spears, Chaplain**

In most Masonic jurisdictions, each lodge has a Chaplain. The primary duty of the Chaplain is to lead opening and closing prayer for the lodge meeting, and to say grace while the lodge gathers for dinner. In many lodges this position is filled by a clergyman, an ordained brother minister, priest, rabbi, imam, etc. but the only requirement is that the Chaplain BE a brother of the Lodge. I, your Chaplain, am not ordained, although for about a three-year term I was an elder at a church in Oceanside.

I aspire to do more than just lead the opening and closing lodge prayers and say grace at the stated meeting dinners, and this is where you can help me. Do you have any issues that could be helped with prayer? I am a firm believer in the power that prayer can bring to any situation (except for any sporting event outcome, get real.) You can ask me for examples that I have personally seen.

For that matter, are there issues with which you need any kind of help? I am not an expert in all things (regardless of what I have hinted about in the past) but if you need help, you first must recognize that you ALSO are not the expert in all things. Brothers, it's well documented that Masons are quick to help others, but a lot slower to ask for help when needed. Let's break that habit. "Refusing to ask for help when you need it is refusing someone the chance to be helpful" – Ric Ocasek (It's stealing another's blessing.)

This is why we have committees. The work that a Lodge undertakes cannot be done by just the Master, he needs the help of the brethren. Proverbs 11:14 reminds us that "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety."

“Be strong enough to stand alone, smart enough to know when you need help, and brave enough to ask for it.” – Ziad K. Abdelnour

“Help! I need somebody

Help! Not just anybody

Help! You know I need someone, help! “- Lennon and McCartney

Help me help you. Help us help others.

And finally, one we should all be familiar with: Matt 7:7 “Ask, and it will be given to you, seek, and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you.”

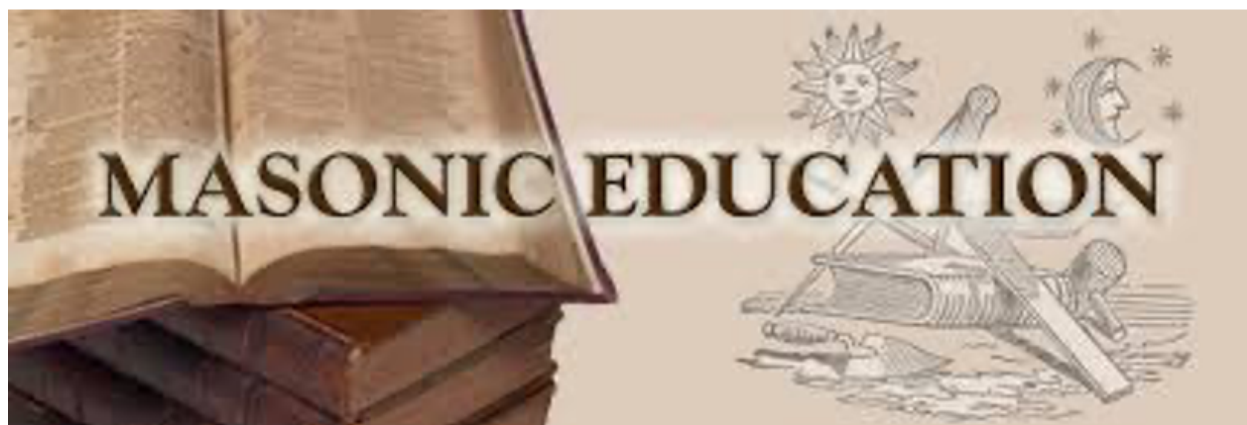
I look forward to hearing from you and serving as your Chaplain.

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Lodge Announcements

Remember to regularly check the website. We will not be regularly updating the website with events, as well as engaging blog posts!

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A Foundation Stone shared by **Brother Steve Lerner, Senior Warden**

This Short Talk has been adapted from a pamphlet published by the Grand Lodge A.F.& A.M. of Illinois, entitled, What Can a Mason Tell a Non-Mason About Freemasonry.

The ancient traditions of Freemasonry permit you to influence your qualified sons, friends and co-workers to petition for the degrees. There is absolutely no objection to a neutrally worded approach being made to a man who is considered a suitable candidate for Freemasonry. After the procedure for obtaining membership in a Masonic Lodge is explained, there can be no objection to his being reminded once that the approach was made. The potential candidate should then be left to make his own decision and come of his own free will.

One of the most misunderstood of the laws of Freemasonry is the rule that prohibits the solicitation of a candidate by any Mason. Every man who enters the portals of a Masonic Lodge must come of his own free will and accord but he can only come if he knows of the opportunity.

So far ingrained in our Masonic law is the rule against solicitation that it has unquestionably caused most Masons to refrain completely from discussing Freemasonry with friends and acquaintances who are not Masons. Don't let that happen to you.

The failure of the Masonic institution to make known to the public, that is to non-Masons, its principles and its purposes has, in the past, resulted in both

suspicion and antagonism toward Masonry. People are naturally inclined to be suspicious or fearful of those things of which they are ignorant.

Freemasonry is not a secret society, but is rather a society which possesses certain secrets. A really secret society is one in which the membership is not known. Freemasonry is quite well known to the uninitiated. We do not attempt to hide our membership. A large percentage of our membership wears pins or rings bearing well-known emblems of the Craft. We do not meet in secret places. We meet in Temples which are well marked as Masonic - often with neon signs bearing the square and compasses - and we meet at meetings which are quite well advertised.

What is actually supposed to be secret about the institution of Freemasonry is its ritual. Dr. Mackey's 23rd Landmark, 'The secrecy of the Institution,' embraces nothing more than it's ritual, which we must conceal and never reveal. The fundamental principles of Masonry which are taught by that ritual, however, are, or could be, well known, and most of them are not even principles peculiar to the Masonic institution.

The candidate for the mysteries of Masonry must always come to us of his own free will and accord, unbiased by friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, and he must so formally declare before he enters a Lodge room. It must be his own personal desire which brought him to the point of petitioning for the degrees of Masonry. An explanation of the charitable and character building attributes of Freemasonry to a worthy and well qualified person is not solicitation.

Probably the first question that would come to the mind of the uninitiated would be What is Freemasonry? We define it as a progressive moral science divided into different degrees. This definition probably would not satisfy and would mean practically nothing to the Non-Mason. Freemasonry might be defined to such a person as a fraternal society which is based on certain moral and religious doctrines the moral doctrines including Brotherly Love, Relief, Truth Temperance, fortitude, Prudence, and Justice and the religious doctrines comprising a belief in god and a future existence sometimes shortened to the statement of a belief in the fatherhood of god and the brotherhood of man.

There is no reason at all Why this subject should not be discussed quite freely with a non-Mason. The fact of the matter is that the philosophy of Masonry is freely discussed in thousands of printed volumes available to Masons and non-Masons alike.

One question which often comes from non-Masons is this: 'How does one become a member? Why have I not been asked to join? In any such discussion, of course, the non-Mason should be told that, unlike the members of other fraternal organizations, Masons are forbidden to solicit any one to become a member, and that any prospective member must apply of his own free will and accord and further, that he must pass a unanimous ballot for admission. It must be free will and accord on both sides.

One question which any non-Mason might ask, and which can be freely discussed with him, is the relationship of Masonry to religion and to the churches of any denomination. Masonry has two fundamental religious tenets - a belief in God and a belief in a future existence, or, as it is phrased in Mackey's Land-marks, a belief in the resurrection to a future life.

The inquirer should be told that Masonry is not a religion in any sense of the word but it is religious, and that no atheist can ever be made a Mason. As the Old Charges approved in 1723 put it, If he rightly understands the art, he will never be a stupid atheist nor an irreligious libertine. In those charges, under the heading of Concerning God and Religion it was said:

But though in ancient times Masons were charged in every country to be of the religion of that country or nation, what-ever it was, yet it is now thought more expedient only to oblige them to that religion in which all men agree, leaving their particular opinions to themselves that is, to be good men and true. or men of honor and honesty, by whatever denominations or persuasions they may be distinguished whereby Masonry becomes the centre of union, and the means of conciliating true friendship among persons that must else have remained at a perpetual distance.

Masonry does not require membership in any church as a condition of membership in a Lodge. On the other hand, membership in any church is no bar to admission to Masonry. There is nothing in the requirements of Masonry to prevent a Roman Catholic, a Mohammedan, a Buddhist, a Mormon, a Protestant, or a member of any religious sect from becoming a Mason. Any bar is one prescribed by the church to which he may belong. For instance, while Masonry is not anti-Catholic, nevertheless until recently the Roman church had itself set up the ban of excommunication of any of its members becoming Masons, which edict had been repeated by the Popes since the year 1738. There is nothing wrong in telling a non-Mason that, or telling him that the discussion of sectarian religion is prohibited in every Masonic Lodge.

One might also ask whether Masonry is a political organization. He should be told that no political discussion would be permitted in any Masonic Lodge.

Here again we might refer to the Old Charges, where we are told:

'A Mason is to be a peaceful subject to the civil powers, wherever he resides or works, and is never to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against the peace and welfare of the nation, nor to behave himself undutiful to inferior magistrates for as Masonry hath been always injured by war, bloodshed and confusion, so ancient kings and princes have been much disposed to encourage the Craftsmen because of their peaceableness and loyalty, whereby they practically answered the cavils of their adversaries and promoted the honor of the fraternity, which ever flourished in times of peace.

In our jurisdiction, the rule that the discussion of politics and religion in Lodges is to be avoided has the force of an Ancient Land-mark.

Another question a non-Mason might ask is whether Masonry is a benefit society, like the many fraternal societies offering insurance and death benefits. This is something which can and certainly ought to be discussed, to avoid any misunderstanding by a prospective candidate. The inquirer should be told that we have no insurance benefits, and that while Masons are second to none in their charitable endeavors, as is evidenced by our Homes for the Aged and for Children, nevertheless it would be financially impossible for the Fraternity to care for all of its members. The minimum dues per year provide little surplus for any Lodge to render aid except to those in dire distress.

Another subject which could certainly be discussed with a non-Mason is the history of the Masonic society and its evolution from the Operatives, the builders of the Middle Ages, who created the great Gothic cathedrals, churches and other structures in the British Isles and on the continent of Europe. There are many interesting topics of Masonic history which are perfectly proper to be discussed and might possibly excite the interest of serious-minded listeners who are not Masons. The history of our Craft in America and the part which Masons played in the early history of our country is something of which we should all be justly proud. It is no secret and no Mason is prohibited from discussing it.

You should not discuss the ritual. Part of the fun of Freemasonry is the excitement and adventure of the ritual. You can explain that it is based in part upon the Holy Bible and that the ceremonies of Masonry are of a serious and dignified nature, without levity or horseplay. Certainly every candidate should be told this, and should be asked not to listen to the remarks of unthinking brethren about riding the goat and similar intimations that the candidate is entering into something like a high school fraternity. Such intimations are unworthy and untrue. Explain that Freemasonry is divided in-to three degrees and what is required to progress.



Masonic Quote and Inspiration

“There are no strangers in Freemasonry, only friends you’ve yet to meet.” – Author Unknown

“The strength of Freemasonry is in its loyalty to each other.” – Vasilios Karpos



Birthdays

Name	Birthday
Robert Fraser	2/1
Mel Card, PM	2/3
Tom Spears	2/10
Glen Vivas	2/10
Michael Hurm	2/11
Christopher Rhudy	2/15
John Rapp	2/18
Marco Pasco	2/21
Tom Colgam, PM	2/23
Eric Swenson, PM	2/27

Masonic Anniversaries

Name	Date Raised	Years of Membership
Salvador Ador	2/23/82	40
Robert Bishop	2/25/97	25
Frederick Arney	2/28/06	16
Mario Villejo	2/17/09	13
John Paul Yearwood	2/15/11	11
Eric Swenson, PM	2/8/11	11
Jonathan Brown	2/6/15	7
Christopher Rhudy	2/25/16	6

Upcoming Events*

*For the most up-to-date calendar, visit <https://vistafreemasons.org>

January 31st 2022, 6pm	Vista Hall Association Meeting	Vista Masonic Lodge #687 / ZOOM
February 1st, 2022, 6pm	Stated Dinner and Meeting	Vista Masonic Lodge #687
February 25th, 2022, 7pm	Movie Night at the Lodge	Vista Masonic Lodge #687
March 26th 2022	Golden Star Annual Rib Dinner	Vista Masonic Lodge #687

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



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<https://vistafreemasons.org>

Contact

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