

Gray Line



NEWSLETTER OF GRAY MASONIC LODGE No. 329, A.F. & A.M.

SEPTEMBER 2019

2370 BARKER OAKS DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77077

(713) 730-9329

CHARTERED JUNE 24, 1870

OFFICERS FOR 2019-2020

BILLY J. MORENO

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

TODD D. SMITH

SENIOR WARDEN

ERICKSON E. YBARRA

JUNIOR WARDEN

MARK S. HERZOG

TREASURER

DARRIN I. PITTS, PM

SECRETARY

DOUG W. HISSONG, PM

CHAPLAIN

GARY A. WIENER

SENIOR DEACON

STEVEN E. COBB

JUNIOR DEACON

LUIZ A. SORIANO

SENIOR STEWARD

JOSEPH L. HEREFORD

JUNIOR STEWARD (PRO TEM)

SCOTT K. BULKLEY

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MASTER OF CEREMONIES

DAVID AGUILAR

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HOUSTON, TX 77094-8771

<http://www.GRAY329.org>

Greetings from the East



Brethren,

You may be aware that many Texas lodges face a financial crisis, and unfortunately Gray Lodge is no exception. The Grand Lodge's Endowed Member program, begun in the early 1980's when market returns averaged some 15 percent, was intended to relieve Brethren of the need to pay dues, and to provide income to their Lodges in perpetuity. For many years, a \$500 endowment would comfortably cover the Grand Lodge's per-capita assessment per member, and still return enough extra money to help each lodge cover its operating expenses.

Those days, sadly, are behind us. Grand Lodge law now caps endowment returns to Texas lodges at only five percent – and in a down market, the return can be even less. This means that the same \$500 endowment now returns at most \$25 each year to the lodge. Meanwhile, the Grand Lodge's per-capita costs have gone up, and are currently \$27.50 per member (only Life or 50-Year Members are exempt). This means that for those Brethren who bought their endowment long ago, not only does their endowment not contribute to the current operation of the lodge, but each one causes a net loss to the Lodge of \$2.50 per year.

Right now, Gray Lodge has 162 Endowed Members on its rolls, only 17 of whom have more than 50 years of Masonic service. Multiply 145 members by \$2.50 and you see the problem; not only do these endowments create a net debit for the Lodge, but there are no extra funds from the returns to contribute to lodge operating expenses. This leaves other, non-endowed Brethren to cover the lodge's operating costs, in the form of ever-escalating dues.

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Greetings From the East

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We do not suggest that current Endowments are not binding contracts with Gray Lodge. What we do suggest is that, because "charity begins at home", I ask each Endowed Member to consider increasing their contribution to Gray Lodge. There are two ways to do so, and either or both will help tremendously:

1. Increase the amount of your endowment.
The Grand Lodge permits members to increase their endowment in "units" of \$100.00. Even a five-unit increase in the amount of your endowment will cover our Grand Lodge per-capita costs, and help Gray Lodge meet its cash flow requirements for continued operation.
2. Join the Master's Club. All Gray Lodge members (including Endowed, Life, and 50-Year Masons) can join by contributing this year's dues to the Lodge, in addition to their regular dues or endowment. This year's "149 Club" provides extra income to the Lodge to be spent at the Master's discretion, but only for the benefit of the Lodge (and for the Master's Club members). If you join the Master's club, I will recognize you at an upcoming Stated Meeting and present you with a special lapel pin, in appreciation of your extra support of Gray Lodge.

We are fortunate that Gray Lodge is financially solvent (for now), but our annual expenses exceed our income, and we regularly have to dip into our investment capital to cover necessary lodge expenses. Your additional financial support of Gray Lodge will help keep our Lodge, and our magnificent building, in top shape as we get ready to celebrate our 150th year of service to the people of Texas.

Please write to me at master@gray329.org if you have any questions, or to secretary@gray329.org to increase your support of the Lodge. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting very soon.

- Billy Moreno, Worshipful Master



♪ "I Saw The Sign ..." ♪

If you haven't driven past Gray Lodge's building on Barker Oaks for a while, you might find a little surprise on your next visit. After years of discussion, we can finally be identified from the street!

On Saturday, July 6, several Brethren came out on a scorching Saturday to install our new lettering from Gemini Sign. The white vacuum-formed letters are made from a special plastic that is guaranteed not to crack from sun exposure, which means that the lettering should help raise the profile of Gray Lodge for many years to come.

An unplanned benefit turned out to be that, when combined with the improved parking lot lighting installed by PM Al Florido, WM Billy Moreno and SW Todd Smith the previous month, the lettering can be seen clearly from the street even after dark!

Our thanks to the Brethren who endured lots of heat and sun to make this happen: WM Moreno, SW Smith, JW Erickson Ybarra, SD Gary Wiener, JD Steven Cobb, PM Mario Reyna, and new Master Mason Joey Hereford.

Future plans including a freestanding sign closer to the street (which will help visitors locate our driveway more easily), as well as upgrading the lodge's air conditioning units and finishing out the second floor of the lodge building.

Lots more exciting things are happening this Masonic year in preparation for our 150th Anniversary next June 24th, so please come out to your Lodge and check it out!

Gray Lodge Committees 2019-2020

Standing Committees

Arbitration (arbitration@gray329.org)

Chair WM Billy Moreno
Co-Chair SW Todd Smith
Member JW Erickson Ybarra

Building & Grounds Maintenance

(building@gray329.org)

Chair MS Scott Bulkley (Building Manager)
Co-Chair SD Gary Wiener
Members JD Steven Cobb, MC Brad Ledbetter, JW Erickson Ybarra, SS Luiz Soriano, JS Joey Hereford, TI David Aguilar

Communications (communications@gray329.org)

Chair SC Darrin Pitts PM
Co-Chair TR Mark Herzog
Members MS Scott Bulkley (IT), JW Erickson Ybarra, SD Gary Wiener

Finance (finance@gray329.org)

Chair TR Mark Herzog
Co-Chair SC Darrin Pitts PM
Members WM Billy Moreno, SW Todd Smith, JW Erickson Ybarra, JPM Al Florido

Fraternal Assistance (assistance@gray329.org)

Chair WM Billy Moreno
Co-Chair SW Todd Smith
Members JPM Al Florido, JW Erickson Ybarra, CH Doug Hissong PM, TR Mark Herzog, SC Darrin Pitts PM

Funeral (funeral@gray329.org)

Chair JPM Al Florido
Co-Chair CH Doug Hissong PM
Members WM Billy Moreno, TR Mark Herzog, SW Todd Smith, JW Erickson Ybarra, SD Gary Wiener, TI David Aguilar, MC Brad Ledbetter, JD Steven Cobb

Investment (investment@gray329.org)

Chair TR Mark Herzog
Co-Chair SC Darrin Pitts PM
Members SW Todd Smith, JW Erickson Ybarra, Mario Reyna PM, JPM Al Florido, Duke Isak (Investment Manager)

Masonic Education (education@gray329.org)

Chair SW Todd Smith
Co-Chair LI Doug Hissong PM
Members JW Erickson Ybarra, SD Gary Wiener, JD Steven Cobb, MU Kleber Siqueira, SS Luiz Soriano, JS Joey Hereford

Membership, Sickness & Distress

(membership@gray329.org)

Chair SW Todd Smith
Co-Chair JW Erickson Ybarra
Members JPM Al Florido, CH Doug Hissong PM, SD Gary Wiener, TI David Aguilar

Audit (audit@gray329.org)

Chair Mario Reyna PM
Members SW Todd Smith, SD Gary Wiener

Special Committees

Renovation

Chair WM Billy Moreno
Members MS Scott Bulkley, SW Todd Smith, JW Erickson Ybarra, JD Steven Cobb, Kevin Roberts PM

150th Year Celebration

Chair WM Billy Moreno
Co-Chair SW Todd Smith
Members JW Erickson Ybarra, SC Darrin Pitts PM, SD Gary Wiener, JD Steven Cobb

Awards (awards@gray329.org)

Chair JPM Al Florido
Co-Chair SC Darrin Pitts PM
Member WM Billy Moreno

Community Relations (community@gray329.org)

Chair WM Billy Moreno
Co-Chair SW Todd Smith
Members JPM Al Florido

By-Laws, Rules & Regulations

(by-laws@gray329.org)

Chair SW Todd Smith
Co-Chair JW Erickson Ybarra
Members SC Darrin Pitts PM, TR Mark Herzog, CH Doug Hissong PM

Fundraising (fundraising@gray329.org)

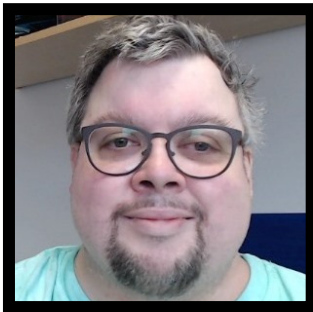
Chair TR Mark Herzog
Co-Chair SD Gary Wiener
Members JW Erickson Ybarra, SS Luiz Soriano, JS Joey Hereford, JD Steven Cobb, SW Todd Smith, TI David Aguilar, MS Scott Bulkley, MC Brad Ledbetter

Social Activities (activities@gray329.org)

Chair SD Gary Wiener
Co-Chair JD Steven Cobb
Members SS Luiz Soriano, JS Joey Hereford, MS Scott Bulkley, MC Brad Ledbetter, TI David Aguilar, MU Kleber Siqueira

Bro. William C. "Bill" Bradford II

November 5, 1974 — August 15, 2019



We are sad to report that Brother William C. "Bill" Bradford II laid down his working tools Thursday, August 15, 2019, after a long battle with cancer. He passed peacefully with his family at his bedside. In addition to his other professional and Masonic activities, Bro. Bradford was Gray Lodge's IT Specialist, and facilitated all of our Lodge's online outreach efforts.

Bro. Bradford was born November 5, 1974 and was initiated in Gray Lodge Oct. 9, 2008; passed Sept. 29, 2009; and raised a Master Mason on his birthday, Nov. 5, 2009. He was an endowed member of Gray Lodge. Bill was a renowned expert in UNIX and Sun Microsystems platforms, and shared his knowledge with everyone in his industry via websites and email lists that he hosted for free. He

also hosted our Lodge's website and email server for many years at no charge, as a service to his Brethren.

If Bro. Bradford personally kept a quiet profile, his work as a photographer is known by Masons around the world. In 2009, Bill took the iconic photograph of the dimly lit Gray Lodge lodgeroom that has been repurposed by dozens of lodges and websites globally (both with and without authorization). It is only fitting and proper that we remember Bro. Bradford, not only for his own substantial personal merits, but for the good light he shared with the Craft and the world via this legendary photograph.

A private funeral will be held in Oklahoma, and arrangements for Gray Lodge's memorial gathering are pending as of this writing. Please keep Bro. Bradford's family in your thoughts and prayers. Rest in peace, Brother Bill.



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Sept. Stated Meeting: DDGM Visit, Service & Honorary Awards

If you can, please be sure to attend our Stated Meeting on Wednesday, September 4. This promises to be a very special meeting:

- Gray Lodge will welcome D.D.G.M. R.:W.: Marvin Hass for his second official visit of the year. Brother Hass is an excellent speaker and we look forward to hearing him present the Grand Master's Message.
- WM Billy Moreno will present PM David A. Pupo with his 25-Year Service Award.
- Gray Lodge will award PM Ken Kirkpatrick the title of Chaplain Emeritus, in honor of his decades of selfless service to Gray Lodge.

Please join us at our usual times: dinner at 6:00 pm, with a Master Mason's Lodge to open at 7:00 pm. We hope all Brethren can join us for this truly special evening.



Clockwise from left: Joey Hereford, Cory Lawrence, Vigil Roxas with WM Billy Moreno

Our Three Newest Master Masons

You may be aware that during the past couple of years, Gray Lodge has seen an increase in the number of petitions and initiations of very worthy men. Our outreach efforts are bearing fruit, as your Lodge raised three Brethren to the sublime degree of a Master Mason during the month of August 2019:

Brother Joseph L. "Joey" Hereford was raised on August 8. This was a particularly memorable degree for all who attended, as it was exactly 11 years before, on August 8, 2008, that Bro. Hereford's Army unit was ambushed while on patrol in Sadr City, Iraq. While Bro. Hereford survived the attack, not all members of his unit were so lucky. We were particularly honored to help Joey turn a tragic anniversary into such a happy one.

Brother Cory L. Lawrence was raised on August 22. Bro. Lawrence has faced significant personal hardship since his initiation into Gray Lodge, but continued to work as hard as his schedule permitted. He overcame these setbacks to be raised just within the Grand Lodge-mandated deadline, and we are proud to welcome him as a member.

Brother Vigilante M. "Vigil" Roxas was raised on August 29. While working toward his MM degree, Bro. Roxas proved to be an invaluable help in the Lodge kitchen, assisting our Stewards in preparing, serving and cleaning up following our meals. His assistance prior to becoming a Master Mason was impressive, and we are happy that Vigil can now assume more formal responsibilities as a Gray Lodge member.

Chartered on June 24, 1870, Gray Lodge is Houston's second oldest Masonic Lodge. Gray Lodge No. 329 was constituted in the hall of Houston's first Masonic Lodge, Holland Lodge No. 1.

Our Lodge was named for William Fairfax Gray, who was in Texas as a land agent and attended the convention at "Washington-on-the-Brazos" in 1836 when Texas declared independence from Mexico. Gray moved his family from Virginia to Houston in 1837. He was by profession an attorney, and served as clerk of the Republic of Texas House of Representatives and the Senate in 1837 and 1838.

Over the years, our Lodge has been involved in a variety of community activities, from supporting education with scholarships to responding to relieving hurricane victims along the Gulf Coast. Gray Lodge No. 329 continues to serve the community and promote a spirit of brotherhood and good will.

UPCOMING LOCAL MASONIC EVENTS (Gray Lodge activities are [hyperlinked](#))

SEPTEMBER 2019

4	Wed.	Gray Lodge Stated Meeting	Gray Lodge	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
10	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge	7:30 pm
12	Thurs.	Education Round Table	Gray Lodge	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
14	Sat.	A.S. Richardson Lecture: Dr. Guillermo de los Reyes, <i>Freemasonry and Inquisition in Mexico</i>	Embassy Suites	Reception 6:30pm / Dinner 7:00 pm
16	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
19	Thurs.	Randall E. Briscoe Fall Workshop	Gray Lodge	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
24	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge	7:30 pm
25	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Reagan Lodge #1057	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
26	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	Scottish Rite Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
28	Sat.	Grand Lodge Forum & Exam	Billy W. Tinsley #1458	10:00 am

OCTOBER 2019

2	Wed.	Gray Lodge Stated Meeting	Gray Lodge	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
8	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge	7:30 pm
10	Thurs.	Education Round Table	Gray Lodge	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
21	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
22	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge	7:30 pm
23	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Reagan Lodge #1057	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
24	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	Scottish Rite Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm

NOVEMBER 2019

1	Sat.	Grand Lodge Forum & Exam	Holland Lodge #1	10:00 am
6	Wed.	Gray Lodge Stated Meeting	Gray Lodge	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
7	Thurs.	Grand Lodge Forum Only	Park Place Lodge #1172	6:00 pm
12	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge	7:30 pm
14	Thurs.	Education Round Table	Gray Lodge	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
16	Sat.	Grand Lodge Forum & Exam	Spring Lodge #1174	10:00 am
18	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
26	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge	7:30 pm
27	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Reagan Lodge #1057	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
28	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	Scottish Rite Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm

The most up-to-date calendar info is always available at <http://www.GRAY329.org/calendar>.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

SEPTEMBER 2019

1	Jack Green	10	T. Earl Long	21	David Black
4	Joseph Saber	10	Chris Stutsman	21	Pirtle DeGeurin Jr
5	Charles Janke	12	Brian Blowers	22	Bennett Irish
5	Gregory McCoy	12	Warren Ayres	22	Mark Vonderau
6	Ian Martin	16	Luiz Soriano	22	Mark Phelps
7	Fred Laughlin Jr	17	Roberto Sanchez	24	Ignacio Fantaguzzi
8	Willard Cox Jr	19	M. Polychronopoulos	25	Laurence Ames
8	Richard Fawcett	19	David Vukovic	29	Samuel Sikes
8	Andres Garza	19	Cory Lawrence	29	Norman Dow

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3	James Gilbert	11	Norman Peterson	22	Kenneth Knoblock
3	Lonnie Posey	11	Chester Presley III	23	Jason Pollick
4	Joseph Reynolds	15	Sergio Hernandez	24	Ken Kirkpatrick
5	Greg Stephens	16	Jimmy Precella III	26	Chris Spry
8	Ricardo Ramirez	16	Lawrence Rathbun	27	William Slater IV
8	Shearn Smith	19	Charles Sitton Jr	28	Noil Frisby
8	Brad Ledbetter	21	Miguel Grajeda Sr	30	Roland Milligan
10	Luis Massas	22	David Jurgens	30	Darrin Pitts

NOVEMBER 2019

2	Dwight Hollon	17	William Kent	24	Merle Zimmerman
2	Sonny Johnson	19	Michael Hill	25	Donald Beckner
4	Richard Hollinger Jr	20	Sean Martin	25	James Lyon
8	Alan Johnston	20	Alan Pugh	28	Lee Hooker
10	Hamlin Elrod Jr	21	Charles Moore	28	William Martin
11	Donald Keller Jr	21	Robert Reeder	29	Max Bowen
11	Roy Shaw Jr	21	Thomas Smith	29	Harry Fikaris
12	Alan Harnack	22	Danny Fuller Sr	29	William Page Jr
16	David Pupo	23	Chuck Mitchell		



"Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are in the dealings with one another; sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason."

~ Benjamin Franklin

Keep Us Posted

If you have moved, or updated your email address or phone number, please update your record at <http://grandlodgeoftexas.org> (in the Member Portal), call us at 713-730-9329, or email Bro. Darrin Pitts at secretary@gray329.org with your new information so we can stay in touch.

Also, please let the Secretary know if you have any personal announcements you would like us to pass along to the Brethren.

If you have suggestions for how we can continue to improve the Gray Line newsletter, please email them to Bro. Gary Wiener at sdeacon@gray329.org.

"Give the brethren a chance to do something, anything, no matter how small or unimportant. A brother convinced that he is helpful is enthusiastic."

~ Theodore Roosevelt

MASTER MASON ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER 2019

5	Dwight Hollon (2000)	15	Joe Draughn (1986)	22	James Hoffman Jr (2016)
6	Mark Vonderau (1984)	15	Larry Gabriel (1976)	22	Chris Spry* (1993)
7	Bob Martin Jr (2006)	15	Norman Peterson (1952)	23	Roy Shaw Jr (1964)
9	Edward Boe (1981)	15	Paxton Williams (1976)	24	Chris Haist (2015)
9	Alexander Dicaro Jr (1970)	17	Miguel Grajeda Sr (1977)	29	Merle Zimmerman (1971)
10	Norman Dow (1980)	18	Roger Castillo (2002)	30	James Gilbert (1967)
10	John McGalin (2015)	19	Abdel Fustok (2001)	<i>* Past Master of Gray Lodge</i>	
11	Gregory McCoy (1991)				

OCTOBER 2019

1	Shearn Smith (1951)*	11	Alvin Schimming (1978)	20	Richard Ferrari (2010)
1	Joseph Reynolds (2015)	11	Gary Wiener (1984)	21	Sean Martin (2010)
4	Samuel Ayers (2003)	15	William Page Jr (1986)	22	Darryl Puckett (1975)
4	Kleber Siqueira (1980)	16	Danny Fuller Sr (2008)	24	Richard Longino (2001)
7	Samuel Sikes (1971)	17	David Murray (1990)	25	David Englet (1956)
8	Jerry Chumley (1986)	17	Harold Pascoe (1980)	28	Keith Schmidt (1981)
8	Wayne Huddleston * (1986)*	18	Collin Wilson (2018)	29	Richard Rennison (1980)

** Past Master of Gray Lodge*

NOVEMBER 2019

9	Daniel Krukewitt (2006)	20	Jimmy Albers (1985)	29	Ernest Bugh Jr (1990)
12	Erickson Ybarra (2015)	20	Chuck Mitchell (2014)	29	Billy Moreno (2012)
13	Thomas Kenyon (2002)	20	Charles Percy (1999)	29	Mario Reyna* (1990)
15	Joseph Saber (1984)	20	Randon Reaves* (1999)	30	Bogdan Grosu (2011)
19	Mike Adal (1997)	21	Clarence Givens (1970)	30	Mamdouh Isak (1989)
19	Iain Clark (2003)	24	Leslie Jeko (1951)	30	John Minniece III* (1998)
19	David Cousins (2005)*	25	Charles Sitton Jr (1963)	30	Norman Tucker (1998)
19	Timothy Crump (2005)	26	Richard Fawcett* (2012)	<i>* Past Master of Gray Lodge</i>	
19	Joshua Perez (2015)	27	William Kent (1974)		
19	Roberto Sanchez* (2005)	28	Laurence Ames (1967)		

