

Gray Line



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

JANUARY 2020

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CHARTERED JUNE 24, 1870

OFFICERS FOR 2019-2020

BILLY J. MORENO

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

TODD D. SMITH

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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

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Greetings from the East



Brethren,

The beginning of each new calendar year marks a time for change, growth and improvement. I wish every one of you a happy new year, and hope joy and excitement find you and fill you in 2020.

One change coming to Gray Lodge in the New Year will be some renovations to our Lodge room and our dining hall. These changes will include necessary maintenance, repairs, and upgrades and will be aesthetically pleasing as well as functional.

Another change will be to kick our 150th-anniversary year (I hate the word "sesquicentennial") into high gear. You'll find some "save the dates" inside this edition of the Gray Line, and we'll get more information out to you as soon as it has been confirmed.

In 2020, we're also going to ramp up our offerings for Masonic education, and set aside more time to teach and improve our ritual work. Our Lodge instructors will be holding monthly "floor schools" for the rest of this Masonic year, so that any interested Brother can learn the ritual for opening and closing lodges, or for taking any part in any degree, in a low-pressure and low-anxiety setting.

Finally, I'll remind everyone that their membership dues for 2020 are now due. We apologize for not getting the dues statements out sooner, but sometimes our personal lives get in the way of even our noblest intentions; and for this we ask for your understanding and appreciate your patience. Having said that, every Mason is responsible for paying their dues on time, even in the absence of a written reminder. Please return your dues payment, or pay online at www.gray329.org (select the "Pay Your

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Greetings From the East

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Dues" link in the top menu).

If you are an Endowed, Life or 50-Year Member, please consider remitting the year's dues anyway, and become a member of the Master's "149 Club". When you pledge additional support, you definitely have my appreciation and my gratitude.

As Masons, we should always be in search for more light, and I will do my best to fill any dark voids, both in Gray Lodge and within myself, this year.

- Billy Moreno, Worshipful Master

2020 Proficiency Certificates

In 2019, we saw four members of Gray Lodge renew or obtain their certificates in ritual proficiency from the Grand Lodge of Texas for 2020, and hope to increase that number this year. Congratulations to:

PM WAYNE HUDDLESTON, "A" (Lifetime)

PM DOUG HISSONG, "A" (3-Year)

SD GARY WIENER, "A" (3-Year)

WM BILLY MORENO, "C"

Gray Lodge will begin hosting esoteric "floor schools" the second Thursday of each month remaining in this Masonic year. Please plan to join us at a "floor school" or upcoming Forum, because good Masons never pass up an opportunity to continue their quest for more light!

Gray Lodge's 150th Anniversary

The officers of your Lodge have already begun planning for Gray Lodge's upcoming Sesquicentennial Anniversary festivities. After much discussion, the Committee is pleased to unveil the 150th-year logo selected by W. M. Billy Moreno (displayed at right). Merchandise featuring this distinctive logo will be available for purchase soon.

Meanwhile, please save the following dates:



Celebrating 150 Years of Masonic Service

Wed., June 3, 2020—Sesquicentennial Stated Meeting

R.:W.: Paul D. Underwood is scheduled to join us in his expected capacity as M.:W.: Grand Master of Masons in Texas, along with a host of Masonic dignitaries. This will be a truly exceptional meeting, not only due to our Grand Visitors but because we will elect our officers for 2020-2021. We earnestly invite all Members of Gray Lodge (whether recently active or not) to join us for this very special, once-in-a-lifetime evening.

Sat., June 13, 2020—Sesquicentennial Dinner & Celebration

Plans, pricing and location are still being finalized, but we anticipate our gala celebration dinner will be held on this date. Details will be sent to all Brethren once final plans are set.

Sat., June 27, 2020—151st Installation of Officers

We'll start our second 150 years with a public installation, in accordance with Gray Lodge tradition, on the first Saturday following St. John the Baptist's Day. All members and their families are invited to join us.

Wed., July 1, 2020—First Stated Meeting of our 151st Year

Four days after installation, we'll be off and running with the new Masonic year!

Greetings From the South

Greetings brethren! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and rang in the new year with open hearts and open minds!

This time of the year inherently reminds us of endings and beginnings. This is the time for every man to audit his past year. What goals did you accomplish? What were your missed opportunities? Did you give everything you could in the moment it was required or requested? Did you make new friendships? Did you work to keep old ones? Do you look back on this year with pride or regret?

According to the Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, "All entities move and nothing remains still". To me, this means there is no "remaining the same". We either move forward or we move backward. So, I encourage you all to make a conscious decision to better yourself in some way this year. I don't mean the typical "work out more", "get a promotion", etc. It can be something small that you know will mean a lot to yourself, your family, or your friends.

Instead of kicking the old year to curb with blind optimism, I will remember the lessons learned and apply them going forward.

I wish you all a happy and prosperous 2020!



- Erickson Ybarra, Junior Warden

Upcoming Stated Meetings

If you can, please be sure to attend our Stated Meetings in the first quarter of 2020:

Wed., Jan. 8

Wed., Feb. 5

Wed, March 4

Please join us at our usual times: dinner at 6:00 pm, with an Entered Apprentice Mason's Lodge to open at 7:00 pm. (unless a Grand Lodge officer is making his official visit).

We hope all Brethren will join us.



Library & Museum Special Exhibit

For the past year, our Gray Lodge masonic library and museum has been in the process of rejuvenation. The books have been ordered, donations logged, and artifacts archived and displayed. While there is still much work to do, the library is now in a very usable condition and we hope you will visit us any Thursday evening

Gray Lodge is happy to host our first traveling exhibit in several years. The exhibit is entitled, "Jacob Böehme: Light Out of Darkness". The exhibit includes several old texts containing the writings and illustrations of the German philosopher and Christian mystic. In addition, there are artist engravings and pewter dishes.

Also included, and perhaps the most interesting, is an interactive portion of the exhibit made to recreate Böehme's experience of enlightenment.

The officers of Gray Lodge wish to thank Illustrious Brother Clint Stevens, 33° for loaning our library the exhibit.

DID YOU KNOW?

You know that Masons are found in all vocations. Did you know these brethren from the world of entertainment were Masons? Here's a partial list, including their Grand Lodge jurisdiction (all were raised as Master Masons except as noted):

LEGEND:

PHA = Prince Hall Mason
 ⚔ = Alive as of this writing

Brother	Jurisdiction	How you know him ...
William "Bud" Abbott	Michigan	American actor, producer, and comedian; part of the comedy team of Abbott & Costello.
Mel Blanc	Oregon	American voice actor, actor, and radio comedian. "Man of 1,000 Voices."
Joe E. Brown	Ohio	Slapstick comedian and comic actor with a famously large, rubbery mouth.
W. C. Fields	Penn.	Vaudevillian, juggler, writer and comic star of stage, radio, silent film and talkies.
Oliver Hardy	Florida	Comedian and actor, best known as half of the comedy team of Laurel & Hardy.
Emmett Kelly	Florida	Ringling Bros. Circus' most famous clown, "Weary Willie".
Bert Lahr	New York	Vaudeville and film comedian. Best known for "The Wizard of Oz".
Harold Lloyd	California	Physical comedy star of the silent screen era, who retired from show business to become Imperial Potentate of the Arabia Shrine.
Arthur "Harpo" Marx	Unknown	One of the Marx Brothers comedy team; brilliant mime and harpist.
Bob Monkhouse	England	British comedian and prolific game show host.
Mario Moreno ("Cantinflas")	Mexico	Mexican comedian best known in the U.S. for "Around the World in 80 Days".
Richard Pryor ^{PHA}	Illinois	Provocative stand-up comedian and actor.
Michael Richards ⚔	California	Comedian and actor best known for "Seinfeld". (Petitioned for the Mysteries after meeting Brother "Red" Skelton.)
Don Rickles	New York	"Insult" comedian and actor whose rapid-fire wit made him legendary.
Will Rogers	Oklahoma	Humorist, storyteller and actor.
Peter Sellers	England	British radio, film and TV comedian. (A lifelong Mason, but apparently never participated in Masonry beyond his three conferred degrees.)
Richard "Red" Skelton	Indiana	Stage, radio, film and television comedian, and brilliant clown. (Discovered by Brother Ed Wynn.)
Danny Thomas	New Jersey	Comedian and actor who founded St. Jude's Children's Hospital, before becoming a Mason in 1984.
Ed Wynn	Penn.	Radio comedian of the 1920s and 30s; became a dramatic actor in the 1950s, and appeared in several Walt Disney films, including "Mary Poppins".

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](#))

JANUARY 2020

8	Wed.	Gray Lodge Stated Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
9	Thurs.	Floor School - Opening & Closing	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
14	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
16-18	Thu-Sat	GLoT Annual Communication	Grand Lodge of Texas	
20	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
22	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Reagan Lodge #1057	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
23	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	Scottish Rite Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
25	Mon.	Alchemists Chili Cook-Off	Arabia Shrine Temple	8:00 am—4:00 pm

FEBRUARY 2020

5	Wed.	Gray Lodge Stated Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
11	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
12	Wed.	"Dinosaur" MM Degree	Houston Museum of Nat'l Science—Sugar Land	Degree 6:00 pm SHARP
13	Thurs.	Floor School - EA Degree	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
17	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
26	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Reagan Lodge #1057	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
27	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	Scottish Rite Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm

MARCH 2020

4	Wed.	Gray Lodge Stated Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
10	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
12	Thurs.	Floor School - FC Degree	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
16	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 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

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

"The secrecy of Masonry is an honorable secrecy; any good man may ask for her secrets; those who are worthy will receive them. To give them to those who do not seek, or who are not worthy, would but impoverish the Fraternity and enrich not those who received them."

~ William Howard Taft

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.

MASTER MASON ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY 2020

3	Thomas Hill (2013)	12	Chester Presley III (1983)	28	Kenneth Smart (1976)
6	William Nicholson (2002)	12	Robert Reeder (1959)	29	Jerry Argovitz (1969)
10	Thomas Baker Jr. (1951)	16	Mark Herzog (1991)	29	Charles McKinley (1982)
10	Brian Blowers (2013)	16	Myron Welsh (3016)	31	Ignacio Fantaguzzi (2013)
11	James Littlejohn (1978)	21	Thomas Bashforth (1967)	31	Jack Ivey (1996)
		28	Chad Mitchell (2016)		

FEBRUARY 2020

4	Al Florido (2013)*	15	Donald Beckner (1978)	25	Buddy Taylor (1976)
4	Lonnie Posey (2016)			27	Earnest Canterbury (1976)
5	Joseph Clampitte (1959)	16	Crawford Weir (1993)	28	John Rieger Jr. (1951)
5	David Vukovic (2009)	18	Frank Bissell (2013)		* Past Master of Gray Lodge
8	Alan Johnston (2006)	18	Roy Cook (1981)		
12	Todd Rovner (2003)	24	Valdemar Perez Jr. (1972)		

MARCH 2020

10	William Britt (1982)	14	Alex Trevino Jr. (1966)	27	Kenneth Wallis (1968)
10	Hamlin Elrod Jr. (1971)	15	Hugh Berry Jr. (1979)	28	Curtis Buchan (1950)
10	Frederick Schwartz (1982)	18	Zach Willner (2014)	28	Noil Frisby (1951)
10	Gregory Stephens (2005)	19	Roland Milligan (1986)	29	Lloyd Sherbert (1958)
13	Ricardo Abuabara (1974)	19	James Shafer (1986)	30	David Black (1983)
13	Kevin Roberts (2008)*	20	Daniel Boyd (2012)	30	Lawrence Rathbun (1983)
13	George Vaughan Jr. (1967)	20	Darrin Pitts (1991)*	31	David Jurgens (1982)
14	Willard Cox Jr. (2001)	21	Luiz Soriano (2019)	31	Cary Maurstad (1982)
		24	Iain Dobbie (1967)		* Past Master of Gray Lodge

