

Gray Line



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

SEPTEMBER 2020

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CHARTERED JUNE 24, 1870

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Greetings from the East



Brethren,

Although 2020 has brought us many unwanted roadblocks and headaches, I feel that all of us, and our Lodge, can emerge even stronger from this. As G. Michael Hopf wrote: "Hard times create strong men. Strong men create good times. Good times create weak men. And, weak men create hard times."

What is happening now is nothing new in the cycle of history. As long as you have your Brothers, you will never have to go through

anything alone. So, remember that Gray Lodge stands by to help you, and we are only a phone call or email away.

As you might imagine, the public health situation has forced us to indefinitely postpone all of our 150th Anniversary celebration activities. However, our intention to conduct these celebrations continues (even if we have to wait until the 151st year to do it), so we will keep you posted once we can reschedule the Grand Master's official visit and our Sesquicentennial Banquet.

By order of the Grand Master, we have resumed our regular Thursday evening schedule, along with dinner service at our Stated Meetings. Thanks to the incredible efforts of SS Hereford and JS Roxas, our dinner service is fully in compliance with the Governor's recommendations for restaurants and restaurant patrons.

We have two EA degrees coming up this Thursday, Oct. 1, and have six more Brethren who are eagerly awaiting their degrees, so everyone who wants to learn a part in a degree should plan to join us!

Thanks to all of our Officers for working hard to ensure the Lodge is well maintained throughout this difficult time, and for their preparations of great new Masonic programming once we can return to normal operations.

Stay safe, Brethren, and don't forget we are here to support you!

- Billy Moreno, Worshipful Master

In this issue:

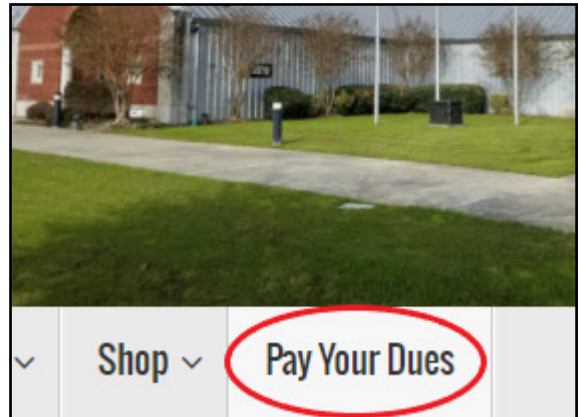
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- Membership Updates
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Pay Your Dues Online!

You can now pay your annual Lodge dues, join the Master's Club, or increase your Endowment online through the Gray Lodge #329 website! Go to <http://www.gray329.org> and in the navigation banner, just under the picture of our Lodge building, click "Pay Your Dues".

This link will take you to a page where you can make your dues payment via PayPal, either using your credit card or PayPal Account. (PayPal will add a small convenience fee.)

Our Secretary and Treasurer will be notified of your payment, and your dues card will be mailed to you as soon as we receive it from Grand Lodge.



Greetings from the South

Brethren,

Thank you for your patience as this issue of the *Gray Line* newsletter was unavoidably delayed in publication. The delay worked in our favor, though, as there is so much more good news to report than there might have been had this gone out as planned three weeks ago:

- On September 22, Grand Master Paul Underwood authorized Texas Lodges to resume called meetings, including conferrals of degrees. This essentially means that, so long as we adhere to social distancing guidelines, Gray Lodge may resume a normal schedule of operations.
- We have completed the display frame in the dining hall for certificates of esoteric proficiency. A bit of clean-up work remains, but all Lifetime and 50-Year proficiency certificates are now displayed, along with all current certificates and as many "A" certificates as we could fit. We hope this will inspire Brethren to become proficient in the memory work, not only to help out with degree teams, but also to increase the number of Masons who can teach the questions and answers to our initiates.
- We have, at long last, finished setting up online dues payment options. You'll find more information about our new options elsewhere in this issue.

The new State guidelines permit us to have up to 75 percent occupancy for our meetings - and as you know, we have plenty of space available in our Lodge room to ensure social distancing while we resume our Masonic labors. If your health permits, we hope we will see you soon at a Stated or Called Meeting, or during one of our Thursday work nights!

- Gary Wiener, Junior Warden





Everything Old is New Again ...

Gray Lodge's rich history of esoteric proficiency is, at long last, on display in our Dining Hall! Our Lifetime and 50-Year Proficiency Certificates are now out of storage and in a position of honor on our west wall, along with all currently-valid Proficiency Certificates and as many "A" Certificates as would fit. (We have reserved one Lifetime Proficiency Certificate spot for a Brother who has been awaiting just the right time to receive it ...)

Gray Lodge #329 has traditionally been thought of as "the Lodge where you go to see the Ritual done right." With our esoteric heritage on display, the Officers hope all Brethren will be inspired to pursue "that noble contention, or rather emulation", and obtain their Proficiency Certificates for display as well!

Upcoming area Grand Lodge Forums & Proficiency Certification Exams:

Sat, Oct. 3	Morton #72, Richmond	Forum 9:30 AM	Exam 12:30 PM
Sat, Oct. 10	Pasadena #1155, Pasadena	Forum 9:30 AM	Exam 12:30 PM
Thu, Nov. 5	Park Place #1172, Houston	Forum ONLY 6:30 PM	
Sat, Nov. 7	Temple #4, Houston	Forum 9:30 AM	Exam 12:30 PM
Sat, Nov. 21	Tomball #1096, Tomball	Forum 9:30 AM	Exam 12:30 PM

The 150th Anniversary Celebration is On!

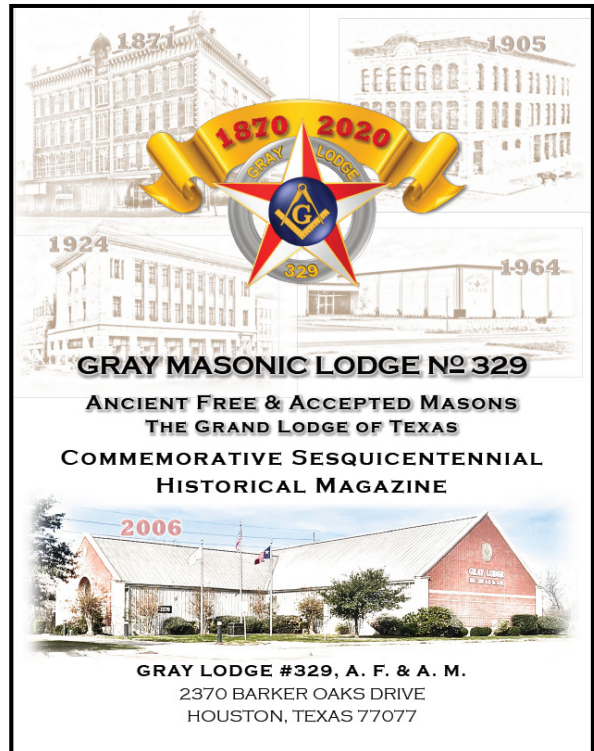
The current pandemic wrecked Gray Lodge's plans to publicly celebrate our 150th Anniversary, just as it disrupted all Masonic organizations. The Sesquicentennial Committee is now reviewing options to hold the observances we could not conduct last June.




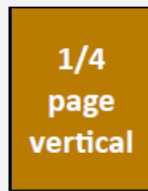

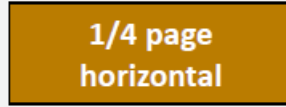

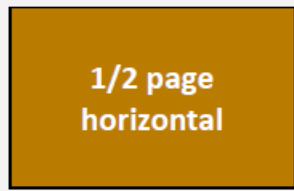




As you know, among our observances is the publication of a commemorative magazine highlighting our Lodge's history. To finance the printing and distribution of this free publication, we are selling a limited amount of advertising space in this commemorative, full-color booklet.

Our Masonic family gets first opportunity to participate in the creation of this publication by purchasing space as shown below. You can advertise your business, or you and your affiliate Lodges can simply publish a message of congratulations.

We cannot create graphic ads (though we will lay out black and white text ads with you). Full-color ads of at least a half-page need camera-ready artwork, at least 300 dpi, CMYK preferred.

Please contact our Editor (and Junior Warden) Gary Wiener at jwarden@gray329.org for more information.



 	 	 	 
 	 	<h3>Rates for Premium Positioning (full or half page only):</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inside front cover +20% SOLD Inside front facing page +15% Center spread +25% Inside back facing page +15% Full inside back cover +35% <p>Gray Masonic Lodge #329 A.F. & A.M. is a tax-exempt corporation under Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(10), and is exempt from collecting state sales tax for this fundraiser under Texas Tax Code §§ 151.310(a)(1) and (c).</p>	

Membership Updates

Gray Lodge needs your help. We have around 325 living members (including EA and Fellowcraft). Of this membership list:

- We do not have a **correct email address OR phone number** for 133 of you.
- We have email addresses, but **no phone number**, for 27 of you.
- We have phone numbers, but **no email address**, for 21 of you.

We ask for your help in updating the Lodge records. These days, email and telephone are the most cost-effective (and quickest) ways for your Lodge to communicate with you, so it is critical that we have current email and phone contact information for every member.

If you do not have access to a computer, please email our Secretary, [Darrin Pitts](#), and provide current telephone numbers and email address (and street address, if that has changed).

If you do have access to a computer, you can help us (and the Grand Lodge of Texas) tremendously by going online and doing the following:

1. Open a web browser to <http://grandlodgeoftexas.org> (the website of the Grand Lodge of Texas). In the upper-right corner, you'll see a blue graphic that says "Member Portal". This graphic links to a sign-in page, so click the graphic.
2. A new browser window will open with a "Sign In" page. This is a portal to the Grand Lodge's new "Grandview" membership system. If you already have created a Grandview account, enter your email address and password to enter your membership profile. If you have not created an account, click "Sign Up" and enter the requested information from your Dues Card, then click the "Check Membership Status" button.
3. Once you have signed in to your portal, you will see a number of square blue icons, as well as the name and number of each Texas Lodge of which you are a member. Click on the icon with a male silhouette that reads "My Profile".
4. The new page contains all of the membership information we were able to transfer into Grandview. Please click "Update Contact Info" (under "Contact Information") and correct your phone number(s), email address, and mailing address, then click "Save Contact Information".
5. Scroll to the bottom of your Profile page and expand the "Notification Preferences" section. Select all means by which you prefer Gray Lodge communicate with you (and please remember, "Letter/Mail" is the most expensive option).
6. Expand the "Communication Options" section and opt-in (or opt-out) of the appropriate mailing list options. If you check the "Keep Contact Info Private" box, only the Lodge Secretary and Grand Lodge will have access to your contact information.
7. The website should save your changes as you make them. When you are finished, click "Menu" in the upper-left of the screen, and select "Sign Out".

We very much appreciate your cooperation. Many exciting things are happening with Gray Lodge during this, our 150th Anniversary Year (despite the pandemic!) and we want to keep you informed about all of them!

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

Please note that due to the current pandemic, all plans are subject to change at the direction of the Grand Master and the discretion of the individual Masonic bodies.

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

SEPTEMBER 2020

2	Wed.	Gray Lodge Stated Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
8	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
10	Thurs.	Lodge Education & Esoteric Work	Gray Lodge #329	7:00 pm
17	Thurs.	Lodge Education & Esoteric Work	Gray Lodge #329	7:00 pm
21	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
23	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	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
26	Sat.	GLOT Forum & Proficiency Exam	Aldine Lodge #1412	Forum 9:30 am, Exam 1:00 pm

OCTOBER 2020

1	Thurs.	EA Degree Conferrals	Gray Lodge #3297	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
3	Sat.	GLOT Forum & Proficiency Exam	Morton Lodge #72	Forum 9:30 am, Exam 1:00 pm
7	Wed.	Gray Lodge Stated Meeting	Gray Lodge #3297	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
13	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
15	Thurs.	Lodge Education & Esoteric Work	Gray Lodge #329	7:00 pm
16	Fri.	GLOT Officer Leadership Training	Scottish Rite Temple	TBA
19	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
22	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	Scottish Rite Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
28	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Reagan Lodge #1057	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
29	Thurs.	Lodge Education & Esoteric Work	Gray Lodge #329	7:00 pm

NOVEMBER 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.	Lodge Education & Esoteric Work	Gray Lodge #329	7:00 pm
16	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
18	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Reagan Lodge #1057	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
19	Thurs.	Lodge Education & Esoteric Work	Gray Lodge #329	7:00 pm
19	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	Scottish Rite Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
21	Sat.	GLOT Forum & Proficiency Exam	Tomball Lodge #1096	Forum 9:30 am, Exam 1:00 pm

"Freemasonry teaches not merely temperance, fortitude, prudence, justice, brotherly love, relief, and truth, but liberty, equality, and fraternity, and it denounces ignorance, superstition, bigotry, lust tyranny and despotism ."

~ Theodore Roosevelt

"Masonry is universal and men of every creed are eligible for membership so long as they accept the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. Therefore, the candidate should be obligated on the Book of the Sacred Law which he accepts as such since his obligation is a solemn and binding one."

~ George Washington

Keep Us Posted

If you have moved, or updated your email address or phone number, please update your record at 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 jwarden@gray329.org.

MASTER MASON ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER 2020

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

OCTOBER 2020

1	Joseph Reynolds	15	William Page, Jr.	25	David Englet
1	Robert Smith	16	Danny Fuller, Sr.	28	Keith Schmidt
4	Samuel Ayers	17	David Murray	29	Richard Rennison
4	Kleber Siqueira	17	Harold Pascoe		<i>* Past Master of Gray Lodge</i>
7	Samuel Sikes	18	Collin Wilson		
8	Jerry Chumley	20	Richard Ferrari		
8	Wayne Huddleston*	21	Sean Martin		
11	Alvin Schimming	22	Darryl Puckett		

NOVEMBER 2020

9	Daniel Krukewitt	20	Jimmy Albers	29	Ernest Bugh, Jr.
12	Erickson Ybarra	20	Chuck Mitchell	29	Billy Moreno*
13	Thomas Kenyon	20	Charles Percy	29	Mario Reyna*
15	Joseph Saber	20	Randon Reaves*	30	Bogdan Grosu
19	Mike Adal	21	Clarence Givens	30	Mamdouh Isak
19	Berry Clark	24	Leslie Jeko	30	John Minniece*
19	David Cousins*	25	Charles Sitton, Jr.	30	Norman Tucker
19	Timothy Crump	26	Richard Fawcett		<i>* Past Master of Gray Lodge</i>
19	Joshua Perez	27	William Kent		
19	Roberto Sanchez*	28	Laurence Ames		

"The true Mason always carries his working tools everywhere."

~ William Howard Taft

Coins and Caps Are Still On Tap

As part of Gray Lodge's 150th Anniversary celebration, we are finalizing designs for Sesquicentennial coins/ingots and for branded merchandise (see our 150th Anniversary logo on the preceding page). All proceeds will go toward our Scholarship and Building Funds.

The designs have been finalized and all Members will receive an email soon with pictures and ordering information for commemorative embroidered-logo baseball caps.

If there is specific merchandise you'd like to see bearing our 150th Anniversary logo, please let SW Erickson Ybarra (swarden@gray329.org) or JW Gary Wiener (jwarden@gray329.org) know as soon as possible!

Gray Lodge Scholarship Raffle — It's Still On!

To support our Scholarship Fund, Gray Lodge announces our big raffle for a customized AR-15 style Ruger sporting rifle AND a customized Glock 19 pistol. You haven't seen firearms that look like this before! In addition to these two one-of-a-kind prizes, the winning ticket holder will also receive:

- Customized matching carrying case
- Five boxes of 9mm ammo
- Free laser engraving of your choice on both weapons, plus the plate on the carrying case
- Two branded shot glasses
- A Full Armor T-shirt

You can purchase raffle tickets from any Gray Lodge Officer. The tickets are priced as follows:

\$10 for one
\$50 for six
\$100 for 12

The drawing will be held at our 150th Anniversary Celebration and Dinner. You don't have to be present to win (but we'd sure like to see the joy on your face in person when you do!).

Please contact WM Billy Moreno (master@gray329.org) for more information.

