

Gray Line



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

NOVEMBER 2020

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CHARTERED JUNE 24, 1870

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Greetings from the East



Brethren,

As our lodge activities resume their normal schedule, I would like to thank the Officers of Gray Lodge for coming together and putting on some great degrees. Some of our candidates and Brethren, who have been patiently waiting since before this pandemic began, are now learning the memory work and are eager to advance even further in their Masonic journey. I commend all of our

degree team participants for staying sharp and constantly practicing the ritual. Even after such a large lapse of time in our Lodge meetings and activities, these Brethren have managed to step up and give great performances.

Our next two Stated Meetings will be on December 2, 2020 and January 6, 2021. Dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. and Lodge will open at 7:00. If your health and risk profile permit, we welcome you to join us and see some of the exciting improvements we are making to Gray Lodge.

Also in the next few weeks, we will raise a worthy (and extremely patient) Brother to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. We'll

announce the date shortly. If you would like to participate in the degree, or in any others, please reach out to SD Steven Cobb at sdeacon@gray329.org and let him know you are willing and eager to participate!

Please continue to reach out to your fellow Brethren, more especially during the holiday season, if within length of your cable tow. If you yourself are in need, your Lodge and your Brethren are always readily available to assist.

- Billy Moreno, Worshipful Master

In this issue:

- Greetings from the East, West & South
- Pay Your Dues Online
- 150th Anniversary Celebration & Magazine
- Art.: Masonic Education
- Events / Anniversaries
- Membership Updates
- Commemorative Coins and Caps
- 2020-21 Scholarship Raffle

Greetings from the West

Brethren,

Though we still face COVID-19 restrictions, activities at Gray Lodge are starting to pick up. In the past month, we conferred four Fellowcraft degrees, and the experience and fellowship during and after the meetings were fantastic. We have another Fellowcraft degree coming up soon, followed by three Master Mason degrees, and I encourage all who are able and comfortable to join us.



Right now, it feels like we are playing a waiting game. We have some exciting plans to enact, but we want to make sure they're carried out in a safe and efficient way. We hope that one day soon, we can all sit down together for a meal and not have to worry about our health or the health of our brethren. In the meantime, I hope you all are staying safe and healthy.

- Erickson Ybarra, Senior Warden

Greetings from the South

Brethren,

Allow me to echo the good news offered by our Senior Warden. Thanks to the diligent efforts of Sr. Steward Joey Hereford, and his research into the State of Texas guidelines for reopening restaurants during this pandemic, Gray Lodge is one of the few in the area that has restored regular meal service as part of our fellowship before our meetings.



If your health permits, we invite you to join us for the next Stated Meeting on December 2, and see the changes that make this possible. To comply with the State guidelines, our Stewards, FCs and EAs now provide plated table service rather than the previous "buffet-style" line, with hand sanitizer on every table and all social distancing precautions in effect. Masks are required when unable to socially distance, as required by the Grand Master's Proclamation, and I am proud to report that no Brothers have reported any illness contracted during a Gray Lodge function.

Before 2020 ends, we expect to confer at least one MM degree and possibly one more FC as well; and we'll have several Masons to raise to our Sublime Degree in January. For all of these, we need Brothers who are eager and willing to help. Please contact our Sr. Deacon, Steven Cobb, at sdeacon@gray329.org if you would like to be part of an upcoming degree.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you; and if we cannot see you at the December Stated Meeting, please accept my wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season, no matter which religious holiday you observe, as well as a happy New Year.

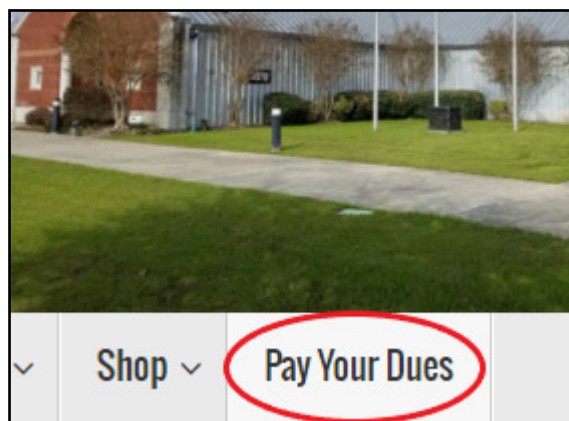
- Gary Wiener, Junior Warden

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.



Our ~~150th~~151st Anniversary Celebration — May 22, 2021!

SAVE THE DATE! Gray Lodge's 150th Anniversary Celebration is on again!

Gray Lodge's Officers have been watching the public health situation carefully ever since we were forced to postpone our 150th Anniversary Banquet and Celebration this past summer. We now feel confident in rescheduling our 150th Anniversary celebration. (... during our 151st year. Hey, it's still gonna be a big deal.)

The festivities will be held in the auditorium of the Scottish Rite Temple, 2401 West Bellfort (just west of Kirby) on **Saturday evening, May 22, 2021**. Ticket information will be available soon.

Right Worshipful Kenneth C. Curry, current Deputy Grand Master (and presumptive M.:W.:Grand Master of Texas Masons in 2021) is expected to attend, along with many other Grand Lodge and local Masonic dignitaries. We hope you will be able to join us as well!

What if Masonic Education Broke Out in Your Lodge?

By Kenneth Bond DeMoss, PM

Hope Lodge No. 145 (Lafayette LA)

From the "Sunday Masonic Paper", Kingston, ON

OR

By S. Kenneth Baril, PM

Temple Lodge No. 16 (Cheshire, CT)

From "The Beacon", Grand Lodge of Ohio

[Editor's Note: This article was presented by JW Gary Wiener to Gray Lodge #329 during our Stated Meeting of November 4, 2020. There is some dispute as to the author of this article, so both of the Brothers to whom it has been credited are shown above. Other than the author, the text of both versions is identical, and is reprinted here in its entirety, with thanks to whichever Brother deserves the credit.]

This article may be a harsh analogy and offend some, even though it is written somewhat as a satire. The message rings true, and for that no apology is given.

How long has it been since any form of Masonic education actually broke out within the confines of your lodge rooms? Luckily, it doesn't happen often. For if so, it probably would scare or disturb those of us who are still awake. So let's be extremely cautious and not permit it to occur often and surely not without much planning, contemplation and defiantly not before forming several committees to study its long-term effects on the Lodge. Then a report must be made and returned to the brothers so that it may be discussed in great detail over the course of several meetings, or until a consensus is made that it probably would take up so much time as to surely shorten our business meetings, and the thought would be quickly dropped or tabled for future consideration by the Lodge.

The concept of actually having Masonic discussions or an education program during open lodge, though radical as this concept may seem, was accomplished in lodges that are near and dear to our hearts, but that was a long time ago in our past when men still read, studied and cared about such matters. Programs were planned for regular meeting with articles brought in; papers were being written and presented by Brothers on subjects as varied as history, music, morality, philosophy, and symbolism of the working tools and other elements within the degrees. These subjects were then discussed in great detail. Questions were asked and learning happened. This had a tendency to expand one's mind and knowledge not only of the lodge, but society in general. If I am not correct, that is one of the main tenants of the lodge: to improve our self in Masonry. Too many brothers are so unaware of what the Lodge is really trying to accomplish in its teaching by symbols and allegories. We have nearly stopped educating ourselves about the meanings of the symbolism and allegories presented in the degrees. Brother Oliver Day Street was quoted in *The Builder* Magazine, August 1919: "In our Masonic studies, the moment we forget that whole and ever part of Freemasonry is symbolic and allegoric, is the same instant we begin to grope in the dark. Its ceremonies, signs, tokens, words and lectures at once become meaningless or trivial. The study of no other aspect of Freemasonry is more important, yet I believe the study of no aspect of it has been so much neglected." We all know the old standard "To make good men better". In reality, it means so much more, as it charges you to explore your senses and acquire working knowledge of the seven liberal arts and sciences to make you a more rounded person by improving yourself in Masonry.

As stated earlier, this would have a definite effect upon our business meetings. It might even encourage men to attend meetings and participate in the free exchange of knowledge and actually learn about Masonry. A man freely gives up his time to attend our meetings; sitting through a meeting that was very much like the last one and without much difference except when a degree is worked. We may have conditioned ourselves to these types of

meetings but if we are to attract and keep new members, we are going to have to give them something with more substance for the time they spend away from their families and to make their attendance feel worthwhile.

Be prepared to raise the ire of more than a few brethren if you are so bold as to make a recommendation of injecting a little Masonic education into their meetings.

Please don't be foolish enough as to make the suggestion that once a year they have a special meeting in which to put on a degree with all its related lectures. This will be received as though you are a leper, heretic, iconoclast, or at least one who goes around kicking the sacred cow, even though this would be a perfect opportunity for the newer brothers to gain knowledge and experience about the Craft. It would also afford them a chance to learn and participate in actual degree work. True, it would take longer to confer the degree but not nearly as long as we have endured while sitting through two degrees in one meeting. By virtue of being a special, it could happen on a Saturday, which would afford us the time to do it right and not take time away from more important deliberations like what brand of toilet paper to stock or which is the better of the two light bulbs to use. This is by no means the only thing that could be injected into our lodges. Some jurisdictions have instated informal study groups open to all Masons on various subjects about the Craft. We must be ever mindful that the new members of today will have the stewardship of the Lodge in the future. The better their knowledge of Masonry today, the better they may teach its principles to the future generations of Masons.

We have stopped educating newly made Masons about the degree and their symbolism, and how they pertain to the betterment of his life. In doing so, there has been a decline in Masonic knowledge. If this trend continues and we don't start some sort of education program, our future leaders will know how to open, close, and conduct a business meeting, put on a degree and little else. Will they have the knowledge to impart to a newly raised brother on how a Mason is to be made into a better man? Fewer men read today compared to our brothers in the first part of the 20th century. So where will they gain this knowledge? In Europe, they take the time in which to teach these lessons. In their lodges, the process of becoming a Mason may take longer, but their memberships are growing and flourishing, but we don't teach candidates much in our Lodges and we are in a huge decline. We have blamed every conceivable reason for our loss in membership, but the root of the problem, which we will not acknowledge, is APATHY.

I will close with this with a quote from an 1875 article by Dr. Oliver Mackey: "The ultimate success of Masonry depends on the intelligence of her disciples."

"We are committed to excellence in our lives and we are not willing to compromise ourselves for the sake of popularity. One time, the great German mathematician, Karl Gustav Jacobi, was asked why he decided to spend his life at work in such an obscure field. He replied, 'For the honor of the human spirit.' That is the reason why we, as Masons, give our lives affirming our beliefs in moral conduct, brotherhood and compassion. We do it for the honor of the human spirit."

~ Stanley F. Maxwell

The Commemorative Magazine is On!

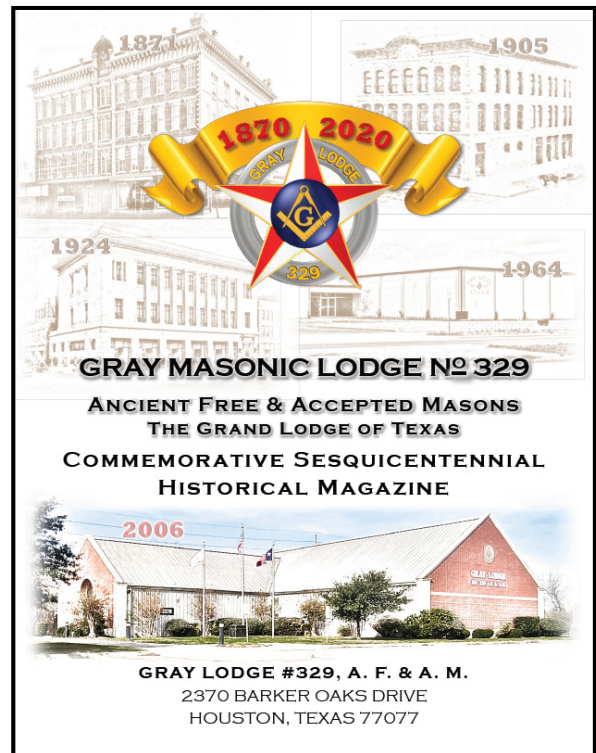
With the rescheduling of Gray Lodge's 150th Anniversary Dinner and Celebration, our plans to publish a commemorative magazine highlighting our Lodge's history are back underway!




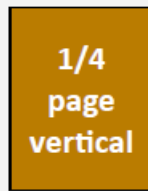

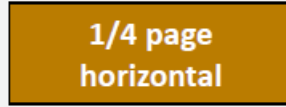

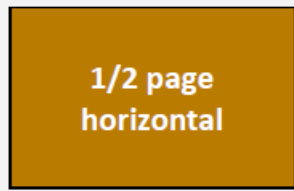




To finance the printing and distribution of this free publication, we are selling a limited amount of advertising space in this commemorative, full-color magazine.

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.



 	 	 	 
 	 	Rates for Premium Positioning (full or half page only): Inside front cover +20% SOLD Inside front facing page +15% Center spread +25% Inside back facing page +15% Full inside back cover +35% 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).	

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>.

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
20	Sat.	GLOT Forum & Proficiency Exam	Tomball Lodge #1096	Forum 9:30 am, Exam 1:00 pm
26	Thurs.	Lodge Education & Esoteric Work	Gray Lodge #329	7:00 pm

DECEMBER 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
16	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Reagan Lodge #1057	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 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
24	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	Scottish Rite Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm

JANUARY 2021

6	Wed.	Gray Lodge Stated Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
12	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
14	Thurs.	Grand Lodge Annual Comm'n	Grand Lodge, Waco	Through Saturday, Jan. 16
18	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
21	Thurs.	Lodge Education & Esoteric Work	Gray Lodge #329	7:00 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

"We Masons are among the fortunate ones who are taught to meet together with others opposing convictions or competitive ideas and yet respect each other as Brothers."

~ Author Unknown

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 Secretary Darrin Pitts 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

NOVEMBER 2020

9 Daniel Krukewitt	20 Jimmy Albers	29 Ernest Bugh
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 Iain Clark	24 Leslie Jeko	30 John Minniece*
19 David Cousins*	25 Charles Sitton	30 Norman Tucker
19 Timothy Crump	26 Richard Fawcett	* Past Master of Gray Lodge
19 Joshua Perez	27 William Kent	
19 Roberto Sanchez*	28 Laurence Ames	

DECEMBER 2020

1 Lex Leckie*	17 Scott Bulkley	30 Dwight Phillips
1 Randall Slinkard*	20 Travis Verdin	30 Allen Pitts*
7 James Brady	27 Charles Moore	* Past Master of Gray Lodge
9 Sergio Hernandez	29 Fernando Sanchez	
14 Ronald Pasadyn	30 Kenneth Kirkpatrick*	

JANUARY 2021

3 Thomas Hill	12 Anthony Copeland Jr.	28 Kenneth Smart
5 Myron Welsh	12 Chester Presley	29 Jerry Argovitz
6 William Nicholson	12 Robert Reeder	29 Charles McKinley
10 Thomas Baker	16 Mark Herzog	31 Ignacio Fantaguzzi
10 Brian Blowers	21 Thomas Bashforth	31 Jack Ivey
11 James Littlejohn	28 Chad Mitchell	

"Masonry was not made to divide men, but to unite them, leaving each man free to think his own thoughts and fashion his own system of ultimate truth. All its emphasis rests upon two extremely simple and profound principles, love of God and love of man."

~ J. F. Newton

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. 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!

Gray Lodge announces our big Scholarship Fund raffle for a customized AR-15 style Ruger sporting rifle AND customized Glock 19 pistol. You haven't seen firearms like this before! In addition to these one-of-a-kind prizes, the winner 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

Once we have printed raffle tickets with the new drawing date, you will be able to purchase them from any Gray Lodge Officer. The tickets will be \$10 each, \$50 for six, or \$100 for 12.

The drawing will be held at our 150th Anniversary Celebration and Dinner on **May 22, 2021**. 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.

