

# Gray Line



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

MAY 2021

2370 BARKER OAKS DRIVE  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77077  
(713) 730-9329

CHARTERED JUNE 24, 1870

## OFFICERS FOR 2020-2021

**BILLY J. MORENO**

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

**ERICKSON E. YBARRA**

SENIOR WARDEN

**GARY A. WIENER**

JUNIOR WARDEN

**MARK S. HERZOG**

TREASURER

**DARRIN I. PITTS, PM**

SECRETARY

**DOUG W. HISSONG, PM**

CHAPLAIN

**STEVEN E. COBB**

SENIOR DEACON

**BRAD J. LEDBETTER**

JUNIOR DEACON

**JOSEPH L. HEREFORD**

SENIOR STEWARD

**VIGIL M. ROXAS**

JUNIOR STEWARD

**RICHARD H. COBB, SR.**

MARSHAL

**LUIZ A. SORIANO**

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

**JOE K. LESTER, JR.**

MUSICIAN

**DAVID VUKOVIC**

TILER

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. BOX 941771

HOUSTON, TX 77094-8771

<http://www.GRAY329.org>



## IT'S TIME!

GRAY LODGE N° 329  
SESQUICENTENNIAL  
CELEBRATION

### MAY 22, 2021 6:00 PM

### HOUSTON SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE

### TICKET SALES CLOSE MAY 8TH!

*Reserve your tickets now at*

<https://www.gray329.org/gray-lodge-no-329-sesquicentennial-gala/>

We invite you to join  
M.:W.: Grand Master Kenneth Curry  
and other Dignitaries as we celebrate  
the 150th Anniversary of the Charter  
of Gray Masonic Lodge No. 329

**\$65 Per Person - Seating is Limited**  
**Dinner and Commemorative Gifts Included**

**Social Hour at 6:00 PM**

**Dinner at 7:00 PM**

**Program at 8:00 PM**

**Houston Scottish Rite Events Center**

**2401 West Bellfort Avenue**

**Houston, TX 77054**

### In this issue:

- Sesquicentennial Gala Tickets
- Greetings from the East
- Officer Elections and Installations
- Vandalism to our Lodge
- From your Officers
- Newest MMs
- Events / Anniversaries
- Our Fallen Brethren

## Greetings from the East



Brethren,

These last two years have been quite the journey for me. I have learned many things as a Mason throughout these years, and continue to learn more every day. Serving my Brethren as Worshipful Master of Gray Lodge has been a tremendous honor and pleasure. It is not common these days

to have Brothers that can depend on each other and are willing to assist at a moment's notice, and I thank you all for allowing me to share this experience with you.

Together we have overcome a pandemic, loss of Brothers, and other hardships, but we stuck it out together. We

have upgraded, fixed, and beautified Gray Lodge physically, as well as improved the atmosphere as a whole. I have no doubt the upcoming officers will continue to do a great job of running the Lodge and maintain the traditions of Gray No. 329. I will continue to serve Gray Lodge as a Past Master, and support the new Master and officers as they continue to lead Gray Lodge in a positive and exciting direction.

Lastly, I hope to see everyone at our Sesquicentennial Celebration on Saturday, May 22, as we celebrate the more than 150 years during which Gray Lodge has been spreading the cement of brotherly love.

— Billy Moreno, Worshipful Master 2019-2021

## Officer Elections are Coming Up ...

On Wednesday, June 2, 2021, WM Billy Moreno will preside over his final Gray Lodge Stated Meeting (and this time he means it!), and we will conduct our annual Election of Officers for the 2021-22 Masonic Year. WM Moreno will select a Worthy Brother to join the list of Gray Honor recipients, and will share his final thoughts as he concludes his historic term in the East.

If your health and cable tow permit, please plan to join us for this very special meeting. We have returned to full dinner service, so the meal will be served beginning at 6:00 PM (and families and visitors are welcome) with the Lodge to open at 7:00 PM.

## Well, THIS is a Fine Mess ...



Security camera footage shows that about 40 minutes after the last Brother left the building following our April 7th Stated Meeting, Gray Lodge received two more visitors ... and they were carrying metal shears.

The ruffians went after the building's four air-conditioning units on our north side, cutting and taking the copper conduits and wiring, and crippling all four systems. They got away with maybe \$100 worth of copper scrap - but in the process, caused nearly **600 times that much** in estimated damage. We are working closely with our insurance adjusters, and expect to have the systems repaired or replaced before our May 5th Stated Meeting.

We are very fortunate that our late Brother and Treasurer, Mark Herzog (see Page 8), was also an insurance professional who saw that Gray Lodge was financially protected in the event of such an occurrence. Nonetheless, repair or replacement of our A/C systems will be an expensive proposition, as will the building of a perimeter wrought-iron fence to ensure this won't happen again. Please read the message from your Officers on Page 4 regarding the effect this may have on our Lodge's financial future.

## ... and so are Installations!

Gray Lodge's 151st Installation of Officers will take place on **Saturday, June 26**, at 11:00 AM. We are pleased to welcome families, friends and visitors back into our Lodge Room for this special occasion.

Installing our 150th Worshipful Master will be Past Masters R.:W.:Mike Nanny, PGM; R.:W.:Darrin Pitts, DDGM for District 30-B; and R.:W.:Roberto Sanchez, Chancellor of Gran Logia del Edo. de México. Refreshments will once again be served following the ceremony.

Do not miss this important milestone in the continuing history of Gray Lodge No. 329! Please save the date and plan to join us.



## A Message from your Gray Lodge Officers

Brethren,

As reported on Page 4 of this newsletter, Gray Lodge #329 had a close call with thieves last month. It wasn't a "close call" in the sense that anyone was physically endangered (we know our military and law enforcement Brethren can handle just about any situation), but it was definitely a "close call" for the Lodge in the financial sense.

The vandalism to Gray Lodge's four outside air conditioning units was so extensive that our insurer has declared our current system a total loss. The replacement cost for all four units, including replacement of the obsolete interior systems, will total over **SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS**. Such a loss would have crippled many Texas lodges that neither have the financial reserves nor the insurance acumen of our late Treasurer Mark Herzog. Brother Herzog took outstanding care to protect Gray Lodge's investments; when all replacement work is complete and all claim payments received, our Lodge will have lost only \$2,500 cash.

However, there is more to this story. Many of you know that Gray Lodge has had a problem with vandalism for many years (usually from the vagrants who camp nearby), and your Officers are determined that we are long overdue to put a stop to it. Without secure perimeter fencing, it's possible our new A/C systems might not survive a week before the same copper thieves return for a second helping. The costs of wrought-iron fencing, updated security systems and monitoring, and emergency lighting will run well into five figures - and there will be no insurance checks to help us cover *those* costs.

We have asked you before, if you are an Endowed or Life Member of Gray Lodge, to consider an additional donation to help cover our operating expenses. So many of our Brethren paid \$500 for their endowments 30 or 20 or 10 years ago; and while those Brethren no longer contribute to our Lodge financially, the Grand Lodge continues to charge us annually for every Member who hasn't reached their 50-year exemption. Our annual operating expenses have outpaced our annual dues income for quite some time, which means every few months we must draw from our investments to meet our financial obligations.

It is time for your Officers to request your relief. Without the help of our Endowed, Life and 50-Year Members, these funds to keep our Lodge secure will have to come from our investment principal. Drawing down our principal puts the future financial stability of Gray Lodge at severe risk — this is the "close call" referred to above. Simply to maintain our 16-year-old Lodge building requires ongoing expenditures (if we *don't* have emergency expenses such as we just incurred), not to mention improvements we need or want. We simply do not currently have the cash flow to invest in them.

We therefore ask you to increase your contribution to Gray Lodge, in one or both of the following ways:

1. Increase the amount of your endowment. The Grand Lodge permits members to increase their endowment in "units" of \$100.00 each. Even a five-unit increase in your endowment will help cover our per-capita membership expenses, as well as help Gray Lodge pay our expenses for continued operation.

2. Join the Master's Club. All Gray Lodge members (including Endowed, Life, and 50-Year Masons) can join by contributing the year's dues to the Lodge, in addition to their current membership status.

If within the length of your cable tow, please contact [secretary@gray329.org](mailto:secretary@gray329.org) to arrange payment by check; or, for online options, go to our website at [www.gray329.org](http://www.gray329.org) and select "Pay Your Dues" from the menu .

Your know that your Brethren are always here for you. We now must ask you to be here for your Brethren.

Sincerely and fraternally,

**Billy Moreno, PM**  
Worshipful Master

**Erickson Ybarra**  
Senior Warden

**Gary Wiener**  
Junior Warden

## Mo' Masons, Mo' Masons

With the restrictions from the COVID pandemic finally lifted, Gray Lodge has been scrambling to make up for lost time with bringing our newest Brethren along. Since the March Stated Meeting, we have raised FOUR Brethren to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason:

- **Bro. Richard Cobb, Jr.** was raised on March 11, conferred by R.:W.:Aaron Tyksinski, D.D.G.M. at Large and sitting WM of Morton #72 and with lecture by Kevin Clingan, PM of Holland #1; and charge, Apron and Bible presentations by Doug Hissong, PM, Chaplain.
- **Bro. Jamal Diallo** was raised on March 25, conferred again by R.:W.:Tyksinski with lecture and charge by Gary Wiener, JW, and Apron and Bible presentations by Bro. Hissong.
- On May 1, Gray Lodge held a rare "double-header", when we raised two Brethren, **Rachid Barry** and **Marcos Leitão** at Morton Lodge #72 (due to the air-conditioning situation referred to on page 3). Bro. Wiener conferred Bro. Barry's degree and R.:W.:Tyksinski conferred Bro. Leitão's; with lecture and charge by Bro. Cody Cockroft, WM of Rosenberg #881 and District Instructor for Masonic District 108. Bro. Hissong again presented our newest Masters with their Aprons, and Bro. Wiener with Bibles.

Bro. Leitão was initiated in February 2019; Bro. Cobb (son of our Marshal, Richard Cobb, Sr., and sibling of SD Steven Cobb) in November 2019; and Brothers (and cousins) Diallo and Barry in February 2020. All four have been "awaiting the time with patience" for their opportunity to become Master Masons, and we are thrilled to welcome them as Gray Lodge Members at long last (and, thankfully, clear our degree backlog!). Congratulations to all our newest Master Masons!



## 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>.

### MAY 2021

1	Sat.	MM Degrees @ Morton #72	<a href="#">Morton Lodge #72</a>	First Degree 9:00 am, 2nd to Follow
5	Wed.	<a href="#">Gray Lodge Stated Meeting</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
6	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Education &amp; Esoteric Work</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
11	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
13	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Education &amp; Esoteric Work</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
15	Sat.	GL CoW Forum & Exam	<a href="#">Oakwood #1444</a>	Forum 9:30 am / Exam to follow
17	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	<a href="#">Arabia Shrine Temple</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
20	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Education &amp; Esoteric Work</a>	Gray Lodge #329	7:00 pm
22	Sat.	Gray Lodge 150th Celebration	<a href="#">Scottish Rite Temple</a>	Cocktails 6:00 pm / Dinner 7:00 pm
26	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	<a href="#">Reagan Lodge #1057</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
27	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	<a href="#">Scottish Rite Temple</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm

### JUNE 2021

2	Wed.	<a href="#">Gray Lodge Stated Meeting &amp; Election of Officers</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
3	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Education &amp; Esoteric Work</a>	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.	<a href="#">Lodge Education &amp; Esoteric Work</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
15	Sat.	GL CoW Forum & Exam	<a href="#">Lake Jackson #1317</a>	Forum 9:30 am / Exam to follow
17	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Education &amp; Esoteric Work</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
21	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	<a href="#">Arabia Shrine Temple</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
24	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	<a href="#">Scottish Rite Temple</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
24	Thurs.	Lodge of Sorrow Closure	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
26	Sat.	<a href="#">151st Installation of Officers</a>	Gray Lodge #329	11:00 am
23	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	<a href="#">Reagan Lodge #1057</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm

### JULY 2021

1	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Education &amp; Esoteric Work</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
7	Wed.	<a href="#">Gray Lodge Stated Meeting</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
8	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Education &amp; Esoteric Work</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
13	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
15	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Education &amp; Esoteric Work</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
19	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	<a href="#">Arabia Shrine Temple</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
22	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Education &amp; Esoteric Work</a>	Gray Lodge #329	7:00 pm
22	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	<a href="#">Scottish Rite Temple</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
28	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	<a href="#">Reagan Lodge #1057</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
29	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Education &amp; Esoteric Work</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm

## Keep Us Posted

If you have moved, or updated your email address or phone number, please update your record at [grandlodgeoftexas.org](http://grandlodgeoftexas.org) (in the Member Portal), call us at 713-730-9329, or email Secretary Darrin Pitts [secretary@gray329.org](mailto: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](mailto:jwarden@gray329.org).

## MASTER MASON ANNIVERSARIES

### MAY 2021

14 Michael Hill	17 Steven Cobb	30 Mike Nanny*
14 Kenneth Knoblock	18 Sidney Victory, Jr.*	30 William Pray
14 Brad Ledbetter	19 Charles Baxter	31 Nelson Fisher
14 Paul Sala	21 Thomas Smith	31 Michael Green
15 William Gillespie, Jr.	27 Edward Bock, III	31 David Reece
15 Carl Sontag	27 Charles Janke	31 Carl Rubly
16 Lee Hooker	28 Harry Green*	* Past Master of Gray Lodge

### JUNE 2021

2 Preston Voosen	12 Mark Levine	23 Gregory Morgan
9 Donald Brown	13 Harvey Fodell	28 James Dillon
9 James Lemons	14 Shane Nash	30 Carlos Huerta
9 William Martin	15 Deryl Ridenhour	30 Christopher Krummel
10 Roger Durden	17 Harry Fikaris	30 Aaron Tyksinski**
10 Dean Forbes	18 Matthew McKown	* Past Master of Gray Lodge
11 Jack Green*	21 Owen Arnold, Jr.	** Affiliated Past Master
11 John Stevenson	23 Rene Canales	

### JULY 2021

8 Andres Garza	21 Patrick Dees
8 David Pupo*	23 Luis Massas
10 Mark Pravel	24 Doug Hissong*
13 David Aguilar	25 Michael Polychronopoulos
13 Michael Baldwin	26 Michael Crisamore
14 James Bracht	26 Donald Keller, Jr.
15 Bobby Clark	29 Daniel Sweet
15 Jose Rodriguez	30 Richard Hollinger, Jr.
18 Paul Elders	30 William Konecny
18 Curtis Walton	31 Lounceny Bangoura
19 Donald Hernandez, Sr.**	* Past Master of Gray Lodge
19 Thomas Murray	** Affiliated Past Master

*"As we continue to improve ourselves in Masonry, we are indeed improving life. We know from history that without ideals to guide us, the garden of a man's life will not grow into a place of beauty."*

*~ Stanley F. Maxwell*

## IN MEMORIAM

**Bro. Mark Suttle Herzog****December 30, 1957 — March 19, 2021**

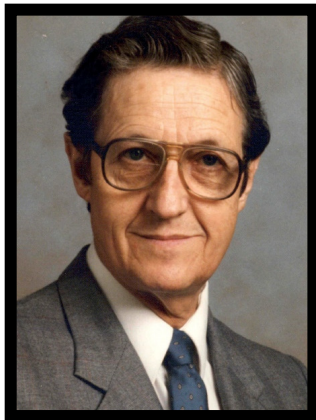
This past March 19, Brother Mark Herzog suddenly laid down his working tools. Brother Herzog was not only Treasurer of Gray Lodge No. 329, but was also Senior Warden of Temple Lodge No. 4.

Bro. Herzog was practically a New Year's baby, born December 30, 1957, and graduated from Spring Branch High School in 1976. After graduating from Southwest Texas State University, he returned home to run the family insurance business. Along the way, he met and fell in love with his wife of 35 years, Colette Baker, who survives him.

Mark was initiated in Gray Lodge No. 329 on Sept. 8, 1986; passed Dec. 10, 1990; and raised a Master Mason Jan. 16, 1991. After beginning his way through the appointed Offices, he was elected our Treasurer in 2014, a position which he held continuously (and under Grand Lodge Law, will continue to hold until our next Installation) until his departure. He served R.:W.:Paul Underwood on the Grand Lodge of Texas' Risk Management Committee, and was very active in the three major Masonic appendant

bodies, honored in 2017 by the Houston Scottish Rite as a Knight Commander of the Court of Honour. Bro. Herzog was also a long-time member of the Board of Directors of the Houston Library & Museum Foundation, as well as a member of Bluebell Chapter #856, Order of the Eastern Star.

Mark's funeral and Masonic graveside service took place at Woodlawn Cemetery on March 29, and more than three dozen Master Masons were in attendance to see Brother Herzog off on his final journey — a testament to the impact he had on Houston's Masonic community. Please continue to keep his wife Colette and their daughters Kristen, Stephanie and Hilary (and their families) in your prayers.

**Bro. Kenneth K. Kirkpatrick, PM****October 24, 1924 — April 7, 2021**

Another pillar of Gray Lodge No. 329, Past Master Ken Kirkpatrick, departed for the Celestial Lodge on April 7, 2021, at the age of 96. Brother Kirkpatrick was Worshipful Master of Gray Lodge for the 1987-88 Masonic Year, but remained active in our Lodge until retiring to Reno, Nevada in 2019 as our first Chaplain Emeritus. He was preceded in death by his wife Grace.

It's not possible to have been a member of Gray Lodge for very long without having been inspired by Ken Kirkpatrick. Born October 24, 1924 in Billings, Oklahoma, he served our Country in World War II during the "Battle of the Bulge", and was awarded the Purple Heart for his sacrifices.

He was initiated in Gray Lodge August 21, passed November 11, and raised to the Sublime Degree on December 30, 1981. He was appointed Chaplain in 1982-83 and began progressing through the Line, culminating in his election to the East in 1987. Bro. Kirkpatrick then served the Lodge again as Chaplain in 1993-94, Secretary in 2007-08, and for a third time as Chaplain from 2014 to his retirement. Ken received our Lodge's Golden Trowel Award on June 23, 1996. He also served the Grand Lodge of

Texas as District Education Officer, District 30-B, in 2000.

Brother Kirkpatrick was a member of Washington Chapter No. 2 (Grand High Priest 2003-04); Houston Council No. 1 (Thrice Illustrious Master 2003-04); Ruthven Commandery No. 2, (Commander 1999); Thomas H. Ridout Priory No. 75, Knights of the York Cross of Honour; and Andrew H. "Tony" Bass Council No. 475, Allied Masonic Degrees. He was also a member of Bluebell Chapter No. 856, O.E.S.

Bro. Kirkpatrick was laid to rest on Tuesday, April 27 at Houston National Ceremony, with military and Masonic honors. An outstanding speaker, storyteller, ritualist, instructor, and friend, Brother Ken was a "Mason's Mason", setting an example for everyone who was fortunate to meet him. We celebrate his being with us for so many years; and while we mourn his departure, we take comfort in knowing that we can continue to learn from his example.