

# Gray Line



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

JULY 2021

2370 BARKER OAKS DRIVE  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77077  
(713) 730-9329  
CHARTERED JUNE 24, 1870

## OFFICERS FOR 2021-2022

**ERICKSON E. YBARRA**

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

**GARY A. WIENER**

SENIOR WARDEN

**STEVEN E. COBB**

JUNIOR WARDEN

**DANIEL R. SWEET**

TREASURER

**DARRIN I. PITTS, PM**

SECRETARY

**DOUG W. HISSONG, PM**

CHAPLAIN

**VIGIL M. ROXAS**

SENIOR DEACON

**LUIZ A. SORIANO**

JUNIOR DEACON

**LEO I. BARNUEVO**

SENIOR STEWARD

**M. POLYCHRONOPOULOS**

JUNIOR STEWARD

**RICHARD H. COBB, SR.**

MARSHAL

**YOUSSEF JAMAL DIALLO**

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

**JOE K. LESTER, JR.**

MUSICIAN

**BRAD J. LEDBETTER**

TILER

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. BOX 941771

HOUSTON, TX 77094-8771

<http://www.GRAY329.org>

## Greetings from the East



Brethren,

I'd like to first offer my deep appreciation for your confidence in electing me as the 150th Worshipful Master of Gray Lodge No. 329. This is not a responsibility I take lightly and I promise to leave the lodge better than I received it. That's not to say that Gray is in disrepair by any means. Gray Lodge endured two very strange and difficult years recently with COVID looming overhead, but came out stronger than it went in thanks to the efforts of Junior Past Master Moreno.

The general plan for this year is to improve the fundamental functions of our lodge while implementing ideas harkening back to the original intent of Freemasonry as a guiding light for men. We hope to create a greater sense of belonging, appreciation, and participation at Gray Lodge. The degrees of the Craft should be solemn and impactful. The business meetings should be efficient. The fellowship should be memorable.

Albert Einstein famously said, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result." This year, I want to treat our lodge as a laboratory. I want to experiment with different procedures, traditions, and events based on the expectations and wishes I have heard from the brethren over the years. If at the end of the year the lodge is better for it, great; if it does not end up working for our active membership, at least we will know.

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## Greetings From the East

(Continued from page 1)

Our focus this year will be on improving these core lodge traits:

- Ritual Excellence
- Masonic Education
- Fellowship
- Charity

Additionally, Masonic education will be a large portion of our Stated meetings this year. The necessary business will be kept as short and efficient as possible to allow for most of the time to go to our special guest speaker's presentation and subsequent discussion.

The responsibility falls on me, but we are all building the future of Gray. If we are going to make meaningful improvements for the benefit of the Craft and our lodge, we will need to support each other as one unit to promote the kind of culture we will be proud of for years to come.

I look forward to this year, and I hope you do too. Be on the lookout for our regular communications and I hope to see you soon.

Sincerely and Fraternally,  
*Erickson Ybarra, Worshipful Master*

## Greetings from the West

Brethren,

Allow me to add my Fraternal greetings to WM Ybarra's, and to thank you as well for honoring and entrusting me with such a critical role in our Lodge.

The Worshipful Master, JW Steven Cobb, and I are agreed that another initiative we must implement is *consistency of vision*. To that end, we have united to align our goals and keep Gray Lodge moving forward in the steady pursuit of those goals, no matter which of us may be seated in the East.

By uniting with a common vision, we plan to eliminate the uncertainty that comes with each new Masonic year, and prove to all Brethren that our Lodge is truly a haven of peace, harmony, and brotherly love. We hope to share it with you at our July 7th Stated Meeting.

However, a Lodge's officers can only be effective if the Members support them; after all, a Master who presides over an empty Lodge room isn't really "master" of anything, is he? All three of us want to hear from you, receive your ideas and suggestions (and even criticism), and enlist your support in continuing to build upon our historic Lodge's legacy and financial strength.

Gray Lodge has served and endured, *without interruption*, for over 151 years. Not many Lodges in Texas can say that. We hope you will work with us to strengthen the foundation of our Lodge so that Gray Lodge #329 may serve Masonry and our community for the next 151 years and beyond.

- Gary Wiener, Senior Warden



## 2021 Installation of Officers

The 151st Installation of Officers of Gray Lodge No. 329 took place on Saturday, June 26 in our Lodge room. It was a pleasure to once again welcome Brethren, guests and families to witness the installation of Erickson Ybarra as the 150th Worshipful Master of Gray Lodge. Ruthven Commandery No. 2 returned to provide the Color Guard for our ceremonies.

The installing Officers (three of whom were "Right Worshipfuls") were:

**Darrin Pitts PM, DDGM** Master of Ceremonies

**Roberto Sanchez, PM** Installing Officer

**Mike Nanny, PM/PGM** Installing Marshal

**Doug Hissong, PM** Installing Chaplain

Following the Installation, WM Ybarra was presented with the traveling Master's lapel pin. As is traditional, PM Kevin Roberts (our "Wizard of Wood") presented the Master and the newly-installed Wardens with beautiful custom-made gavels. Families and guests then repaired to the dining hall, where they were treated to a Filipino feast coordinated by SD Vigil Roxas and SS Leo Barnuevo.



## 2021-2022 Gray Lodge Officers

Congratulations to our newly-installed Lodge officers for the 2021-2022 Masonic year:

<b>Erickson Ybarra</b>	Worshipful Master
<b>Gary Wiener</b>	Senior Warden
<b>Steven Cobb</b>	Junior Warden
<b>Daniel Sweet</b>	Treasurer
<b>Darrin Pitts, PM</b>	Secretary
<b>Doug Hissong, PM</b>	Chaplain
<b>Vigil Roxas</b>	Senior Deacon
<b>Luis Soriano</b>	Junior Deacon

<b>Leo Barnuevo</b>	Senior Steward
<b>Michael Polychronopoulos</b>	Junior Steward
<b>Richard Cobb, Sr.</b>	Marshal
<b>Youssef Diallo</b>	Master of Ceremonies
<b>Joe Lester</b>	Musician
<b>Brad Ledbetter</b>	Tiler

Appointed, uninstalled Officers:

<b>Aaron Tyksinski</b>	Lodge Instructor
<b>Scott Bulkley</b>	Building Mgr. / Webmaster
<b>Doug Hissong</b>	L.I.F.E. Counselor



## A Celebration 151 Years in the Making (well, at least 1 year ...)

The COVID pandemic didn't stop it. The copper thieves didn't stop it. Nor did hurricanes, freezes, or plagues of locusts prevent Gray Lodge No. 329 from finally celebrating our Sesquicentennial Anniversary ... 11 months late.

The cyclorama walls of the Houston Scottish Rite Events Center were bathed in changing pictures from the past 60-odd years of Gray Lodge's long history. M.:W.:Grand Master Kenneth Curry joined the celebration, bringing his wife and a large team of Grand Lodge Officers: Right Worshipfuls D.G.M. Brad Billings, Grand Jr. Warden Bart Henderson, Grand Secretary Justin Duty, Grand Treasurer Richard Townsend, Grand Marshal Jeff Smith; and Worshipfuls Grand Pursuivant Chip Green, Grand Tiler Duane Reader, and others.

WM Billy Moreno welcomed the "full house" and then handed the microphone to our Master of Ceremonies for the evening, R.:W.:Darrin Pitts, PM, DDGM, who reminisced about scampering around our Hillcroft Lodge building when he was two years old, and claiming to have been a Mason since age six. (We would not presume to challenge the fevered recollections of our District Deputy Grand Master.)

SW Erickson Ybarra gave an all-too-brief talk on the storied history of our Lodge; then, after comments from several of the Grand Officers in attendance, M.:W.:Curry presented WM Moreno and the Wardens with not one, but *two* Sesquicentennial Certificates from the Grand Lodge of Texas: the original certificate intended for presentation last year, signed by then-GM R.:W.:Paul Underwood; and a new one signed by M.:W.:Curry.

Ian Gonzaga, a friend of Houston Freemasonry, volunteered his professional photography skills in the absence of the Grand Photographer, and this Newsletter doesn't have enough pages to do justice to the number of photos he gave us. What appears here is only a sampling.

(Oh — the magazine we've been promising for two years? It was a hit. We printed plenty for everyone, and hope to get copies to most Gray Lodge Brethren who could not join the Celebration in person.)

To our next 150151 years!







## Gray Lodge Committees 2021-2022

### Standing Committees

#### Arbitration ([arbitration@gray329.org](mailto:arbitration@gray329.org))

Chair WM Erickson Ybarra  
Co-Chair SW Gary Wiener  
Member JW Steven Cobb

#### Building & Grounds Maintenance

([building@gray329.org](mailto:building@gray329.org))

Chair SD Vigil Roxas  
Co-Chair Scott Bulkley (Building Manager)  
Members TI Brad Ledbetter, Marshall Collins

#### Communications ([communications@gray329.org](mailto:communications@gray329.org))

Chair SW Gary Wiener  
Co-Chair SD Vigil Roxas  
Members Scott Bulkley (IT), JW Steven Cobb,  
JD Luiz Soriano, SC Darrin Pitts PM

#### Finance ([finance@gray329.org](mailto:finance@gray329.org))

Chair TR Daniel Sweet  
Co-Chair SC Darrin Pitts PM  
Members WM Erickson Ybarra, SW Gary Wiener,  
JW Steven Cobb, CH Doug Hissong

#### Fraternal Assistance ([assistance@gray329.org](mailto:assistance@gray329.org))

Chair WM Erickson Ybarra  
Co-Chair SW Gary Wiener  
Members JW Steven Cobb, TR Daniel Sweet,  
SC Darrin Pitts PM

#### Funeral ([funeral@gray329.org](mailto:funeral@gray329.org))

Chair CH Doug Hissong PM  
Co-Chair SC Darrin Pitts PM  
Members WM Erickson Ybarra, SW Gary Wiener,  
JPM Billy Moreno, LI Aaron Tyksinski  
APM

#### Investment ([investment@gray329.org](mailto:investment@gray329.org))

Chair WM Erickson Ybarra  
Co-Chair CH Doug Hissong PM  
Members Duke Isak (Investment Manager),  
SW Gary Wiener, SC Darrin Pitts PM

#### Masonic Education ([education@gray329.org](mailto:education@gray329.org))

Chair WM Erickson Ybarra  
Co-Chair JW Steven Cobb  
Members SW Gary Wiener, CH Doug Hissong  
PM, MC Youssef Diallo, LI Aaron  
Tyksinski APM, Michael Nanny PGM,  
Roberto Sanchez PM

#### Membership, Sickness & Distress

([membership@gray329.org](mailto:membership@gray329.org))

Chair JW Steven Cobb  
Co-Chair CH Doug Hissong PM  
Members SC Darrin Pitts PM, SD Vigil Roxas,  
JD Luiz Soriano, MU Joe Lester

#### Audit ([audit@gray329.org](mailto:audit@gray329.org))

Chair Mario Reyna PM  
Members SW Gary Wiener, CH Doug Hissong  
PM

### Special Committees

#### Awards ([awards@gray329.org](mailto:awards@gray329.org))

Chair JPM Billy Moreno  
Co-Chair Mario Reyna PM  
Members Al Florido PM, Richard Fawcett PM

#### Community Relations ([community@gray329.org](mailto:community@gray329.org))

Chair WM Erickson Ybarra  
Co-Chair SW Gary Wiener  
Members JW Steven Cobb, SD Vigil Roxas, CH  
Doug Hissong PM

#### By-Laws, Rules & Regulations

([by-laws@gray329.org](mailto:by-laws@gray329.org))

Chair WM Erickson Ybarra  
Co-Chair SW Gary Wiener  
Members JW Steven Cobb, SC Darrin Pitts PM,  
SD Vigil Roxas

#### Fundraising ([fundraising@gray329.org](mailto:fundraising@gray329.org))

Chair WM Erickson Ybarra  
Co-Chair TR Daniel Sweet  
Members SW Gary Wiener, JPM Billy Moreno,  
Marshall Collins

#### Social Activities ([activities@gray329.org](mailto:activities@gray329.org))

Chair JW Steven Cobb  
Co-Chair SS Leo Barnuevo  
Members SD Vigil Roxas, JS Michael  
Polychronopoulos, MC Youssef Diallo,  
MU Joey Lester

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

Please note that all plans are subject to change and should be confirmed before attending. The most up-to-date calendar info is always available at <http://www.GRAY329.org/calendar>.

**Online calendar feed for your personal device:**  
<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/graylodgecalender%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics>

### JULY 2021

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
9	Fri.	Ruthven Cmdry #2 Stated Meeting	<a href="#">Holland Lodge #1</a>	Meeting 7:00 pm
12	Mon.	Washington Chapt #2 Meeting	<a href="#">Holland Lodge #1</a>	Meeting 7:00 pm
13	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
15	Thurs.	<a href="#">East Bernard #817 Installation</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 Catechism Instruction</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

### AUGUST 2021

4	Wed.	<a href="#">Gray Lodge Stated Meeting</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
9	Mon.	Houston Council #1 Meeting	<a href="#">Holland Lodge #1</a>	Meeting 7:00 pm
10	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
12	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Masonic Education</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
13	Fri.	Ruthven Cmdry #2 Stated Meeting	<a href="#">Holland Lodge #1</a>	Meeting 7:00 pm
14	Sat.	Scottish Rite Reunion (Day 1)	<a href="#">Scottish Rite Temple</a>	
16	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	<a href="#">Arabia Shrine Temple</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
19	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Ritual School &amp; Practice</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
14	Sat.	Scottish Rite Reunion (Day 2)	<a href="#">Scottish Rite Temple</a>	
25	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	<a href="#">Reagan Lodge #1057</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
26	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	<a href="#">Scottish Rite Temple</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
26	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Catechism Instruction</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
28	Sat.	Scottish Rite Reunion (Day 3)	<a href="#">Scottish Rite Temple</a>	

### SEPTEMBER 2021

1	Wed.	<a href="#">Gray Lodge Stated Meeting</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
9	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Masonic Education</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
10	Fri.	Ruthven Cmdry #2 Stated Meeting	<a href="#">Holland Lodge #1</a>	Meeting 7:00 pm
13	Mon.	Washington Chapt #2 Meeting	<a href="#">Holland Lodge #1</a>	Meeting 7:00 pm
14	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
16	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Ritual School &amp; Practice</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	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	<a href="#">Reagan Lodge #1057</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
23	Thurs.	<a href="#">Lodge Catechism Instruction</a>	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
23	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	<a href="#">Scottish Rite Temple</a>	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
26	Sat.	GL CoW Forum & Exam	<a href="#">BW Tinsley #1458</a>	Forum at 9:30 am, Exam to follow

## July Stated Meeting

Please plan now to join us for our next Stated Meeting on Wednesday, July 7. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. (our new SS Leo Barnuevo has already begun to spoil us with his cooking skills!), with the first Stated Meeting of the new Masonic year to follow in an EA Lodge at 7 p.m.

WM Ybarra is planning meetings that will be more entertaining and educational than the typical monthly business of the Lodge, so we hope you will be there Wednesday to welcome him into the East!

## 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 Bro. Darrin Pitts at [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 [swarden@gray329.org](mailto:swarden@gray329.org).

## MASTER MASON ANNIVERSARIES

### 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	Louceny Bangoura
19	Donald Hernandez, Sr.**		<i>* Past Master of Gray Lodge</i>
19	Thomas Murray		<i>** Affiliated Past Master</i>

### AUGUST 2021

3	Mark Phelps	21	James Lyon, Jr.*
8	Joey Hereford	22	Cory Lawrence
9	Michael Farnell	24	Wayne Isham
9	Todd Smith	25	Thomas Schwartz
9	Richard Snell	26	Max Bowen
11	Jack Barnett	26	John Perryman
11	Rajesh Kadiyala	27	Michael Viteri
11	Ian Martin	29	Christopher Matthews
11	Richard McHenry, Jr.	29	Jose Padilla, Jr.
12	Elza Steen	29	Vigil Roxas
16	Edward Ettel, III	31	Raymond Leloup
19	James Houk	31	John Pulley
20	Frederick Laughlin		<i>* Past Master of Gray Lodge</i>

### SEPTEMBER 2021

5	Dwight Hollon	15	Larry Gabriel	23	Roy Shaw, Jr.
6	Mark Vonderau	15	Norman Peterson,	24	Christopher Haist
7	Bob Martin, Jr.	17	Miguel Grajeda, Sr.	29	Merle Zimmerman
9	Alexander Di Caro, Jr.	18	Roger Castillo	30	James Gilbert
10	Norman Dow	19	Abdel Fustok		<i>* Past Master of Gray Lodge</i>
10	John McGalin	22	Jim Hoffman, Jr.		
11	Gregory McCoy	22	Christopher Spry*		

*"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*