

Gray Line



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

FEBRUARY 2023

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HOUSTON, TEXAS 77077

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CHARTERED JUNE 24, 1870

OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023

GARY A. WIENER

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

STEVEN E. COBB

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JUNIOR WARDEN

DANIEL R. SWEET

TREASURER

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SECRETARY

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SENIOR STEWARD

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MARSHAL

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Greetings from the East



Brethren,

If you missed our Sweethearts' Dinner (and "Blue Slipper" presentation) on Feb. 16, you missed an incredible evening of friendship, fellowship, and family. Masons and their ladies from several area lodges were in attendance, as were several officers of Bluebell Chapter #856 of the Order of the Eastern Star. I have heard nothing but positive feedback from the attendees, and I hope the tradition will continue next year!

Here is what Gray Lodge has on tap for the next couple of months, and all Brethren should make every effort to attend each of these:

- **Wednesday, March 1** - Stated Meeting (EA lodge). Judge Kyle Carter, a DeMolay brother, is expected to join us in open session to share his memories of, and lessons learned from, our late Past Master Shearn Smith (see Page 7).
- **Thursday, March 16** - Our Gray Lodge brother and R.:W.: Aaron Tyksinski will share his important presentation on candidate investigations. As a peace officer of several decades' experience, R.:W.: Tyksinski is an expert in how—and how **NOT**—to investigate petitioners who would enter our West Gate.
- **Wednesday, April 5** - Stated Meeting (MM lodge). R.:W.:

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Greetings From the East

(Continued from page 1)

Michael Foreman, District Deputy Grand Master for our District 30-B, will make his first of two official visits to Gray Lodge. Also, the ladies of Bluebell Chapter, OES are scheduled to provide our dinner, which ought to be a memorable one!

- **Thursday, April 13** - Scholarships and Lamar Medal Awards night. Join us as we recognize three outstanding high school seniors and honor a very worthy educator!

If you haven't already paid your 2023 lodge dues (remember, they have increased to \$250), please do so as soon as possible. If you cannot do so, please contact secretary@gray329.org so we can see if you qualify for relief from this year's dues obligation.

Finally, we are almost ready to put the finishing touches on our upstairs office space, to be paid for entirely by the members of this year's Master's ("151") Club. However, we need a little more money and we have a little more space available on the appreciation plaque that will hang upstairs upon completion ... if you haven't already provided your financial support for this worthy endeavor, please consider doing so (see Page 4)!

Fraternally and Sincerely,

Gary Wiener
Worshipful Master

Mark Your Calendars Now!

There are a LOT of great activities coming up soon at Gray Lodge No. 329! Here is just a taste of what we have planned:

- On Thursday, March 16, 2023, our Brother and WM of Holland No. 1, R.:W.: Aaron Tyksinski, will present his acclaimed class on Masonic candidate investigations at our Lodge Education Roundtable. Every Brother who plans to serve on an investigating committee — at any point — will benefit from this presentation. Mark your calendars now!
- On Wednesday, April 5, our District Deputy Grand Master, R.:W.: Michael Foreman, will make his first official visit of 2023 to Gray Lodge. Making the evening even more special will be our dinner, prepared by the ladies of Bluebell Chapter #856, Order of the Eastern Star. You won't want to miss this stated meeting!
- Thursday, April 13 will be our presentation of college scholarships and the Mirabeau B. Lamar Medal. This is an important evening every year at Gray Lodge, and we hope you will be able to join us!



Dues Are PAST Due ...

Gray Lodge annual dues notices were issued in late October, either via email (if we have your address) or regular mail. To remain a member in good standing, dues must be received by January 1, 2023. Your dues provide the funds that allow Gray Lodge to pay our bills, so please remit payment to the Lodge promptly.

You can now pay your annual Lodge dues (\$250 for 2023) online through the Gray Lodge No. 329 website (<http://www.gray329.org>, select "Pay Your Dues" from the menu), or use one of the QR codes below. (PayPal charges a small convenience fee; Zelle has no additional charge. If the Zelle QR code does not work, simply remit to treasurer@gray329.org.)

Even if your membership is Endowed, Life or 50-Year, please read Worshipful Master Wiener's message regarding financial support. Gray Lodge has faced a budget deficit for years, and only with your help can we ensure the long-term financial stability of our beloved lodge. You can also join the Master's "151" Club (\$175 through June 24, 2023), or increase your Endowment, by selecting "Shop" from the website menu.

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. Thank you for your prompt attention!



Scan in your photo app to pay

GRAY LODGE NO. 329

at onlinetreasurer@gray329.org



Scan in your banking app to pay

GRAY LODGE NO. 329

at treasurer@gray329.org



Have You Joined the “151 Club” (Master’s Club) Yet?

WM Wiener wishes to heartily thank the members (so far) of this year’s Master’s Club:

Mike Nanny, PM, PGM
 Mario Reyna, PM
 MC Marshall Collins
 Jim Hoffman
 Doug Hissong, PM
 Gary Wiener, WM
 Gasper Puccio

Darrin Pitts, PM
 SW Steven Cobb
 JW Vigil Roxas
 Joshua Perez
 Tom Wiener, APM
 Bill Nicholson
 Brad Ledbetter, TI



The “151 Club” is open to any Gray Lodge member who supports the Lodge by contributing an amount equal to 2022’s annual dues, in addition to their Endowed, Life or 50-Year Membership or regular dues. This year’s proceeds will be used to finish and furnish the second floor of our Lodge Building.

Members receive a special lapel pin and their support is honored on a plaque. Use the QR code to the left to become a 151 Club Member!

“... that Important Lesson of Charity”

The **Humphrey Benevolent Fund** was established from the bequest of the estate of Brother W. S. Humphrey to Gray Lodge in 1929, The property in the estate of Brother Humphrey was set aside by the membership of Gray Lodge as an endowment for charitable purposes, primarily to relieve the distresses of Gray Lodge Brethren and their wives, widows, mothers, sisters and daughters. In addition, the Fund may be used for appropriate Community Charity Projects.

Although many Brethren don’t know about the Humphrey Fund, rest assured that the mission of its Administrative Board (composed of the five principal Elected Officers and two Brethren appointed at the Worshipful Master’s discretion) is to provide emergency financial help when it is critically needed — no questions asked, no identities disclosed. .

The gifts from the Humphrey Fund are just that — gifts — and the Fund does not require nor expect to be reimbursed. However, that means that from time to time, the available cash in the Fund dips to an alarmingly low level. When that happens, it is up to those Brethren whose cable tow will permit to share their generosity, so that it can be put to best use when it is needed. Please donate if you can, either via cash or check to our Lodge Secretary, or via PayPal using this QR code . The money will be available for a very worthy cause (and, in case of emergency, it will be available for you, too!).



Gray #329's First Annual Sweethearts' Dinner, February 16, 2023



IN MEMORIAM

Bro. Harry Joyce Green, Jr.**April 16, 1930 — December 12, 2022**

Bro. Harry Joyce Green, Jr., son of our Past Master Harry J. Green, Sr., laid down his well-worn working tools on December 12, 2022. Bro. Green was born to Cecilia and Harry Sr. in 1930, and grew up in Houston, where he graduated from Stephen F. Austin High School in 1948.

He entered Texas A&M University in the fall of 1948, and would continue to be a loyal Aggie for the rest of his life. As a member of the Corps of Cadets, he was part of Company B, and was an intercollegiate track star in what was then the Southwest Conference. In mid-1950, when the Korean Conflict broke out, Cadet Green left A&M to enlist in the U.S. Navy, serving for four years. Occasionally he would return to Houston, where he was initiated as an Entered Apprentice Mason in Gray Lodge No. 329 on July 30, 1951; passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on March 26, 1952; and raised to the Sublime Degree on May 28, 1952. Bro. Green was discharged in March 1955, when he

returned to A&M to complete his Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Education.

After graduation, he moved back to Houston, where he worked as a safety engineer in waste management and distributor for Honda motorcycles. He became active in the Houston A&M Club, and later helped start its Southwest Houston Chapter. Harry served as a Co-Class Agent for the Class of 1952 for many years.

Because of his visibility in Houston, Bro. Green was the perfect candidate to be chosen as the first Field Director for the Association of Former Students, whose growth potential would require greater statewide participation among fellow former students. Equipped with a company car and persuasive speaking skills, Bro. Green quickly came to know virtually every other Aggie in the state.

In 1980, Bro. Green married his beloved wife, Nelda. Together they lived an active and rewarding life until Nelda's passing in October 2017.

Harry Green's name is synonymous with the Aggie Club, the permanently-endowed athletic scholarship program, as he became its Executive Director in 1979. A 2012 interview in the *12th Man Magazine* noted that in 1975 there were approximately 1200 members with revenues about \$275,000. By the time Bro. Green retired in 1992, the newly renamed "12th Man Foundation" had 6,500 members and millions in revenues.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the Texas A&M Foundation, 12th Man Foundation, the Association of Former Students, or the charity of choice.

Bro. Danny Harold Fuller, Sr.**November 22, 1940 — January 13, 2023**

Bro. Danny H. Fuller Sr., Marshal of Gray Lodge No. 329 in 2009-2010, went to be with the Supreme Architect of the Universe on January 13, 2023. He was initiated May 8, 1985; passed Aug. 7, 2008; and raised Oct. 16, 2008, all in Gray Lodge. Bro. Fuller became an Endowed Member on June 20, 2011.

Bro. Fuller led a very private life, particularly after the passing of his son and our Brother, Danny H. Fuller, Jr. in 2022. He is survived by his wife, Carmelita. All funeral plans and other final arrangements were kept private.

IN MEMORIAM

Bro. Robert Shearn Smith, PM**October 8, 1927 — January 17, 2023**

The Monitor of the Grand Lodge of Texas quotes Psalms 90:10: "The days of our years are three score and ten," and "if by reason of strength they be four score years," the additional days are the heritage of those who fear the name of the Lord. Our Brother and Past Master, Judge Shearn Smith, lived nearly five score years before laying down his working tools on January 17, 2023, at the age of 95.

A native Houstonian, Bro. Shearn followed his older brother, Jackson B. Smith, Jr., into the U.S. Armed Forces and into Gray Lodge No. 329, being initiated on Oct. 11, 1950, passed Feb. 26, 1951, and raised Oct. 1, 1951. He also followed his brother, not only onto the Harris County bench in 1968, but through the line of our Lodge, leading to his service as Worshipful Master during Gray's centennial in 1969-70.

Bro. Shearn should not, however, be seen only in his brother's shadow. In 1983 he began a lifetime of service to the Grand Lodge of Texas, serving on the Grievance & Appeals Committee No. 1 under Grand Master J.D. "Buddy" Baccus. He served seven Grand Masters on (what was then called) the Titles, Deeds and Civil Law Committee from 1993-1999 and again in 2000, and was our District Deputy Grand Master under R.:W.: Billy W. Tinsley in 1994. Bro. Smith also served as District 30-B's Education Officer from 1994-1998; as Grand Chaplain for R.:W.: Michael D. Nanny in 2002; and as a member of the Masonic Jurisprudence Committee from 2002-2008. For his efforts on behalf of Texas Masonry and particularly Gray Lodge, our conference room and library is dedicated in his honor.

Bro. Shearn met the love of his life, Annell, in April 1954 at a State Bar Convention at the old Shamrock Hilton. Together they raised four children: twin boys Ronald and Donald, who survive him; and Cheryl and Robert Jr., who predeceased him.

Bro. Shearn was in the second graduating class of the Univ. of Houston Law School in 1951 (one year behind Bro. Jack Smith), and was elected to the 61st District Court bench in 1968, where "Stern Shearn" remained until his retirement in 1996. Among his accomplishments was to overhaul the jury selection system in Harris County, replacing the physical "jury wheel" (which contained about 111,000 jurors' names) with an electronic system (expanding the potential jury pool to over 2.5 million).

His proudest accomplishment after his family, however, may have been when he became president of the UH Alumni Association, and sang the National Anthem and Alma Mater at all football and basketball games from 1968 to 2015. (He was also known to break into song within our lodge room on occasion!)

Bro. Smith's funeral was on January 26, 2023, with his Gray Lodge brethren providing Masonic rites. He was laid to rest in a private ceremony at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin, near his (and our) brother Jack. The family asks memorial donations be made to Faith Lutheran Church in Bellaire; Shearn Smith UH Band Scholarship; Shearn Smith UH Law Scholarship; and Judge Shearn Smith Masonic Library at Gray Lodge No. 329.

UPCOMING LOCAL MASONIC EVENTS

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>.

We are working to repair the online calendar feed and will have new links for you soon.

FEBRUARY 2023

1	Wed.	Gray Lodge Stated Meeting	Gray #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
2	Thurs.	Lodge Masonic Education	Gray #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
9	Thurs.	Lodge Education & Esoteric Work	Gray #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
10	Fri.	Ruthven Cmdry #2 Stated Meeting	Holland #1	Meeting 7:00 pm
13	Mon.	Houston Council #1 Meeting	Holland #1	Meeting 7:00 pm
14	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray #329	7:30 pm
15	Wed.	Dist. 30 MM Degree	George Ranch , Richmond	Degree 6:00 pm
16	Thurs.	Sweethearts' Dinner & Blue Slipper	Gray #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Presentat. 7:30 pm
18	Sat.	Lodge Work Saturday	Gray #329	Begins 10:00 am
20	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
22	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Reagan #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

MARCH 2023

1	Wed.	Gray Lodge Stated Meeting	Gray #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
2	Thurs.	Lodge Masonic Education	Gray #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
9	Thurs.	Lodge Education & Esoteric Work	Gray #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
10	Fri.	Ruthven Cmdry #2 Stated Meeting	Holland #1	Meeting 7:00 pm
13	Mon.	Washington Chapt #2 Meeting	Holland #1	Meeting 7:00 pm
14	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray #329	7:30 pm
16	Thurs.	Lodge Candidate Investigations	Gray #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
18	Sat.	Lodge Work Saturday	Gray #329	Begins 10:00 am
20	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
22	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Reagan #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
23	Thurs.	Lodge Masonic Education	Gray #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
30	Thurs.	Lodge Masonic Education	Gray #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm

APRIL 2023

5	Wed.	Gray Lodge Stated Meeting	Gray #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
6	Thurs.	Lodge Masonic Education	Gray #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
10	Mon.	Houston Council #1 Meeting	Holland #1	Meeting 7:00 pm
11	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray #329	7:30 pm
13	Thurs.	Scholarships & Lamar Medal	Gray #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
14	Fri.	Ruthven Cmdry #2 Stated Meeting	Holland #1	Meeting 7:00 pm
15	Sat.	Lodge Work Saturday	Gray #329	Begins 10:00 am
17	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
20	Thurs.	Lodge Education Roundtable	Gray #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
21	Fri.	San Jacinto Day		
26	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Reagan #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
27	Thurs.	Lodge Masonic Education	Gray #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm

March Stated Meeting

Please plan now to join us for our Stated Meeting on Wednesday, March 1. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., with an Entered Apprentice Mason's lodge to open at 7 p.m.

Also, please mark your calendars for our April Stated Meeting on Wednesday, April 5, at which our DDGM, R.:W.: Michael Foreman, will make his first official visit.

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.

MASTER MASON ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY 2023

4	Al Florido (10 yrs) *	16	Crawford Weir (30)
4	Lonnie Posey (7)	18	Frank Bissell (10)
5	J.W. Clampitte (64) *	18	Roy Cook (42)
5	David Vukovic (14)	24	Valdemar Perez (51)
8	Alan Johnston (17)	25	Buddy Taylor (47)
11	Leo Barnuevo (2)	27	Earnest Canterbury (47)
12	Todd Rovner (20)		<i>* Past Master of Gray Lodge</i>
15	Donald Beckner (45)		

MARCH 2023

7	Richard Cobb	21	Luiz Soriano
10	William Britt	25	Richard Cobb, Jr.
10	Hamlin Elrod	27	Kenneth Wallis
10	Gregory Stephens	28	Curtis Buchan
13	Ricardo Abuabara	28	Noil Frisby
13	Kevin Roberts*	29	Lloyd Sherbert
14	Willard Cox	30	David Black
18	Zach Willner	30	Lawrence Rathbun
19	James Shafer	31	David Jurgens
20	Daniel Boyd	31	Cary Maurstad
20	Darrin Pitts*		<i>* Past Master of Gray Lodge</i>

APRIL 2023

6	Matt Burke	14	Allen Casals	22	Lee McMillian
7	Gaspar Puccio	14	Michael Ruppel	23	Darrel Smallwood
8	Michael Bryant	15	Alan Pugh	23	William Wilkins
9	Jeffrey Bell	16	Alan Harnack	25	James Cowan
9	Miguel Grajeda, Jr.	16	T. Earl Long*	26	Philip Derise
9	Rodrigo Moura	17	M. Ichikawa	26	Joel Zimmerman
11	Micho Moore	17	David Steen	27	Sonny Johnson*
11	John Taylor	18	Walter Qualls	27	George Pardue
12	Pete DeGeurin	19	Joe Lester	27	Ronald Walker
12	Bruce Levy	21	Butch Boggess*	29	Thomas Young
13	Barry Amrich	21	Greg Weisinger*	30	Brian Dodson*
13	George Lillard*	22	Alex Buddenbaum		<i>* Past Master of Gray Lodge</i>