

Gray Line



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

NOVEMBER 2021

2370 BARKER OAKS DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77077

(713) 730-9329

CHARTERED JUNE 24, 1870

OFFICERS FOR 2021-2022

ERICKSON E. YBARRA

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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.

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Greetings from the East



Brethren,

It's now November, which means Thanksgiving is right around the corner. This American tradition became a federal holiday by proclamation from President Abraham Lincoln during the American Civil War in "humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience." Some say it was also an attempt to bring feuding families back together again. In either case, the tradition long existed in English and American culture before it became official.

It's the time of the year when we literally and symbolically reap what we sow, and collect the bounty from our year's endeavors. Thus, this time of year we often see depictions of corn, gamebirds, corn, and gourds such as pumpkins, squash, and melons to symbolize the harvest. The cornucopia, or "horn of plenty" (the jewel of the Stewards of the Lodge) is a common symbol during Thanksgiving for apparent reasons.

The well-known story of Thanksgiving that we all learned in school is that English Pilgrims landed near Plymouth Rock to escape religious persecution in their homeland. Shortly after their arrival, they met with the Wampanoag Native Americans and established an understanding of peace, then they met for three days of prayer and feasting. What is often overlooked is that the peace died a generation later and the two peoples entered into a bloody war. I believe this is

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Greetings From the East

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important to remember, because while we might get wrapped up in this time of year and feel charitable, loving, and kind while we have the food on our tables, we must carry that spirit as best we can into the future every day and during every year.

Brethren, this time of year we're supposed to give thanks and be grateful for the blessings already received. Trust me when I say that I know how hard it is to not focus on the regrets and missed opportunities. Instead, we should try to be thankful for the things that we DO have. That grateful spirit is an important quality to cultivate because just as the tide ebbs and flows, so does life, and we won't always get everything we want. So, I challenge you to be kind, light hearted, and grateful. If I don't see you beforehand, have a happy Thanksgiving and know that myself and the Lodge are at your service.

Fraternally and Sincerely,
Erickson Ybarra, Worshipful Master

Greetings from the West

Brethren,

The holiday season may be fast approaching, but it's not here yet—and Gray Lodge #329 is continuing to move forward at full speed! Last Thursday we initiated two new worthy Brothers into the ranks of the Entered Apprentices; and on Thursday, November 11, over a dozen Past Masters of Gray Lodge will return to our mosaic pavement to confer the Master Mason's Degree upon an eager Fellowcraft. (In keeping with Grand Master Curry's "Bring a Brother Back" theme, if you have not been to Lodge in a while we strongly encourage you to join us this Thursday! If you cannot join us for this special Degree, the Officers and Brethren of Gray Lodge will be conferring another Master's Degree on Thursday, November 18.)



I would love to tell you that all of the work occupying our time is Masonic, but unfortunately that's not the case:

- The main water line leading from the city's main along Barker Oaks to our building has ruptured. We have been looking for weeks for a plumber who can address our concerns, but apparently most of them are still booked to perform repairs from last February's freezing weather. If you know of someone qualified who can help us, please email officers@gray329.org to let us know. (Meanwhile, the toilets still flush, so we are continuing our labors in our own building.)
- The lodge's "venerable" (a nice way of saying "old") kitchen refrigerator finally went the way of the Ancients, and we are shopping for a replacement. After considering residential refrigerators, we determined that for the money, a commercial reach-in fridge is still our best option. Any suggestions on how to get a new one (or a VERY-lightly used one) at a good price will be most welcome!

Your financial support of your Lodge is *always* welcomed. If you want something delicious in return for your contribution, however, we encourage you to participate in our Thanksgiving smoked-turkey fundraiser, which WM Ybarra and JPM Moreno have organized. Order it straight from the Lodge website at <http://www.gray329.org>!

- Gary Wiener, Senior Warden

GRAY MASONIC LODGE #329

**Smoked Turkey
Fundraiser**

TO FUND AND SUPPORT MASONIC SCHOLARSHIPS

ONLY \$65 EACH

Order and Payment due by November 18th
for each 20-22 lb. turkey

ORDER & PAY ONLINE at [http://
www.gray329.org](http://www.gray329.org) with your PayPal
account or credit card, or contact
master@gray329.org

Pickup Location:

Gray Lodge #329 Dining Hall
2370 Barker Oaks Drive Houston, TX 77077

Pickup Date:

Wednesday, November 24

Toleration in Masonry

Bro. Jewel P. Lightfoot, PGM

Lightfoot Commentaries, Grand Lodge of Texas

Masonry inculcates civic patriotism and endeavors to strongly impress the importance of that public virtue upon the mind of every initiate; but chief among the more virtues, which the Order strives to keep ever present in the hearts of its candidates and members, is that of toleration. Toleration is that broad-mindedness which both prompts and enables a man to regard every other man as his peer, and entitled equally with himself to his individual opinions and sentiments regarding matters political, philosophical and religious.

Tolerance is that spirit of unselfishness which leads a man to recognize that each person sees things from his own viewpoint, and to admit that it is always possible for himself to be wrong and the other right. It is that kindliness of thought which prompts a man to respect the opinions of his fellows as if they might some day become his own.

Toleration is that charitable judgment upon the actions, the conduct and even the foibles of others which each man would wish passed upon his own, and which concedes that another may be honest at heart even though wrong or mistaken in his opinion or conclusion.

The practical object of Masonry has been defined to be "the physical and moral amelioration and intellectual and spiritual improvement of individuals and society." Society can be improved only as the constituent individuals are made better; and Masonry seeks to accomplish this by inducing in each individual consciousness a deeper and stronger personal responsibility and a higher and keener appreciation of the things of moral and intellectual worth. This, my brethren, is character building, and this is the ultimate object and aim of Masonry. It is that our system of philosophy takes the homely and practical operation of building a structure – a temple – as a symbol, by means of which to illustrate, to those who have eyes to see and ears to hear, those great truths and virtues which woven into the warp and woof of life by practice and experience, cloth man with a garment of beauty and honor, and polish and adorn his true character.

The cornerstone of the Masonic structure is Truth, which is declared to be a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. From this cornerstone extends the foundation walls constructed of the moral virtues and intellectual excellencies, and like the foundation of the metaphoric of the City of Revelation "garnished with all manner of precious stones," chief among which are Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, Justice, Brotherly Love, Relief, Toleration, and Patriotism. And as the physical structure rises secure and faultless on its foundation of solid stones, so Masonry undertakes to erect the foundation of these great virtues, in each individual consciousness, the Temple of Character: that temple wherein each must dwell and serve, until, perfected by the processes of God's alchemy, sweetened by suffering and sanctified by love, he is prepared to enter in, through the gate over which is inscribed, "Holiness and to the Lord," into the city, made without hands, eternal in the heavens, in which there is no temple, "for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it," (Rev. 21:22.)

Masonry instructs every entrant, "as a citizen, you are to be quiet and peaceable subject, true to your government, and just to your country; you are not to countenance disloyalty or rebellion,

but patiently submit to legal authority, and to conform with cheerfulness to the government of the country in which you live."

Masonic toleration does not in the least imply any obligation to condone wrong doing or the commission of crime either by Masons or others, for Masonry undertakes to teach men what is right, just and true; and this field of toleration extends to only to those who are trying to follow these precepts and not to those are knowingly or willfully violating them. Diversity of opinion in a country where there is free thought with respect to lawful methods, which is not only lawful but is right and desirable, makes for advancement in culture and achievement; and it is such diversity of opinion that Masonic toleration has in view of inculcating respect and regard for the views and sentiments of those who may differ from us concerning manners or matters of life; but all of this applied only to such matters, circumstances and conditions as are in themselves beyond the pale of lawful obedience, they cease to have any claim upon Masonry for any of its privileges or benefits. Above all, Masonry teaches obedience to lawful regulations and duly constituted authorities; and in no sense approves disrespect, violation or nullification of proper governmental regulations.

Men genuinely imbued with the principle of Toleration are qualified to lead the people in their struggle upward, and those not appointed to lead know how to follow and serve in every movement for Justice, Right, and Truth.

It's About Dues Time Again!

Within the next 30 to 60 days, all Gray Lodge members should expect to receive either your annual Dues notice, or a personal letter from Worshipful Master Ybarra regarding your endowment, life, or 50-Year membership. Your dues payments provide the funds that allow Gray Lodge to pay our bills, so when asked, please provide your financial support to the Lodge promptly.

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.



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/graylodgecalendar@gmail.com/public/basic.ics>

NOVEMBER 2021

8	Mon.	Washington Chapt #2 Meeting	Holland Lodge #1	Meeting 7:00 pm
9	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
11	Thurs.	"PM's" Master Mason's Degree	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
12	Fri.	Ruthven Cmdry #2 Stated Meeting	Holland Lodge #1	Meeting 7:00 pm
13	Sat.	13th Ann. A.S. Richardson Lecture	Embassy Suites	Dinner 6:30 pm / Presentation 8 pm
15	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
17	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Holland Lodge #1	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
18	Thurs.	Master Mason's Degree	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
18	Thurs.	Scottish Rite Stated Meeting	Scottish Rite Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm

DECEMBER 2021

1	Wed.	Gray Lodge Stated Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
2	Thurs.	Lodge Masonic Education	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
9	Thurs.	Lodge Education & Esoteric Work	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
10	Fri.	Ruthven Cmdry #2 Stated Meeting	Holland Lodge #1	Meeting 7:00 pm
13	Mon.	Houston Council #1 Meeting	Holland Lodge #1	Meeting 7:00 pm
14	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
16	Thurs.	Lodge Ritual / Degree Practice	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
20	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
22	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Holland Lodge #1	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
23	Thurs.	Lodge Catechism Instruction	Gray Lodge #329	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

JANUARY 2022

5	Wed.	Gray Lodge Stated Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
6	Thurs.	Lodge Masonic Education	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
10	Mon.	Washington Chapt #2 Meeting	Holland Lodge #1	Meeting 7:00 pm
11	Tues.	Bluebell Chapter OES Meeting	Gray Lodge #329	7:30 pm
13	Thurs.	Lodge Education & Esoteric Work	Gray Lodge #329	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
14	Fri.	Ruthven Cmdry #2 Stated Meeting	Holland Lodge #1	Meeting 7:00 pm
17	Mon.	Arabia Shrine Stated Meeting	Arabia Shrine Temple	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
20-22	Thu-Sat	Grand Annual Communication	Grand Lodge, Waco	
26	Wed.	District 30 MWSA Meeting	Reagan Lodge #1057	Dinner 6:00 pm / Meeting 7:00 pm
27	Thurs.	GL Comm on Work Exam	Reagan Lodge #1057	Exam 6:00 pm
27	Thurs.	Lodge Catechism Instruction	Gray Lodge #329	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

December Stated Meeting

Please plan now to join us for our next Stated Meeting on Wednesday, December 1. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., with an Entered Apprentice lodge to open 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 on Wednesday, December 1!

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

NOVEMBER 2021

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

DECEMBER 2021

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

JANUARY 2022

3 Thomas Hill	27 Yassen Kantchev
5 Myron Welsh	27 Jamal Diallo
6 William Nicholson	28 Kenneth Smart
10 Brian Blowers	28 Chad Mitchell
11 James Littlejohn	29 Jerry Argovitz
12 Robert Reeder	29 Charles McKinley
12 Chester Presley	31 Todd Ivey
12 Anthony Copeland	31 Ignacio Fantaguzzi
21 Thomas Bashforth	

"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