

# Gardena Moneta Lodge 372



Free & Accepted Masons of the State of California

## Gardena Masonic Center

1250 W. 155th St., Gardena, CA 90247

(310) 329-3372 — [www.mason372.org](http://www.mason372.org)

Volume 11 Issue 05

Masonry a Way of Life

May 2011

### FROM THE EAST

Brethren, the lodge roof repair is halfway done and our fellowship room expansion has already started. A portion of the wall which separated our fellowship room and the Library has already been knock down. I would like to commend all the Brethren, EA's, FC's, and Candidates who participated in this work and gave their services in cleaning-up the attic and the library. Many thanks also to the guidance of Brother Dan Ibanez who is the architect of this project.

Our fund for this project as of now is \$1, 242.00. This is the total collection from our private Donate and Play casino night contributions, proceeds from hat sales, and donations from the Brethren. We still need donations to increase our fund so that we can afford to replace the Library's existing floor carpet to laminated flooring. **And for those who wish to help and donate to this project please see our Brother Secretary for your pledge. My heartfelt thanks to all the brethren for your generosity!**

Let me acknowledge again the leadership of our Senior Warden Bro Jun Bernabe who once again seat in the East during my absence and my appreciation to all the Brethren who supported him.

Brethren, Let us welcome our newly obligated brothers, Rogelio Diaz and Adam Castro. They were passed to the degree of Fellow Craft Mason on May 14, 2011 at Masonic Homes in Covina at California. I would like to extend my congratulations to all the officers for their outstanding performance in this conferral degree especially to Aris Reyes P.M. who obligated the second candidate and to all the sideliners including the residents of Masonic Homes who attended this fraternal activity. My hats off to our Candidates and Junior Warden Charlie Ponce for preparing the food and barbeque that were enjoyed by everybody. A million Thanks also to Worshipful Jim Nash and Peggy Parker who arranged this event and the tour to the facility that was hosted by Neste Bette.

Lastly, *"let no motive therefore, make you swerve from your duty; violate your vows or betray your trust; but be true and faithful, and imitate the example of that celebrated artist whom you have that evening represented. Thus... you render yourself deserving of the honor which we have conferred, and worthy of the confidence which we have repose on you"*.

Fraternally.  
Flor Cabanatan  
Master

### May – June 2011 Schedule:

May 20, 2011 - Dark or TBA

May 21, 2011 - OSI ( Re-scheduled next month) TBA

May 21, 2011 - Arranged the Lodge for Public school presentation of student and teacher of the year .

May 27, 2011 - Public school Presentation of Student and Teacher of the year.

June 04, 2011 - Stated Meeting and possible conferral of degrees.

## The Application Process

### Part One

As I said in the previous articles, I will be discussing certain procedures and rules in our processes for the benefit of all. The matter I will be discussing now is the application process.

Before an application can be received formally (read at a stated meeting), the application has to be complete with the required fees and submitted to the Lodge.

#### **FILING OF APPLICATION:**

To complete the application, the applicant must sign it. If unable to sign by "... reason of physical affliction", a mark is acceptable as long as two Lodge members attest to the signature. At least two members of Lodge must sign as recommenders. This is a serious concern because when a brother recommends the applicant it becomes a "personal pledge of Masonic honor to the Lodge that the applicant possesses the qualifications required." And once given, it cannot be withdrawn. The Code does not require that the recommender should have previously known the applicant. It is enough that before he signs as recommender a careful investigation was made to ascertain if the applicant is worthy. And the last signatures required are two references which could be anybody, mason or non mason, male or female. The application should then be filed together with the required fees (now \$260.00 for degrees or \$60.00 for affiliation) to the Lodge thru the Secretary.

#### **WITHDRAWAL:**

At this point, two things may happen. First, before the application is formally read in open lodge, the applicant can withdraw his application and get back his fees. Second, an objection to the application can be made by a brother Mason. Though the Master "... may not refuse to receive the application or direct the Secretary to withhold it for any reason" the Lodge, however may by a majority vote, refuse to receive the application. This is also treated as a withdrawal. (Sec. 804.285)

#### **FORMAL RECEPTION:**

The Secretary then reads (formally receives) the application at the next stated meeting highlighting the qualifications of the applicant based on the application answers.

The Master then refers the application to an investigation committee composed of three brothers "... known only to the Master and shall not be made known to the Lodge or to the other members of the Committee". (Sec.804.310) The majority of us knows what this means when we are taken aside by the master after the meeting and given those white envelopes. Again I would like to emphasize this provision, the brothers given this task should not and cannot disclose to any other brother or any one else that they are investigating the applicant. I would also like to stress that the investigating brothers should stress to the candidate not to disclose to anyone the identity of the brother who interviewed them. I can only speculate as the reason for this secrecy. One reason that comes to mind is that this is one way that the investigation can be impartial. Another reason would probably be is to avoid discord inside the lodge.

#### **INVESTIGATION:**

It is the duty of the investigator to "... to make strict examination into the moral, mental, physical and other proper qualifications of the applicant". The investigator "...shall inform himself as to the character of the applicant". Furthermore, it is his duty "... to report to the Master at the next Stated Meeting, unless he grants further time."

All three reports are thus required to be submitted to the Master on the next stated meeting except when the investigator requests the Master for additional time. All three reports should be unanimously favorable. Only one unfavorable report is required to reject the application.

If no request for extension of time is made and the other two reports were submitted and both were favorable, then the application will be accepted. More like "... speak now or forever hold your peace..."

The proper procedure therefore for the investigating brother is to request the Master to grant additional time for turning in the report. To employ other means than this is deemed improper and morally unfair to the candidate. There are other procedures in the Code that can be used.

A Committee member is guilty of a serious neglect of duty if he reports favorably on an application without reliable information as to all matters on which the Lodge requires advice.

There are new rules recently made as far as the investigation of candidates. It is now required that the investigator also contact the recommenders as well as references. The new rules take it still further—investigate the community and the work place. Though there are strong merits to the new rules, it would however bring to task the rule of secrecy of the investigation. To contact the recommender would mean disclosing the identity of the investigator because the recommender is a member of the lodge. But a closer scrutiny would mean that the investigator must possess certain investigative skills as to be able to do his job as well as keeping the shroud of secrecy.

#### **PUBLICATION:**

Within ten (10) days from the formal reception of the application, the Lodge is required to notify all lodges within a 10 mile radius about the application for degrees or affiliation.

This requirement is met by the publication sent by the Masonic Service Bureau to all Masons. The reason for this is to inform other brother masons from other lodges that this person is applying to become a Mason and if they have any objections to it, now is the time to say it.

I will be discussing more of this in the next issue.

## From the South

Brothers, our April 29<sup>th</sup> Junior Warden Retreat was very interesting and educational, I wish we could all be given the opportunity to attend the same. It gives more emphasis and understanding the responsibilities and duties of officers in the lodge. We also had the opportunity interact and get acquainted with Junior Wardens of other lodges, and as such, it's a learning experience, it really is, a constructive aid in our way with our travel towards destination. Our ladies were also given the opportunity to learn more about the history of the fraternity and understand their role and contributions over the success of their better half during their Masonic year as officer in the lodge.

Not many of us knew about this "Swedish Rite of Freemasonry". this will be interesting for us to attend to this presentation. This is notably different from all other styles. Learn more about the fascinating Masonic traditions of the Swedish Rite from a world-renowned academic scholar of Freemasonry, Dr. Andreas Önnersfors, presented by the Grand Lodge of California and the Institute for Masonic Studies, will be making appearances in Southern and Northern California.

## Southern California Lecture:

May 31, 7 p.m.

Santa Monica Masonic Center

926 Santa Monica Blvd

Santa Monica, CA 90401

Contact: [steve@doan-bezner.com](mailto:steve@doan-bezner.com)

Local Sponsors: Los Angeles Lodge No. 42, Santa Monica-Palisades Lodge No. 307

## Northern California Lecture:

June 1, 7 p.m.

Oakland Scottish Rite

1547 Lakeside Drive

Oakland, CA 94612

Contact: [jlcooper@freemason.org](mailto:jlcooper@freemason.org)

Local Sponsors: Academia Lodge No. 847, Golden Compasses Research Lodge, Northern California Research Lodge, Prometheus Lodge No. 851

Another interesting event for this month of May 2011 is our Stated Meeting at Covina Masonic Homes along with the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree conferral for our 3 candidates and in conjunction with the opportunity to meet up with our Masonic Elders who are residence of the same Institution. These were all arranged and made possible by our brother whom we already know even without mention of the name is just a common knowledge to us of his continual display of Masonic feat in the lodge. A brother who is so emphatic about doing what is best as always, his devotion and dedication for the good and benefit of our Lodge.

**"May peace and harmony always prevail upon each and every one of us".**

Fraternally  
Charlie Ponce  
Junior Warden

**Birthdays**

- 01 Felipe Badiola
- 02 Gene D. Provinse
- 03 Richard B. Pingarron PM
- 03 Craig McDowell
- 04 Terry Young
- 05 Nelson T. Sarian
- 05 Manuel Dela Roca
- 07 Edgardo L. Golpeo
- 07 LeRoy Forehand PM
- 08 Sidney Brickman
- 11 Thomas Cantwell
- 12 Baldomerino Aligo
- 15 Alton G. McQueen
- 21 Manuel T. Quitevis
- 21 Edy M.Tuballa
- 22 Mervin W. LaFond
- 23 Arthur Howard
- 25 Harold Perong
- 26 Ronald Hawkins
- 27 Casey Callender
- 28 Kenny Pouder
- 29 Serafettin Bayraktar
- 30 Rolly Arillaga
- 31 Walter Boehm

*National Cancer Survivors Day  
By Your Side*

Today, there are more than 11 million cancer survivors living in the U.S. and it is Grand Master Bill Bray's hope that **By Your Side** will provide those still in the fight with more comfort and care by raising funds to cover the cost of oncology certification for California nurses.

Join your lodge at the June stated meeting to celebrate survivorship, to celebrate being alive, to celebrate the moment. Recognize cancer survivors on June 5th, *National Cancer Survivors Day*, and demonstrate that life after a cancer diagnosis can be a reality.

**2010 Committee Chairmen**

- Audit:**  
Lee Razalan
- Budget and Finance:**  
Dana Wyatt, PM
- Child ID Program:**  
Al Fowler PM,  
[Alvin@mason372.org](mailto:Alvin@mason372.org)
- Civic Recognition Day:**  
Ed Labinpuno
- Constitutional Observance:**  
Jigs Dejesa
- Entertainment:**  
Cris Bayani
- Funeral:**  
Ira Waterman, PM
- Hiram Award:**  
Flor Cabanatan
- Investment Committee:**  
Dana Wyatt, PM,  
[Dana@mason372.org](mailto:Dana@mason372.org)
- Masonic Education:**  
Oscar P. Leus, PM
- Masonic Service Bureau:**  
Victor Lerma, PM  
Delfin Macapagal
- Membership/Retention:**  
Delfin Macapagal
- Photographer:**  
Chris Cabanatan
- Public Schools:**  
Ben Ponce
- Refreshment :**  
Manny Abellon
- Restoration:**  
Ted Sandel
- Sickness and Visitation:**  
Roger Garst, PM
- Trestle Board Editor:**  
Ken Martin PM,  
[Ken@mason372.org](mailto:Ken@mason372.org)
- Web Master:**  
Rommel Macoy  
[webmaster@mason372.org](mailto:webmaster@mason372.org)
- Widows:**  
Roger Garst, PM

**Stated Meetings**

First Friday @ 7:30  
Dinner @ 6:30  
All Master Masons are welcome.

**2011 Lodge Officers**

- Master**  
Flor Cabanatan
- Senior Warden**  
Jose Bernabe Jr.
- Junior Warden**  
Charlie Ponce
- Treasurer**  
Dana Wyatt PM
- Secretary**  
Delfin Macapagal
- Assistant Secretary**  
Stan Nocon
- Chaplain**  
Tony Halili
- Senior Deacon**  
Ben Ponce
- Junior Deacon**  
Rolly Arillaga
- Marshal**  
JV Villanueva
- Senior Steward**  
Rene Esmane
- Junior Steward**  
Dan Ibanez
- Tiler**  
Jig De Jesa
- District 713 Inspector**  
Freddie Davis PM