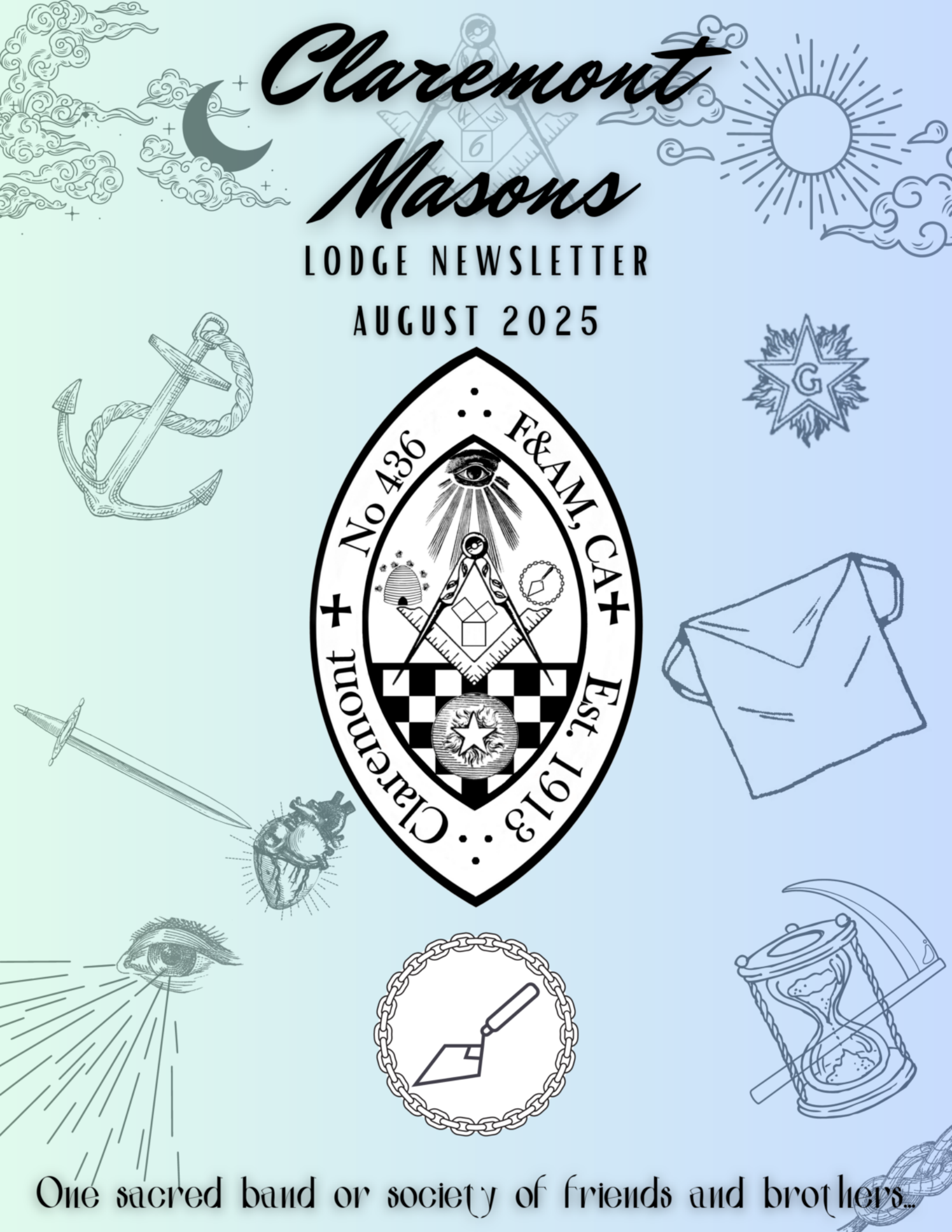


# Claremont Masons

LODGE NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025



One sacred band or society of friends and brothers...

# 2025 Officers of Claremont No. 436



Master	Jonathan Dru Wood, PM, HA
Senior Warden	Joshua James
Junior Warden	<i>(pro-tem)</i> Abraham Flores
Treasurer	Robert Oaks, PM
Secretary	Jon Olson, HA
Chaplain	Jon Olson, HA
Senior Deacon	<i>(pro-tem)</i> Joe L. Martinez
Junior Deacon	<i>(pro-tem)</i> Bobby Edwards Roush
Marshal	Shawn S. Meyer
Senior Steward	<i>(pro-tem)</i> Ryan McCoy
Junior Steward	<i>vacant</i>
Tiler	Ryan Tickle
Organist	Jon Olson, HA



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 8/6 at 6:30pm ~ Executive Committee Meeting (Zoom)
- 8/7 at 6:30pm ~ Dinner Social & Stated - Masons4Mitts (P\*)
- 8/14 at 7:30pm ~ OSI - Claremont (P\*)
- 8/21 at 7:30pm ~ Northeast Corner Lecture Series
- 8/28 at 7:30pm ~ Prospects Night (P)
- 9/3 at 7:30pm ~ Executive Committee Meeting (Zoom)
- 9/4 at 6:30pm ~ Stated Meeting & Pub Social (P\*)
- 9/6 at 9:00am ~ OSI at Ontario - All degree exemplification
- 9/11 at 7:30pm ~ FC° practice (tentative) (P\*)
- 9/18 at 7:30pm ~ FC° rehearsal (tentative) (P\*)
- 9/25 at 7:30pm ~ FC° (tentative) (P\*)
- 10/1 at 7:30pm ~ Executive Committee Meeting (Zoom)
- 10/2 at 6:30pm ~ Dinner Social & Stated - Masons4Mitts (P\*)
- 10/4 at 5:00pm ~ Special Degree exemplification at Lodge No. 290
- 10/9 at 7:30pm ~ Degree or practice (TBD) (P\*)
- 10/16 at 7:30pm ~ Degree or practice (TBD) (P\*)
- 10/23 at 7:30pm ~ Lodge dark
- 10/24 - 10/26 ~ 2025 Annual Communication
- 10/30 at 7:30pm ~ Prospects Night (P)

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity...  
(P) = Prospects may attend this event. (P\*) = Prospects may attend before or after event (P & P\* both require RSVP)





# NORTHEAST CORNER LECTURE SERIES

TOPIC

## The Nine Classes of Emblems

PRESENTER:  
BRO. NATHAN BEXTON

THURSDAY  
AUGUST 21ST @ 7:30PM



Claremont  
Masons

TILED EVENT OPEN TO  
MASONS ONLY!  
COAT & TIE.

# PROSPECT EVENTS

- 8/7 at 6:30pm ~ Dinner & Social time (before Stated Meeting) -(rsvp: [linktr.ee/claremont\\_masons](https://linktr.ee/claremont_masons))
- 8/14 at 6:30pm ~ Dinner & social time before member's-only event
- 8/28 at 6:30pm ~ Prospects Night (this event is just for you!)
- 9/4 at 6:30pm ~ Social time before Stated Meeting
- 9/11 at 6:30pm ~ Social time before member's-only event
- 9/18 at 6:30pm ~ Social time before member's-only event
- 10/2 at 6:30pm ~ Dinner & Social time (before Stated Meeting) -(rsvp: [linktr.ee/claremont\\_masons](https://linktr.ee/claremont_masons))
- 10/9 at 6:30pm ~ Social time before member's-only event
- 10/16 at 6:30pm ~ Social time before member's-only event
- 10/30 at 6:30pm ~ Prospects Night (this event is just for you!)

## 3<sup>o</sup> Anniversaries

Name	Raised
George Innes	8/24/1995
Jonathan Dru Wood PM	8/28/2006

## Birthdays

Name	Day
John Stelling PM	5
Humberto Suarez Jr.	12
Michael Saluzzi	14
Fabian Ballesteros, Sr.	21
Daniel Stephenson	26



ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR  
STAR OF CLAREMONT  
CHAPTER 110



Please contact Worthy Matron, Jeanne Gapper at 909-851-5861 for calendar.

Join Us for a Sizzling  
good time at  
Star of Claremont #110  
**END OF SUMMER BBQ**  
**WED. AUG 27<sup>TH</sup> AT 6PM**



- BBQ Hamburgers & Hot Dogs
- All the fixins & Sides
- Dessert!!
- Refreshing Beverages
- Family & Friends

CLAREMONT MASONIC LODGE  
272 W EIGHTH ST  
Claremont Ca 91711  
Casual Attire  
RSVP by Aug 22nd  
to WM Jeanne Gapper  
909-851-5861

jeannegapper@yahoo.com  
Proceeds will be used to support the  
sponsor's fraternal purposes.

\$15 per person



Job's Daughters  
INTERNATIONAL®

Claremont Bethel no. 301

## Events



- 8/9@ 10:00am – In-robe meeting
  - 9/6 @ 12:00pm – BBQ Fundraiser
- + other activities as determined by the Bethel.  
Please contact Bethel Guardian, Jennifer Cook  
at [1guardian301@gmail.com](mailto:1guardian301@gmail.com) for updates.



# CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES 2025

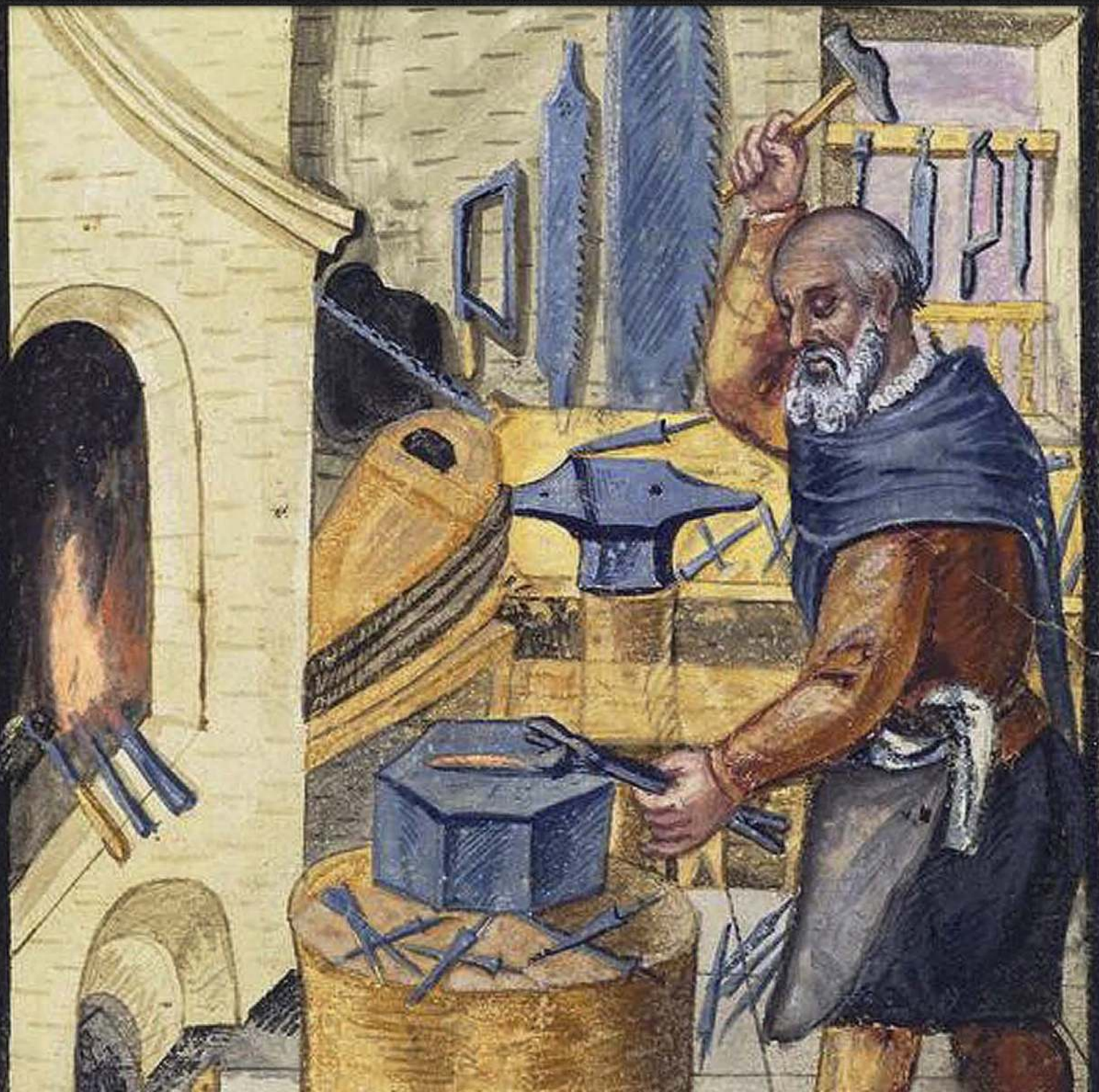
Month	Required Business	Dinner or Special Event
1-Jan	Presentation of Budget	Planning Meeting
2-Feb	Semi-Annual Reports	Golden Veteran Ceremony & Dinner
3-Mar		Spirit of Hiram - Pasadena Scottish Rite & St. Paddy's Dinner
4-Apr	Inspector's Official Visit	Stated Meeting & Dinner
5-May		District Festive Board
6-Jun		Stated Meeting & Dinner – Masons4Mitts
7-Jul		Tiki Luau BBQ
8-Aug	Semi-Annual Reports	Stated Meeting & Dinner – Masonic Homes
9-Sep	Constitutional Observance	The Living Constitution at Pasadena Scottish Rite
10-Oct	Annual Communication	Pub Social after Stated Meeting
11-Nov	Elections and Flag Escort	Pub Social after Stated Meeting
12-Dec	Installation of Officers	Holiday/Sweethearts Dinner



# LIGHT

## Ancient Gods and Initiatic Traditions

By Angel Millar





*“As such, Freemasonry remains the last of an ancient tradition. Here, we are going to explore related guilds and societies and the history of guild initiations.”*

Since antiquity, across the globe, the Mysteries and their initiation rituals have frequently been the prerogative of particular professions and their guilds. These included metallurgy, brewing, and weaving. Although emerging later than the aforementioned ancient crafts, stonemasonry was another such profession with a guild, mysteries, secrets, and initiation rituals. And, it is from stonemasonry that Freemasonry emerged, preserving its spiritual and initiatic practices while no longer having any official ties to the professions of architecture or construction.

More than three-hundred years have passed since the founding of the premier Grand Lodge of Freemasonry (or “Free and Accepted Masons”) in London in 1717 C.E. And, through texts written and preserved by various stonemasons’ lodges, the roots of the fraternity can be traced back another three centuries to the late 14th century. As such, Freemasonry remains the last of an ancient tradition. Here, we are going to explore related guilds and societies and the history of guild initiations.

“In certain parts of Germany and Scandinavia,” anthropologist Mircea Eliade tells us, “the blacksmith until quite recently participated in initiatory scenarios of the Männerbünde [men’s initiatic society] type.” And he notes, too, that “Smiths and blacksmiths play a similar role in the rituals of Japanese ‘male societies’.” [1] Moreover, we find that ancient deities are often associated with ancient crafts. In ancient Greece, the Moirai were said to spin and weave the fates of mortals. (one of the three Moirai sisters was called “Clotho” or “spinner”). And, again in ancient Greece, the god Hephaestus was a divine smith. So, too, was the Canaanite god Koshar-wa-Hasis (meaning literally “skillful”) and the ancient Egyptian god Ptah. The latter forged weapons for the god Horus, and, in Indian mythology, similarly, a divine smith called Tvashtri forged weapons for the god Indra. In Norse mythology, one of the first acts of the gods was to build forges.

Although the ancient type of Männerbünde “disappeared with, if not before, the eradication of pagan worship,” says historian Kris Kershaw, “exclusive men’s societies of other sorts, most notably the guilds, sprang up to fill the void. Thus, we find handworkers carrying their tools or symbols of their trade [in parades].” [2]

The most important of those guilds was, undoubtedly, stonemasonry. As pre-Christian rituals, symbols, and Mysteries were replaced by—or, to some degree, incorporated into—those of Christianity, stonemasonry eclipsed other guilds, becoming the most significant profession of the medieval ages by erecting its churches and cathedrals (the latter, architectural marvels, could sometimes take decades to construct).

But old beliefs die hard, of course, and many pre-Christian practices and ideas were incorporated into the new faith. Leaving aside the adoption of holidays and associated elements such as the Christmas tree, although medieval, monastic scribes wrote primarily in Latin, using the Roman alphabet, they occasionally incorporated runes, or runic letters, into their work. Runes (meaning “Mysteries” or “a secret”) had previously been associated with the Norse god Odin. Yet, in Great Britain, stonemasons also used them in inscriptions; the most notable surviving example of which is the 8th century Ruthwell cross, at the town of Ruthwell, Scotland, depicting the crucifixion of Christ. Again, stonemasons would sometimes adopt a rune (O.E. *runstæf*) as their trademark, and some of these can still be seen in Rochester cathedral (12th century) and elsewhere in England.

Let us turn to the “Old Charges” (the handwritten texts of the stonemasons’ lodges of Great Britain). The oldest surviving is generally thought to be the Regius Ms. (usually dated to circa 1390 C.E.). The author of the text claims that stonemasonry came to England during the reign of King Athelstan (*kynge Adelstonus day*). As remains of Roman villas (e.g., at the city of Bath) show clearly, this claim is false. However, Athelstan was the perfect symbolic choice for the initiator of stonemasonry in England. Not only was he the first king of England, his name means, literally, “noble” (Old English *æpele*, Middle English *athel*) “stone” (O.E. *stan*, M.E., *ston*)—“noble stone.”

More important for us, though, are the references to ancient crafts that can be found in the Old Charges. In the Cooke Ms. (c. 1450 C.E.), we read the following:

YE |s|chul|le| under|s|tonde  
|that| |th|is |s|one tubalcaym  
was founder of |s|mythis  
craft and o|ther| craft of  
meteil |that| is to |s|ey of eyron  
of braffe of golde & of |s|il|ver|  
as |s|ome docturs |s|eyn & his  
|s|ys|ter| neema was fynder  
of we|ver|s|craft. for by fore  
|that| time  
was no cloth weuyn but  
they did spynne yerne and  
knytte hit & made h|em| |s|uch|e|  
clothyng as they couthe but  
as |the| woman neema  
founde |the| craft of weuyng  
& |ther|fore hit was kalled wo  
menys craft.

Ye shall understand  
that this son Tubal Cain  
was [the] founder of smiths'  
craft, and of other crafts of  
metal, that is to say, of iron,  
of brass, of gold, and of silver,  
as some doctors say, and his  
sister Naamah was finder of  
weavers-craft, for before  
that time  
was no cloth woven, but  
they did spin yarn and  
knit it, and made them such  
clothing as they could,  
but as the woman Naamah  
found the craft of weaving,  
and therefore it was called wo-  
men’s craft.[3]



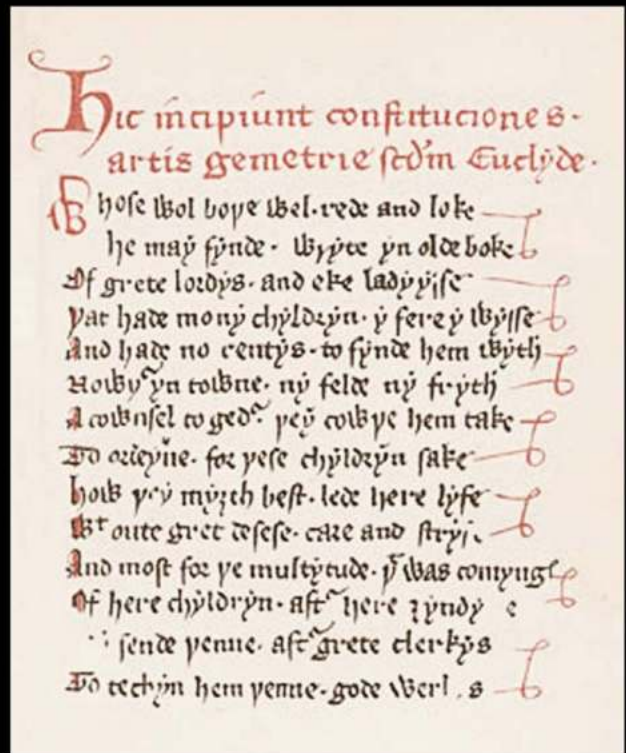
It is intriguing that stonemasons' lodges recorded the mythical origins of metallurgy and weaving; though it suggests that medieval stonemasons saw themselves as being part of a group of guilds or professions with ancient origins and, probably, initiatic rites of some sort. (We saw at the beginning that blacksmiths were important to initiatic rites in parts of Germany and Scandinavia.) Here, of course, Biblical figures are mentioned, though it is quite possible that the guild figures have simply been Christianized, in the same way that saints (such as St. Martin) and the churches dedicated to them replaced the old gods (such as Mars) and their temples.

Nevertheless, we should note that the same manuscript also mentions the ancient Greek geometer and philosopher, Pythagoras ("putogoras"), and also the Greco-Egyptian figure Hermes Trismegistus ("hermes philosophe"); the latter originally being a fusion of the Greek god Hermes and the ancient Egyptian god Thoth (though believed to be a pre-Christian philosopher at that time).

Such pre-Christian figures were, to a large extent, embraced by Christian philosophers, with the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle having a particular influence on the work of the great theologian St. Thomas Aquinas. Again, we might note that Aquinas was also inspired by the Muslim philosopher Ibn Sina. Modern-day Catholic philosopher Josef Pieper wrote extensively on the works of Plato. And, the Mughal emperor Jalal al-Din Akbar—a Sunni Muslim by birth—established religious dialogues with Jews, Brahmans, Zoroastrians and others; and created a small sect called the *Din-i Ilahi* (Divine Faith), influenced by Islam, Jainism, Zoroastrianism, and Hinduism.

Our impulse might be to turn to early psychoanalyst Carl Jung, and to his theory of archetypes, as proof that all religions and mystical beliefs are essentially one. However, we might simply acknowledge that, while there are differences between the religions, small minds are narrow and dogmatic, while great minds are open to differences and find inspiration in them.

If we consider only the surviving Old Charges, the roots of Freemasonry stretch back at least six centuries; and we might argue that the myths of the stonemasons' lodges of Great Britain, during the Middle Ages, represent a continuation of even far older traditions. However, today's Fraternity remains important, not only because it continues or represents a perennial tradition, focused on the initiatic and the sacred. It remains important because our own



Above: A page from the Halliwell Ms. (cir. 1390).

time is increasingly characterized by fanaticism and small-mindedness, while our fraternity still appeals to the greatness of mind in the ordinary man. Hence, we find in our Masonic Lodge today, the Catholic, Anglican, Hindu, Muslim, Jew, neo-pagan—and “the spiritual but not religious”—all participating in the Mysteries of our traditions, and all regarding each other as our Brothers.

#### Works Cited:

1. Mircea Eliade, *The Forge and the Crucible*. Translated by Stephen Corrin. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, second edition, 1978), p. 104.
2. Kris Kershaw, *The One-Eyed God: Odin And The (Indo-)Germanic Männerbünde*, (Washington, D.C.: *Journal of Indo-European Studies*, Monograph No. 36, 2000), p. 36.
3. Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon. *The Halliwell Manuscript*, <https://freemasonry.bcy.ca/texts/regius.html>.

BIO: Angel Millar is the Editor-in-Chief of *Fraternal Review*, a Fellow of the Philalethes Society, and the author of *The Path of the Warrior-Mystic* and *The Three Stages of Initiatic Spirituality*, as well as three other books on the history of Freemasonry.



# Lodge Honor Roll

<b>Living Past Masters</b>	<b>Year(s) served</b>	<b>Hiram Award Recipients</b>	<b>Year Received</b>	<b>Golden Veteran (50-year member) Recipients</b>	<b>Date Raised</b>
<b>Chester Olson Jr.</b>	1977	<b>Bobby Thompson Jr. PM</b>	1990	<b>Gerald Snodgrass PM</b>	4/24/1962
<b>Gerald Snodgrass</b>	1979	<b>James Perry PM</b>	1992	<b>Donald King</b>	10/5/1965
<b>Michael Wigton</b>	1985	<b>Michael Wigton PM</b>	1994	<b>Erle Lewis Jr.</b>	3/7/1968
<b>Bobby Thompson Jr.</b>	1987	<b>David Lowry PM</b>	1996	<b>William Rook PM</b>	5/22/1968
<b>James Perry</b>	1991	<b>William Perry Jr. PM</b>	2001	<b>David Wishart</b>	11/25/1968
<b>Alan Rowson</b>	1992, 2009	<b>Alan Rowson PM</b>	2002	<b>James Perry PM</b>	10/9/1969
<b>Richard Pumerantz</b>	1995	<b>William Rook PM</b>	2004	<b>David Godwin</b>	1/26/1970
<b>William Rook</b>	1998	<b>Jon Olson</b>	2005	<b>Chester Olson Jr. PM</b>	6/21/1971
<b>William Perry Jr.</b>	1999	<b>Gary Lyttle PM</b>	2013	<b>Anthony Perry</b>	9/9/1971
<b>David Lowry</b>	2000	<b>Craig Perry PM</b>	2014	<b>Jon Olson</b>	6/15/1974
<b>Robert Montgomery</b>	2001	<b>Gary Kuhm PM</b>	2016	<b>Donald Smith</b>	6/20/1974
<b>Craig Perry</b>	2006, 2012	<b>Chester Olson Jr. PM</b>	2017 (Awarded by No. 711)		
<b>Gary Lyttle</b>	2007	<b>Gerald Snodgrass PM</b>	2018		
<b>John Stelling</b>	2008, 2017, 2018	<b>John Stelling PM</b>	2021		
<b>Gary Kuhm</b>	2010	<b>Jonathan Dru Wood PM</b>	2023		
<b>David Hancock</b>	2011				
<b>Marc Allen</b>	2013, 2014				
<b>Andrew Olson</b>	2015				
<b>Robert Oaks</b>	2016				
<b>Jonathan Dru Wood</b>	2019 - current				



# CANDIDATE PROGRESS



## Active Apprentices

Kevin Cook  
Entered: 7/9/2012

Dominick Khan  
Entered: 2/25/2023

Jamie Johnson  
Entered: 2/25/2023

Fabian Ballesteros  
Entered: 3/27/2025

Brian Bronk  
Entered: 5/29/2025

Rodrigo De La Cruz  
Entered: 6/12/2025

## Active Fellowcrafts

Walter DeJesus  
Passed: 8/25/2016





## LODGE OUTREACH PROGRAM

A partnership between local lodges and Masonic Outreach Services

- Outreach training in your district
- Resources, best practices, and advice
- A support network of dedicated volunteers

For more information, call (888) 466-3642 or visit us online at [masonichome.org/lodge-resources/lodge-outreach-program](http://masonichome.org/lodge-resources/lodge-outreach-program)



Masonic Homes  
of California

## WE'RE HERE TO HELP

### RELIEF FOR CALIFORNIA MASONS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- Information and referrals
- Senior communities in Covina and Union City
- Statewide Masonic Outreach Services for members of all ages and their families
- Transitions short-term care for neurological and post-surgical rehabilitation (Union City)
- The Masonic Center for Youth and Families in San Francisco and Covina—with telehealth services now available everywhere
- **NEW!** Shared housing for seniors in Covina

CONTACT US TODAY TO ACCESS YOUR  
MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES:

[masonichome.org](http://masonichome.org)  
(888) 466-3642

[mcyaf.org](http://mcyaf.org)  
(877) 488-6293 (San Francisco)  
(626) 251-2300 (Covina)

### Masonic Value Network:

Care Resources +  
Prescription Discounts

[masonichome.org/ValueNetwork](http://masonichome.org/ValueNetwork)





# *The Design Upon The Trestleboard*

*One sacred band or society of friends and brothers...*

*We are a vibrant and diverse group of men who value family, friendship, spiritual development, self-improvement, and virtuous character. We join together to celebrate the shared vision of an oasis of peace, harmony, and fraternal affection.*

*Through the study and application of Masonic principles, and by uniting in the bonds of fraternal affection, we refine our character, grow in wisdom, and seek to improve the lives of others.*

*We look to emulate the ideals of the Fraternity; and we accomplish this by working to ensure that the deeper implications of Masonic wisdom are explored and cultivated within each member through solemn and sincere degrees coupled with a contemplative approach to education.*

*Our efforts are guided by the enduring and relevant principles of our fraternity: Brotherly love, Relief, & Truth.*

*Working together, we will increase the relevance of our fraternity, and enhance the experience of membership in our lodge.*



[CLAREMONTLODGE.ORG](http://CLAREMONTLODGE.ORG)

[SOCIAL LINKS & MORE:  
LINKTR.EE/CLAREMONT\\_MASONS](http://LINKTR.EE/CLAREMONT_MASONS)

[272 W. 8TH ST, CLAREMONT, CA 91711](#)

