

May  
2022



Menifee Valley Lodge #289

# trestleboard

A newsletter serving the Masonic and affiliated bodies of Menifee Valley, CA



## Lodge Pages

Master's Message	1
Senior Warden	2
Junior Warden	3
Secretary	3

## Individual Highlights:

Education	4
124 <sup>th</sup> Philippines	6
MVL Highlights	7
M.M-Poem	9
Activities	10
Announcement	11
Calendar	13
Committees	14
Officers	15



Follow us on Facebook, where you can upload stories, photos and news events! You can also find Masonic education.

Please send stories, photos, comments or corrections to the editor at:

sharmaelly@gmail.com

Do you want to get the Trestleboard sooner? Sign up for email delivery and you'll get it before the 1<sup>st</sup>!

*Trestleboard - a draftsman's designing board; that on which a Mason draws his designs for his character and spiritual growth; that on which the Worshipful Master lays out his designs for the workmen; a Lodge's newsletter and calendar of events.*

## From the East

Jerry Donathan, PM

Worshipful Master



Brethren,

Well Brethren it's May already and we've accomplished so much ! Brethren, I'd like to echo Worshipful Harold and put together a floor cleaning crew and I'll buy the beer. We need to get together with the Jr Wardens of the other Lodges and finalize plans for the June 12<sup>th</sup> Philippines Independence Day Celebration. We're growing leaps and bounds so let's keep it up and finish with a bang !

Faternally,

Jerry Donathan

Worshipful Master

MVL #289



## DISTRESSED & WORTHY BROTHER RELIEF FUND

### DO YOU NEED MASONIC RELIEF DUE TO COVID-19?

Masonic Outreach Services is here to help those who find themselves in need due to COVID-19. Relief includes emergency financial assistance, case management, and information and referral services.

Learn more at [masonichome.org](http://masonichome.org)

Or call (888) 466-3642 to speak with Masonic Outreach staff



A beautiful system of Morality, veiled in Allegory, illustrated by Symbols



## From the West

*Harold Whitford, PM, SW*

**Hello Brethren,**

Wow! How time flies, only one month until the Big Filipino Independence Day celebration.

What should we do? Hey !Let's have another G.I.Party like we did for our Installation. The floors and bathrooms need a real good scrubbing .The Officers & Hall Assn. members that we could talk to and get a commitment from AGREED on Sat. May 14<sup>th</sup> 8-9 AM starting time to roll up our sleeves and 'get er'done' !

Bldg. Mgr. Jose is going to rent a 'tile floor' scrubber and we will need hand equipment like a couple of long handled scrub brushes etc. etc.. We have most everything we'll need and Al Burke said he'll be there to show us where stuff is. Our Master Jerry has offered to come up with some 'libation' and a couple of us will get some Pizza on the scene.

This will be a good example of how Masons work together in Unity & Harmony. Also and maybe even more importantly we can talk seriously and finalize who will be available and what arrangements have been made for June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Harold Whitford, P.M.

Senior Warden



## In Memoriam

January 23, 1947

75 Years 67 Days

March 30, 2022

**"Place, Bright and Glorious  
Be Thy Rising From It."  
Please, say a prayer for our  
dearly departed Worship-  
ful Brother Marty Gushwa,**



**"An honest man here lies at  
rest,  
The friend of man,  
The friend of truth,  
The friend of age,  
And guide of youth.  
Few hearts like his with virtue  
warmed.  
Few heads with knowledge so  
informed.  
In another world he lives in  
bliss,  
knowing here he made the  
best of this."**

**- Robert Burns**

**A Masonic memorial will be held on  
June 4, 2022, at 1:00 PM at the  
Menifee Valley Lodge Crystal Ballroom**

***Located at 27221 McCall Blvd***

***Sun City, CA 92585***



***"The secret of masonry is to keep a secret."***



## From the South

Marty Gushwa, PM, JW

**If** you noticed in the dance card, I put a sign about "EGO NEED NOT ENTER HERE". So, I searched more on the Web about EGO in masonry definition which I found an interesting article wrote by Bro. John W. "Jack" Dean III, 33° titled Masonic EGO – Positive or Negative?

In his first conclusion, he reached that the changed came slowly from the top leaders who cannot envision it, but the past officers were resistant and suspicious about the change.

The second conclusion, the lodge allowed the quality of the membership to decline. There were so many reasons for the development that he cannot address on his article. However, the decline in quality resulted at all levels in less tolerance for instruction of the membership and often friction between the members. It is when this happens that we as members and officers to step back and examine our positions.

The best conclusion on his article which I agreed was that *"In all our Masonic Bodies, we have an altar where each of us has learned the lessons of brotherhood, love, tolerance, and relief. At this same altar, we all took an oath to place an arm around a Brother and gave him due and timely notice of all approaching problems or dangers."*<sup>1</sup>

So, if you ask yourselves before you act, I wonder how much disharmony there would be. What would be your opinion about our current LODGE?

Always remember "MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER MEN".....

1. <https://warren13mason.tripod.com/id13.html>



## From the Secretary

Bro. Jerico Alvarez

**Brethren,**

As a member of Menifee Valley Lodge No. 289, you take an obligation to each other's wives and families. As a Lodge, managing the widows of former masons can be a difficult process since a lot of information is not known about the widows. Therefore, it is very important to obtain all possible personal information such as anniversary, date of birth, full name, and etc. on their current wife/partner while the member is still alive so the Lodge may continue to reach out to her upon his passing. Creating an engaged widows committee is the key to successful roster management and outreach. Including EA and FC masons on this committee is a great way to have an understanding of the truly masonic ornaments they are brotherly love, relief and truth. So if you would like to volunteer and be part of any Lodge offices, please contact myself for more details.

Additionally, below are obituary search engines that GLC recommended for Lodges to use.

- o Tributes.com
- o Legacy.com
- o Findagrave.com

Furthermore, the Social Security Death Index can be examined on the website below.

o [genealogybank.com/gbnk/ssdi](http://genealogybank.com/gbnk/ssdi)

Fraternally,

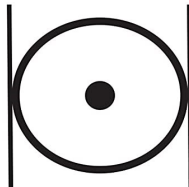
Bro. Jerico Alvarez  
Lodge Secretary

## BIRTHDAYS

MAY

### Member

Smith, Harold
Donathan, Jerry
Harrigan, Eli
Smith, Charles
Monsen, Peter
Punchard, George



## RAISING

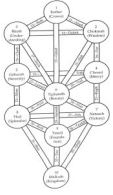
MAY

Member	Date Raised	Years
Goward, Richard	5/23/1951	71
Kossow, Frederick	5/5/1953	69
Wells, Monte	5/10/1957	65
Sibby, Edward	5/24/1963	53
Bacon, Clark	5/2/1970	52
Geisler, Douglas	5/17/1980	42
Harold, Whitford	5/11/1981	41
Hafeli, Thomas	5/14/1990	32
Gilmore II, James	5/24/1995	27
Hall, Adam	5/17/2001	21



*"Freemasonry is an institution calculated to benefit mankind."*





# Masonic Education

## Go Dark



### **The Masonic term "go dark" means that a lodge ceases to operate as a lodge.**

When a lodge "goes dark" or is said to have "gone dark"; it either:

1. Ceases to exist as a lodge (permanently closes its doors),...or
2. "Went dark" and ceased to have Stated Meetings for an agreed upon period of time:

**A.** This occurs in farming communities wherein when a large number of the lodge's members are farmers and must tend to their crops during the Summer; it is agreed that the lodge should "go dark" (no meetings) until Fall when their crops have been harvested.

This also applies to other trades and livelihoods such as if a large number of the lodge's members are fishermen and are at sea for periods of time or military lodges whose members are deployed.

**B.** Some lodges "go dark" for a period of time each year. Some lodges choose not to "go dark" during any period of time during the year. And, some lodges "go dark" (do not have Stated Meetings, especially during the Summer) and members are delegated to tend to other Masonic duties such as:

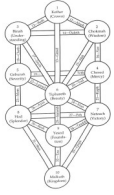
1. Large job Lodge maintenance (cleaning, polishing or stripping of the lodge's floors, painting, etc.)
2. Clean up and or mowing or trimming at Masonic cemeteries and widow's homes; visiting the elderly or those in nursing homes and hospitals.
3. Highway cleanup, community partnerships, charitable acts, etc.
4. If the lodge offers a Masonic scholarship, the lodge's delegated scholarship team contacts local area high school (s) and begins the application process for the next school year.

Masonic scholarships are typically education scholarships offered by the lodge to qualifying high school students in their local community who wish to attend university. Qualifications vary between lodges, but most are based on a student's academic grades and their financial need. There are no requirements placed upon the student to become a member of the lodge in the future.

Here is what Albert Mackey, Freemason author and historian, said in his *Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* (1929) page 262 about "Darkness":

(Continued in page 5)





# Masonic Education

## Darkness

"Darkness has, in all the systems of initiation, been deemed a symbol of ignorance, and so opposed to light, which is the symbol of knowledge. Hence the rule, that the eye should not see until the heart has conceived the true nature of those beauties which constitute the mysteries of the Order.

In the Ancient Mysteries, the aspirant (candidate) was always shrouded in darkness as a preparatory step to the reception of the full light of knowledge. Among the Druids of Britain, the period was 9 days and nights; in the Grecian Mysteries, it was 3 times 9 days; while among the Persians, according to Porphyry, it was extended to the almost incredible period of 50 days of darkness, solitude and fasting.

Because, according to all the cosmogonies, (the study of the origin of the universe) accounts of the universe, darkness existed before light was created, darkness was originally worshipped as the firstborn, as the progenitor of day and the state of existence before creation.

The apostrophe of Young to *Night* embodies the feelings which gave origin to this debasing worship of darkness:

O majestic night!  
Nature's great ancestor! Day's elder born!  
And fated to survive the transient sun!  
By mortals and immortals seen with awe!

Freemasonry has restored darkness to its proper place as a state of preparation; the symbol of that antemundane (being or occurring before the creation of the world) chaos from whence light issued at the Divine command; of the state of nonentity before birth, and of ignorance before the reception of knowledge. Hence, in the Ancient Mysteries, the release of the aspirant (candidate) from solitude and darkness was called the act of regeneration, and he was said to be born again, or to be raised from the dead. And in Freemasonry, the darkness which envelops the mind of the uninitiated being removed by the bright effulgence of Masonic light, Freemasons are appropriately called the "sons of light." In Doctor Oliver's *Signs and Symbols*, there is a lecture "On the Mysterious Darkness of the Third Degree." This refers to the ceremony of enveloping the room in darkness when that Degree is conferred - a ceremony once always observed, but now, in this country at least, (e.g. United States), frequently but improperly omitted.

The darkness here is a symbol of death, the lesson taught in the Degree, while the subsequent renewal of light refers to that other and subsequent lesson of eternal life.

**Simon Sez:** Both Dr. Oliver (1782-1867) and Dr. Albert Mackey (1807-1881) were renowned Masonic historians and authors. Dr. George Oliver lived in Lincolnshire, England. Dr. Albert Mackey lived in Charleston, South Carolina.

To "go dark" has no racial connotations, whatsoever, as it is well known that Freemasonry accepts as its members men of all different religions and races. The term "go dark" does not have any satanic meaning of any kind as Freemasonry is based upon a belief in a Supreme Being. In different languages around the world the Supreme Being is called such names as: God, Yahweh, Jehovah, YHWH (as seen in the Torah and the Old Testament), Jehovah, Lord, King of Kings and many, many more, as found in the Holy Scriptures.

Our lifelong quest of attaining more "light" refers to attaining mental illumination and journeying toward becoming a living representation of what the Supreme Being designed us to be upon his "Trestleboard", (the Holy Scriptures.)

---

<https://www.masonic-lodge-of-education.com/go-dark.html>



Sponsored by:

All the Lodges from 826<sup>th</sup> Masonic District



# 124<sup>TH</sup> *Philippines* *Independence Day*

Date: June 12, 2022 Time: Sunday, 5:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Location: 27221 McCall Blvd Sun City, CA 92585

## *Menifee Valley Lodge Crystal Ballroom*

The primary mission of the Menifee Valley Masonic Lodge is to help men improve their relationships with God, their family, their community, and most importantly, with themselves through utilizing the teachings, proven traditions and values set forth by Masons from the beginning of our Ancient Fraternity.

[bbceventcatering@gmail.com](mailto:bbceventcatering@gmail.com)



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*"Our Brotherhood has withstood the test of time and trial and continues to positively impact men's lives"*



*"Masonry is a search after Light. That search leads us directly back, as you see, to the Kabalah."*



# MENIFEE VALLEY LODGE HIGHLIGHTS

*April 7, Stated Meeting*



*"Masonry is not a religion. He who makes of it a religious belief, falsifies & denaturalizes it."*



# MENIFEE VALLEY LODGE HIGHLIGHTS

*Double Second Degree Conferral (Bro. Isaac & Bro. Tagle)*



*"Partition is after all only an old fortress of crumble masonry—held together with the plaster of fiction."*





# The Masonic Monthly Poem

## TRUE MASONS

A band of Brothers  
in every age,

Cemented by Fellowship  
true,

Masons are truly ~  
Sons of Light

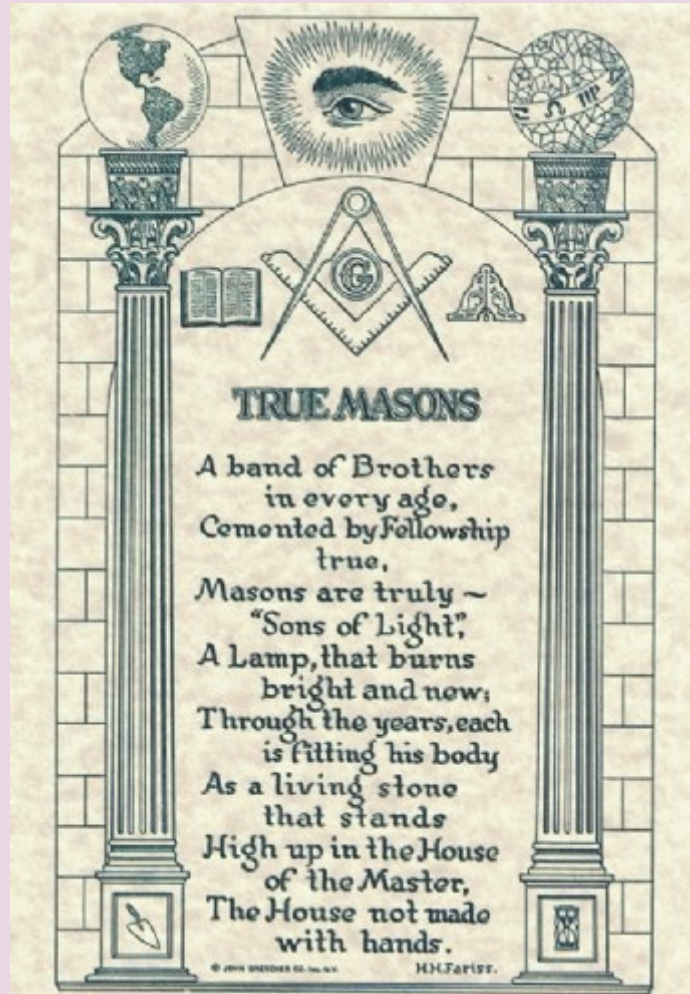
A Lamp, that burns  
bright and new

Through the years, each  
is fitting his body

As a living stone that stands ,

High up in the House  
of the Master

The House not made  
with hands.



## Concordant Bodies



Job's Daughters Bethel No. 165,  
Meets 2nd and 4th Sundays, 7:00pm  
Carrie Ghent, Bethel Guardian,  
951-271-2054  
Bro. Alan Walbridge, AG  
909-241-5547

**SAVE THE DATE!**

### Inside this Month's Issue

- \* The Silent Memorial
- \* The Last Masons You'll Ever Meet
- \* The Infinite Lodge
- \* Death's Doormen
- \* The Great Beyond
- \* Another Man's Treasure
- \* The Diplomat's Lodge

**Click on the image below to take you to the virtual CA Freemason magazine.**

**Click on the image on the right to download the reg-**

### 2022 LEADERSHIP RETREATS



# We're Back!

REGISTER NOW! →

LAKE TAHOE \* PALM SPRINGS \* SAN RAMON \* IRVINE

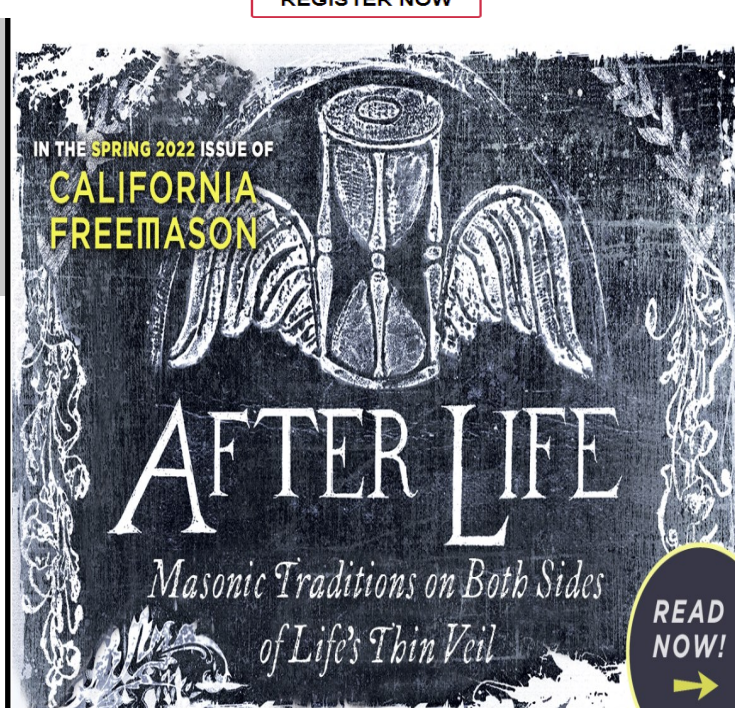
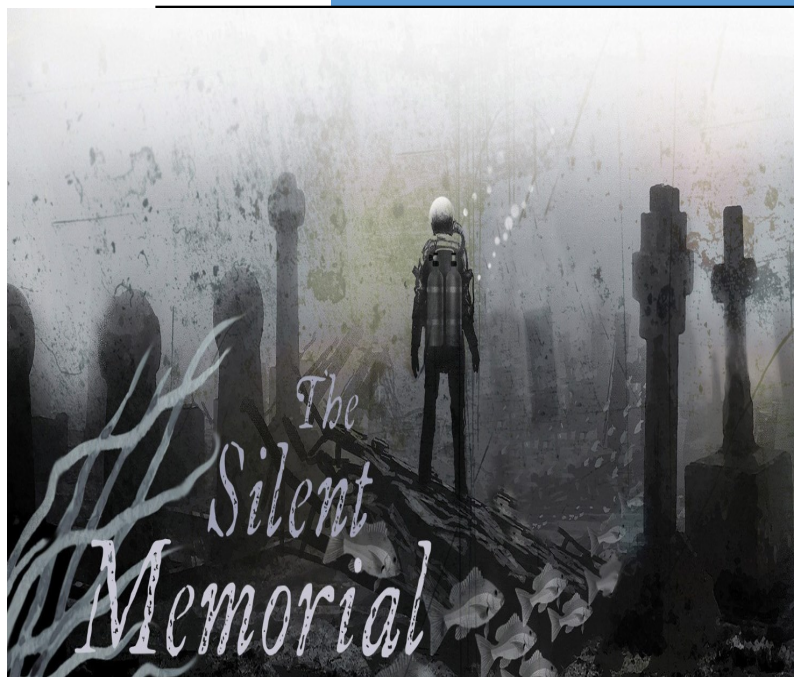
### **Register for the Final Master and Wardens Retreats in Palm Springs**

If you haven't registered for any of this year's Master and Wardens Leadership retreats, the Palm Springs retreat on May 20 is your final opportunity! If you're a current or aspiring lodge officer, the leadership retreats are a can't-miss event, offering advice and specialized sessions to help you envision the change you want to see—and put into action.

Now more than ever, leadership is crucial for our lodges to succeed. That's why, as we emerge from more than two years of pandemic shutdowns, it's imperative that our lodge leaders are armed with the right tools and information to help their lodges not only get back together, but to thrive.

**Master and Wardens Leadership Retreat**  
Palm Springs: May 20–22

**REGISTER NOW**



**READ NOW!**  
→



*"The church is no more religion than the masonry of the aqueduct is the water that flows through it."*





## ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE SECRETARY

### Menifee Valley Lodge No. 289

PO BOX 312 Sun City, CA 92586-0312

#### **Brethren of MVL289,**

The monthly Stated Meeting is scheduled on May 5, 2022 at 7:00pm. Dinner will be served at 6:00pm so please come in early for some important announcement from Lodge Officers.

Officer Attire: **White Long Sleeve with Black Bow Tie**

Member / Visitor: **Casual as appropriate**

Menu: Variety of Food (welcome to bring your favorite dishes)

#### **\*\*\*Schedule of Events\*\*\***

**4:30pm** - Lodge will be open. Preparation of refreshments in the kitchen.

**5:00pm** - Welcoming committees will talk to petitioners at the hall. Therefore, if you have prospect, please ask them to come in early.

**5:30pm** - Important announcement, T-shirts sale and other masonic items

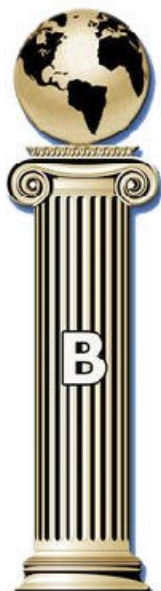
**6:00pm** - Dinner start, introduce returning members, visiting brethren and petitioners

**7:00pm** - Stated Meeting, and Transaction of new business for the benefits of Freemasonry.

Kindly make reservation before May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 by logging into your **imember portal**.

We are looking forward to your attendance at the event.

Peace and Harmony prevailing and God Bless to all Masons.



*"The successive series of stratified formations are piled on one another, almost like courses of masonry."*



## ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE SECRETARY

### Menifee Valley Lodge No. 289

PO BOX 312 Sun City, CA 92586-0312

#### **Brethren of MVL289,**

Please mark your calendar for the following MVL 289 events for the Month of May and June 2022. If you have questions or concerns, let the Lodge Secretary/Assistant Lodge Secretary know in advance so that the events will be modified with the WM's guidance:

#### **\*\*\*Schedule of Events\*\*\***

**May 05, 2022 4:30pm** - Stated Meeting at MVL 289. Lodge will be open. Preparation of refreshments in the kitchen.

**May 12, 2022 5:30pm** - Lodge open on 2nd Degree Proficiency of Bro. Jose Marquez

**6:00pm** - Lodge closed for refreshment.

**7:00pm**—Lodge open on 2nd Degree Conferral of Bro. Sherman Hernaez.

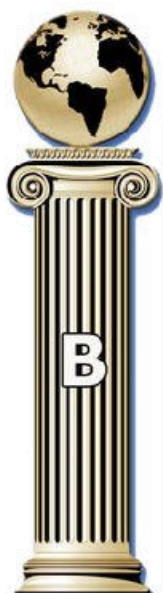
**May 19, 2022 7:00pm** - Practice on 3rd Degree Conferral of Bro. Jose Marquez.

**May 26, 2022 7:00pm** - Lodge open 3rd Degree Conferral of Bro. Jose Marquez.

**June 04, 2022 1:00pm**—Masonic Memorial Service for WB Marty Gushwa. (Attire: Dark Suit w/ black necktie). Please RSVP at 951-349-4957.

We are looking forward to your attendance at the event.

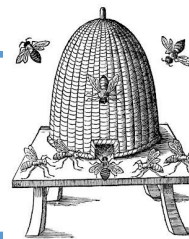
Peace and Harmony prevailing and God Bless to all Masons.





*"The successive series of stratified formations are piled on one another, almost like courses of masonry."*



# May 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 STATED MEETING TIME: 7:00 PM 	6 Grand Lodge of California established 1850	7
8 	9	10	11	12 2 <sup>o</sup> CONFERRAL FOR BRO-SHERMAN HERNAEZ 2 <sup>o</sup> PROFICIENCY FOR BRO JOSE MARQUEZ	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 3 <sup>o</sup> PRACTICE @ MVL 289 TIME: 7:00 PM	21	21
22	23	24	25	26 3 <sup>o</sup> CONFERRAL FOR BRO. JOSE MARQUEZ	27	28
29	30 	31				May Birthstone:  Emerald

**2022 LEADERSHIP RETREATS**



## We're Back!

REGISTER NOW! →

LAKE TAHOE \* PALM SPRINGS \* SAN RAMON \* IRVINE

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- 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

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mcyaf.org  
(877) 488-6293 (San Francisco)  
(626) 251-2300 (Covina)

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### OSI Schedule of Events 2022 Starts @ 7:00 P.M.

- ♦ 5/16/22— Temecula Catalina Island Lodge # 524. 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree 2<sup>nd</sup> Section. Staircase and Master's Lecture.
- ♦ 6/15/22- Temecula Catalina Island Lodge # 524. Hosted by **Murrieta Lodge # 869**. How to do a Candidate Investigation.
- ♦ 7/15/22—Menifee Valley Lodge # 289, Hosted by **Gat Jose Rizal Lodge UD**, 1st Section of 1st Degree O & O and closing in long form.
- ♦ August 2022—Dark
- ♦ 09/20/22—Hemet San Jacinto Lodge # 338, 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Master's Lecture

*"To acquire knowledge, one must study; but to acquire wisdom, one must observe."*



# Committees

Here are our committees for 2022. By being a Committee member, you are “paying it forward” to the Lodge by giving a little of your time. Some Committees only meet once a year, others quarterly, and some monthly. The point is, we need your help. Contact the Chairman for meeting times.



<u><b>Audit</b></u>  CH –	<u><b>Charity &amp; Relief</b></u>  Jerry Donathan, PM, WM  Harold Whitford, PM, SW	<u><b>Sickness &amp; Distress</b></u>  CH –Harold Whitford, PM	<u><b>Hiram Award</b></u>  Jerry Donathan, PM, WM  Wor Harold Whitford, PM, SW	<u><b>Funeral</b></u>  Wor Harold Whitford, PM, SW  Wor Allan Bowman, PM, Chaplain  Bro Jerico Alvarez
<u><b>Budget</b></u>  CH—Wor Chuck Markel, PM  Bro Sammy Gillo  Bro Jerico Alvarez	<u><b>Widows</b></u>  CH – Harold Whitford, PM  Wor Allan Bowman, PM  <u><b>Finance</b></u>  CH –Wor Jerry Donathan, SW	<u><b>Hall Association</b></u>  CH- Bro Sammy Gillo Pres (24) Bro Ed Fontanilla Sr VP(24) Bro Jerico Alvarez Sec (24) Chuck Markel, PM —Treasurer Bro Jose Shepard BM (24) Wor Harold Whitford, PM Ex Officio Wor Jerry Donathan , WM Ex Officio	<u><b>Trestleboard</b></u>  Editor—Wor Jerry Donathan, PM  Editor – Bro Sammy Gillo  Asst Secretary  Editor—Bro Jerico Alvarez  Secretary  <u><b>Public Schools</b></u>  CH –	<u><b>Refreshments</b></u>  CH– Marty Gushwa, PM  Sr. & Jr. Stewards  All EA's & FC's  Newly Raised MM's
<b>Assignments</b>				
<u><b>Officer's Coach</b></u>  Wor Chuck Markel, PM  Wor Harold Whitford, PM Assistant	<u><b>Masonic History</b></u>  Any Willing Brother	<u><b>Photographer</b></u>  Bro Bud Smith	<u><b>Fraternal Support Ambassador</b></u>  Wor Allan Bowman, PM	<u><b>Head Candidate Coach</b></u>  Bro Onofre Rasalan, SD
<u><b>Member Retention</b></u>  CH –		<u><b>Masonic Education</b></u>  Bro Onofre Rasalan Bro Dean Malibiran Any Willing Brother		
				<u><b>Facebook/Website</b></u>  CH – Bro Sammy Gillo  Bro Jerico Alvarez  Bro Adelbert Cagungao







### Menifee Valley Masonic Lodge

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Sun City, CA 92586

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Text: (951) 349-4957

#### Trestleboard Editor:

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[kjalvarez2126@gmail.com](mailto:kjalvarez2126@gmail.com)

**Sammy Gillo, Asst Secretary**

[sharmaelly@gmail.com](mailto:sharmaelly@gmail.com)

#### We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://>

[lodge289.freemason.org](http://lodge289.freemason.org)

[https://m.facebook.com/](https://m.facebook.com/MenifeeValleyMasons)

[MenifeeValleyMasons](https://m.facebook.com/MenifeeValleyMasons)

or for the Crystal Ballroom:

<http://>

[lodge289.freemason.org](http://lodge289.freemason.org)



## Menifee Valley Lodge #289 Officers

<b>Worshipful Master</b>	Wor Jerry Donathan, PM
<b>Senior Warden</b>	Wor Harold Whitford, PM
<b>Junior Warden</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Wor Chuck Markel, PM
<b>Secretary</b>	Jerico Alvarez
<b>Assistant Secretary</b>	Sammy Gillo
<b>Chaplain</b>	Wor Allan Bowman, PM
<b>Senior Deacon</b>	Onofre Rasalan
<b>Junior Deacon</b>	Adelbert Cagungao
<b>Marshal</b>	Jose Shepard
<b>Senior Steward</b>	Dean Malibiran
<b>Junior Steward</b>	Angel Panganiban
<b>Tiler</b>	Eduardo Fontanilla, Sr.
<b>Officer's Coach</b>	Wor Chuck Markel, PM
<b>Inspector 826<sup>th</sup> Masonic District</b>	Wor Carl Black, PM



Did you know that being an officer is both a privilege and an honor? These leaders have made a commitment to being at the practices and meetings/degrees and doing an outstanding job. We are all indebted to them for this commitment and their efforts. If you are interested in becoming an officer, please contact the Worshipful Master or the Officers Coach listed above.



*"Affliction's sons are brothers in distress, A brother to relieve, how exquisite the bliss!."*

Annual Trestleboard Sponsorships and business card ads help defray the annual cost of printing and mailing the Trestleboard to those Brothers, widows and friends of the Lodge who are not adept at electronic publications.

If you can afford to sponsor, please see your Lodge Secretary.

Business card ads are limited by the CMC to brother Mason's only.

If you wish to move  
mountains tomorrow, you  
must start by lifting stones  
today.



# Integrity



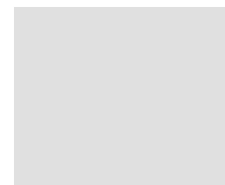
is choosing your thoughts and  
actions based on values rather  
than personal gain.

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THE REAL SECRET OF  
**FREEMASONRY**  
MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER