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- Send snail mail to: PO Box 33242 Los Gatos, CA 95031-3242
- Request email copy of Trestleboard to: [secretary@mtmoriah292.org](mailto:secretary@mtmoriah292.org)

## Charged with Charity

by Midnight Freemason Contributor

Bro. Michael Arce

Freemasons take a series of obligations that appeal to charity, relief, and support. We obligate ourselves, willfully, to care for our fellow Brothers, their families, but also to the world around us. In an era where the shadow of social discourse has cast shade on how we interact socially, in person and online; Freemasons are charged to be compassionate and kind. It is expected that we stand above the fray of extremism and partisanship, as an example of being a well-mannered gentleman and citizen.

We say these words that bind us to serve others, without expecting anything in return. Furthermore, these commands and obligations are always given with the caveat of our discretion. That point isn't viewed as "an out." The discretion is prefaced by our ability to act. Sometimes life has a funny way of interfering, we have families, jobs, and other demands we must meet. I have found that the greatest challenge I've faced when considering reaching out to help someone is answering the, "are they worthy" question.

When I asked my mentor why we were given room to make these decisions, what almost seemed like a loophole to me at the time, he explained that, "as a Master Mason, you need to act as the Master of yourself first before you can help others." At the time, his answered satisfied my query. Over time it has only opened a much larger internal discussion, on the idea that we as Freemasons are charged to walk uprightly, be charitable and kind, but only to those who we deem qualified to receive our aid or assistance.

But what does this mean? Anyone can choose to "do the right thing" and stop to help someone on the side of the road, volunteer for a cause, or throw a couple bucks in a collection cup. What is the difference between giving and charity?

The Masonic Way is to give without remembering and to receive without forgetting.

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### From the East

#### Brethren,

At our November Stated Meeting we will be having our annual election of officers. Please come and help elect our line for the ensuing year. We will hold our Installation practice and 2nd Degree proficiency on Nov. 13. All officers plan on attending, as we have some urgent business to complete before Installation.

Many thanks to Bro. Mark Ruffner for taking over the publication of our Trestleboard. It's been a while, but it is good to be able to put out our monthly newsletter once again. 2018 has seen more improvements to our Lodge building, with a new clock in the dining room and an A/V system being installed. This has enabled us to increase our rental revenue. I am pleased to say that we are now at the break-even point instead of being cash-flow negative as we have been for a long time, so we are well on our way to being financially healthy. I look forward to seeing what the future will bring for Mt. Moriah.

**Fraternally,**  
Jeff Powell,  
Master

Jeff Powell  
Mobile (408) 476-8476  
[jeff@jeffpowell.com](mailto:jeff@jeffpowell.com)

### From page 1...

I heard a line at a fundraising event a few years back that has stuck with me ever since, "giving time is just as important as giving money." From its earliest days, Freemasonry has been concerned with the care of orphans, the sick, and the elderly. This work continues today. Our Brethren regularly volunteer their time to community service events, fundraisers, parades, children and family events.

One example of giving without remembering is an event that my mother Lodge (St. George's #6) participates in every December. We meet at a local supermarket early on a Saturday morning. There is usually snow on the ground and it's cold enough to see your breath. Gathered in the bakery is a group of 10-15 Brothers, who pair up that morning to deliver fruit baskets to our elderly members and widows. I'll never forget the first year I volunteered to help, I was still an Entered Apprentice and was welcomed into the home of a Brother who hadn't been to Lodge in 20 years. I pulled up to his home while he was out stacking wood that morning. I thought, for sure, I was at the wrong house!

He ended up inviting me into his home where he shared the story of how he and his friends had all decided to petition to join Lodge together. This was decades before I even considered Masonry, so many of the names he mentioned I did not know, but there was one constant theme from his generation to mine --- the traditions and work of our Lodge. The following year, I partnered with a Brother who had affiliated with our Lodge from England. He had served as Master of his Lodge in England and had the goal of moving through the chairs in our Lodge to serve in America as well. Sadly, the following year, we delivered a fruit basket to his widow when lost his battle with cancer.

Every December I look forward to that one Saturday afternoon because what I receive from these Brothers and Widows, their time and warmth, is something I carry with me without forgetting.

Charity is the brightest jewel in the Masonic crown.

**From page 2...**

Much has been written about the amount of money Freemasons raise to help people in need, every day. Masonic relief has come in so many forms over the years from fires and floods, to flu shots and child ID programs, to responding to terrorist attacks. Charity is at the core of Freemasonry. When there is financial need, I've seen the hat passed around a Lodge room to return full of generous dollars.

But charity doesn't always involve cash or a check. For most of the \$2.6 million raised by Freemasons everyday, you won't find mention online or in the media. Matter of fact, you hardly EVER hear about Masonic efforts on your local news. As Masons, we are taught that charity is a private act, performed sometimes without the recipient having knowledge of their anonymous benefactor.

The Greeks called it "charisma," meaning a gift. In Latin, the word is "carus," meaning dear (love). Over time these words blended to form "grace," meaning free (an act done as one wishes). By the time craft masonry had evolved to Freemasonry, charity was an act done freely, without prompt, out of friendship. Masons are driven to be charitable from our bond of spreading Brotherly Love and not because charity is viewed as a civic duty.

A historical example of this is found in Dorothy Ann Lipson's book, "Freemasonry in Federalist Connecticut, 1789-1835," where she describes how a Lodge purchased, "a cow for the use of a widow and her children, and the cow was carried on its books for several years as a Lodge asset, presumably to spare the family the embarrassment of accepting charity." This simple act was impactful because these Brothers recognized a need, provided as they could, and did so anonymously.

Giving and Charity are virtues that are in the core values of all Freemasons.

As we are an organization of individuals who are free thinkers, open minded, and accepting of others' faiths and backgrounds, Freemasons are unique, in that, in each of us is a capacity to care for others. And we do this by either giving our time or performing charitable acts. We take an obligation to help others, but that merely reinforces the internal drive to act where others ignore or disregard. We aren't going to let that family struggle. We won't allow someone to be alone in a time of need. We will find a way to make the impossible, possible. And we do, everyday.

I want to leave you with this thought from Bro. Albert Mackey. "If a sorrow you have lightened or a tear wipe, away, if of poverty's load you have taken a share from some weary burdened soul, if you have lifted a cup of cold water to the lips of a famishing mortal, then to far have you illustrated the divine teachings of Masonry, then in so far have you done as the Master commanded."

~MA

Brother Michael Arce is the Junior Warden of St. George's #6, Schenectady and a member of Mt. Zion #311, Troy New York. When not in Lodge, Bro. Arce is the Marketing Manager for Capital Cardiology Associates in Albany, New York. He enjoys meeting new Brothers and hearing how the Craft has enriched their lives. He can be reached at: [michael.arce@me.com](mailto:michael.arce@me.com)

**From the Secretary's Table**

Dues notices have been mailed out. I encourage everyone to be prompt in mailing in your dues. Please return the Lodge Data Form and update any changes. Also include an alternate contact person. That helps when changes are made and the contact information we have is no longer correct.

At the November Stated meeting, we will have election of officers for next year. Please attend to support the lodge with this annual event.

Fraternally,

Gordon Markley                      *Secretary*

Gordon Markley  
Home (408) 410-0627  
Email: [secretary@mtmoriah292.org](mailto:secretary@mtmoriah292.org)

**From the West**

Fraternal greetings Brethren,

**With Gratitude**

As we come to the end of the year, we celebrate important events. In the spirit of thanksgiving, grateful for the very many blessings we enjoy on a daily basis. Our lodge has a deep history of achievement, and it is very warming to see the commitment and dedication of our lodge brethren. If you have not been at lodge for a while, please re-kindle your association and visit us. We would love to see you at either one of our monthly stated meetings on the first Thursday (6:30pm) of each month, or our lodge installation ceremony will be held on Saturday, December 15th commencing with Dinner at 5pm. Look forward to seeing you at lodge!

**Masons for Mitts**

All South Bay lodges, including Mount Moriah, have been involved in a wonderful program to make a difference to the young children in our communities. We can all be proud that Masons for Mitts, in its 10th year, has reached a major milestone - \$1m in contributions.

Ten years ago, the California Masonic Foundation launched Masons4Mitts in Northern California. After a record season, the now-statewide program has raised \$1,011,080 in support of at-risk youth, purchasing more than 50,500 mitts for California kids.

"We're so proud of all of our Masons4Mitts teams, captains, and all of our brothers and friends who have worked so hard to make this program a reality," says Joshua Castro, manager of foundation programs.

"When we first started Masons4Mitts in 2008, we could have only dreamed of making a million-dollar impact," says Douglas D. Ismail, president of the California Masonic Foundation. "This year, we surpassed that milestone! From the lodges who have been with us from the beginning to the brothers who helped us bring Masons4Mitts to Los Angeles, San Diego, and Anaheim, we have truly shown the impact California Masons are capable of making for our local communities and children."

The 2018 Masons4Mitts season raised \$185,040 – a whopping \$40,000 more than last year's season. Congratulations to the winning teams from each region: Anaheim – North County Bees: 656 mitts; Los Angeles – South Bay Spartans: 1,167 mitts; Northern California – San Francisco Sluggers: 1,768 mitts; San Diego – Eastside Olympians: 283 mitts

*Northern California's South Bay Bombers deserve a very honorable mention: With 1,524 mitts given, they raised the second-highest most mitts in the state!*

Congratulations to all the teams who helped make this year's campaign one for the books. Next year's campaign will kick off in April 2019 at [masons4mitts.org](http://masons4mitts.org).

Fraternally,

Ketan Jashapara                      *Senior Warden*

Ketan Jashapara  
Mobile (408) 826-7265  
[ketan@apr.com](mailto:ketan@apr.com)

**From the South**

Dear brothers, friends and families of Mount Moriah Lodge,

As soon as Halloween passes, November is upon us. November is the month of Thanksgiving - a celebration of bountiful harvests and gratefulness to the Supreme Architect of the Universe for what we have and what we have been able to accomplish.

We learn at school how Pilgrims celebrated the first Thanksgiving after their initial harvest in the New World in 1621. In addition to our continuation of enjoying the colonial tradition, let us reflect on this important National holiday through our penchant for Freemasonry.

Thanksgiving was the subject of the first official Presidential Proclamation that George Washington made in 1789. In the Proclamation, Washington recommended and assigned Thursday, November 26th "to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer". He called for "the service of that great and glorious Being", whom he further thanked "for the great degree of tranquillity, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed, for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness".

Washington never mentioned that turkey was the centerpiece of Thanksgiving dinner as it is today. Although it is possible that the Colonists and Indians might have cooked wild turkeys, they were more likely to have enjoyed wildfowl such as goose, ducks and passenger pigeons. According to Smithsonian, passenger pigeons were so abundant in 1620s that "a man could shoot at the birds in flight and bring down 200." Unfortunately, passenger pigeons became extinct over a century ago. As it is very likely that our friends and families will be overeating turkey in about three weeks, and as we do not want to break the tradition of having poultry for Thanksgiving, on our November Stated Meeting menu we will have some good ole' chicken.

In addition, we will have the stuffing and traditional stuffing (no bread in that one), potatoes, veggies and salad. For dessert, there is nothing more appropriate than pumpkin pie, and grog for our brothers and guests over 21 who would like to take the edge off.

Please kindly RSVP with your headcount so that we can pardon more than one chicken. Dinner starts at 6:30 pm, and the Stated Meeting at 7:30 or when grog runs out, whichever comes last!

Looking forward to welcoming you all.

Fraternally,

Damir Herman

*Junior Warden*

Damir Herman  
Home (831) 656-7392  
Email: damir.herman@gmail.com

# Lodge Contacts

**OFFICERS**

**Jeff Powell, PM** (Claire) *Master*  
Mobile (408) 476-8476  
jeff@jeffpowell.com

**Ketan Jashapara, PM** (Anju) *Senior Warden*  
Mobile (408) 826-7265  
ketan@apr.com

**Damir Herman** *Junior Warden*  
Mobile (831) 656-7392  
damir.herman@gmail.com

**Gordon Markley, PM** (Willia) *Assistant Secretary*  
Home (408) 410-0627  
gwmarkley33@gmail.com

**Tony Alarcon** (Elizabeth) *Treasurer*  
Mobile (408) 460-4845  
tony@tonyalarcon.com

**Allen Diamond, PM** (Diane) *Chaplain*  
Mobile (408) 550-5039  
dialdice@gmail.com

**Tristan Kightly** (Nicole) *Senior Deacon*  
Mobile (408) 679-8439  
tristan.kightly@gmail.com

**Dave Samford** (Maggie) *Junior Deacon*  
Mobile (408) 476-5410  
thesamfords@att.net

**Ron Rundell** (Hilde) *Marshal*  
Mobile (408) 206-5434  
rcrundell@msn.com

**Mark Ruffner** *Senior Steward*  
Mobile (650) 303-0539  
mruffner@sbcglobal.net

**Pavan Banda** *Junior Steward*  
Mobile (510) 304-8250  
banda.pavan@yahoo.com

**OFFICERS**

**Jim Dingman, PM** *Tiler*  
Mobile (408) 859-0504  
jimdingman@yahoo.com

**Nick Schilling, PM** *Officers' Coach*  
Mobile (408) 772-1997  
ncschilling@hotmail.com

**Jim Dingman** *Head Candidates' Coach*  
Mobile (408) 859-0504  
jimdingman@yahoo.com

**TRESTLEBOARD**

**Mark Ruffner** (JoAnn) *Editor/Publisher*  
Mobile (650) 303-0539  
mruffner@sbcglobal.net

**Brian Carr** *Mailings*  
Mobile (408) 306-6829

**INSPECTOR**

**Joe Campbell, PM** (Mary Jane)  
341th Masonic District  
Mobile (408) 234-5447  
wjcsjcca@aol.com

### November Birthdays

Frank K. Wong	11/3
Raul C. Moreno	11/6
Warren J. Eide, PM	11/8
Bill Y. Sheeder	11/8
Mark R. Ruffner	11/9
Frank E. Lind, PM	11/10
Randy D. Ristau	11/11
Arthur M. Brooks	11/12
Charles H. Givens	11/12
Roumel Bet-Varda	11/13
Harris B. Warren	11/13
Mason S. Peters IV	11/14
Mitch L. Franceschini, PM	11/17
Bill E. Mason, Jr.	11/20
Paul W. Paulson	11/21
Brian M. Carr	11/22
Scott L. Seacrist	11/22
David G. Blessing	11/24
Larry W. Moseley	11/28

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### TRESTLEBOARD

is published by

**Mt. Moriah Lodge No.292 F. & A. M.**  
 131 East Main Street, Los Gatos, CA 95030

Stated Meetings: First Thursdays  
 Lodge Hotline: (408) 502-NEWS (6397)

**Assistant Secretary: Gordon Markley, PM**  
 Home (408) 353-3298

### In Memoriam



**Thankfully, nothing to report  
 here this month!**

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Mt. Moriah Lodge #292 F. & A. M.  
 Gordon Markley, Secretary  
 PO Box 33242  
 Los Gatos, CA 95031-3242

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 November 2018

### Calendar

[http://www.mtmoriah292.org/?page\\_id=162](http://www.mtmoriah292.org/?page_id=162)

Nov 01	(Thursday)
6:30 PM	Stated Meeting Dinner
7:30 PM	Stated Meeting
Nov 11	(Thursday)
6:30 PM	Hall Association Meeting
7:30 PM	2nd Degree Practice
Nov 13	(Tuesday)
7:00 PM	Installation Practice
	Lodge 2nd Degree Proficiency
Nov 27	(Thursday)
6:30 PM	OAM—Mountain View De Anza

**Changes Happen!**  
 Call the Lodge Hotline: (408) 502-NEWS (6397)