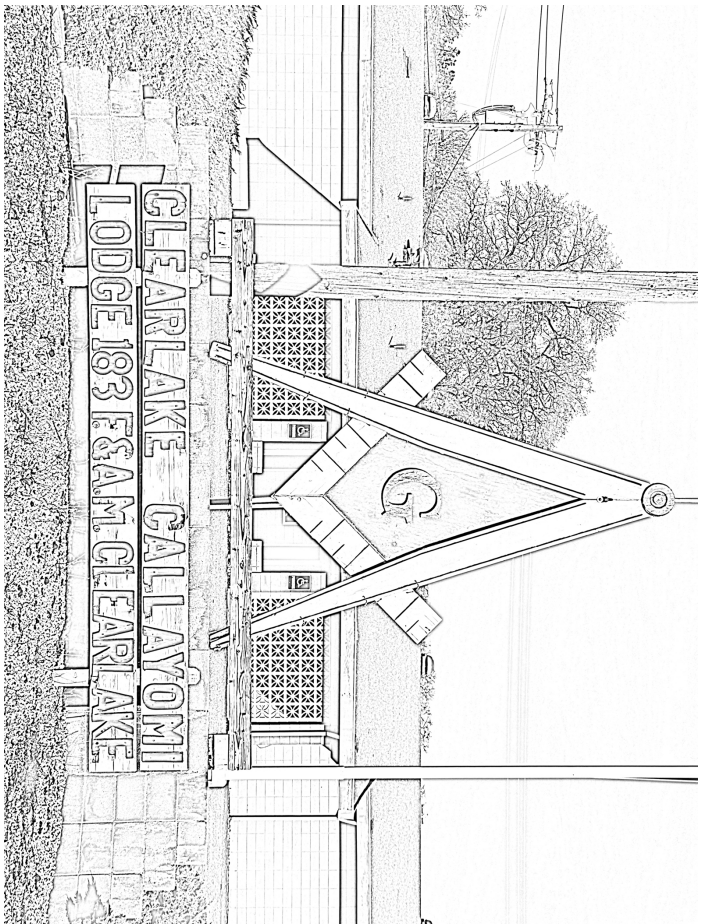


Clear Lake Callayomi No. 183
P.O. Box 3590
Clearlake, CA 95422



AUGUST 2023



AS THE SUN RISES IN THE EAST

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

MICHAEL McKEOWN

Brethren, family and friends of Clear Lake Callayomi lodge,
Happy Summer Time! I hope you are all well and having fun in our
gorgeous high(ish) altitude summer sun.

Stated meeting is August 2. Summer dress (like there's any chance of wearing a tie in our warm summer evenings). As I learned last month, there is no dinner during the summer months, so the Hall Board meets at 6:00, and Stated starts at 7:00. We have a new applicant we will be hearing the investigation report on. Thank you to those who have accepted the responsibility of doing investigations this year. A man's journey in Freemasonry begins with becoming our friend. He comes to dinners and non-tiled meetings, hangs out, and gets to know us, and we him. Then he applies and puts money on the line. Then a few brothers have a one on one with him to get to know his motivations. Then we get to start practicing and re-memorizing.

I better get on my own memorizing. It won't be too long before we'll be putting on this new fellow's first degree. Might be a hint to the rest of the officers to crack open the cypher every now and then.

Let me know if any of you have any ideas to generate recurring revenue from our property. I am specifically speaking to the larger membership that we rarely see or hear from. There are still a couple of ideas that are being looked into, but I understand the hall board has been trying to come up with a solution for some years now and there's not too many ideas left to pursue to see if they have legs. Our hall president is pursuing a really promising one, but we will need more than it alone will provide. We could use some fresh ideas from those of you we don't often see. We need to find a way to generate recurring monthly revenue to the tune of two grand a month to break even, or what we really need is better than that so we can start saving at least a little bit towards building repairs. If we could get some regular recurring

income coming in we could use that to service a loan for a bigger business idea, and with a lot of our size, there are a number of good business ideas that have been floated. The hall board meetings are open to everyone, and I encourage your attendance and your voice.

Luckily our current property is not an historic Masonic temple that we feel obligated to try to save right up until our last dollar runs out, like so many other lodges I've seen that have failed in recent years. We should probably have it in our awareness that right now we look a lot like those lodges did before they had to sell and consolidate. If we don't come up with some income ideas pretty quick, we should consider ideas to keep Masonry at our end of the lake without this property.

We will be successful at keeping Masonry at our end of the lake. We can be an example to other struggling lodges that we don't have to work to have the same environment we've been used to back when we were able to support large single use lodge buildings on dues alone. It's a completely changed environment today. We are currently in a strong position. It is my intention to keep Freemasonry at our end of the lake. Most ideally on the property where we are now. It's a great lot in many ways. But if it should be that there is no clear path towards a fairly significant income stream (and from what I hear, this effort has been going on for some years), and if we recognize that early on while we're still strong, the interest income from our invested value would give us exciting options while we shop for a property that would provide rental income to support Masonry in Clearlake far into the future.

To reiterate, we are strong right now. Have no fear. Our lodge leadership is top notch. I am new to this community (four years now), but the fellows making the decisions and doing the yeoman's work have been a part of this area for a very long time. They have connections, they know the local business community, and they have a good sense for what can work or not work. But we could use your ideas, 'cause I think they're starting to run thin.

Our personal goal as Masons is to become better men. Our mission as Blue Lodge Freemasons is to make more Masons. That is our "work"

as Masons. That should be our primary focus: to do whatever it takes to keep Freemasonry in the Clearlake/Lower Lake area to be available for good men that might pursue membership in our ancient Craft.

I've discovered some super exciting information about the history of the area in which our Masonic lore originates. Sometimes a month or more goes by as I study and learn the subjects my research has exposed me to without learning anything particularly new or exciting. So when I stumble across something entirely new, it is very exciting. This has to do with the pyramids in Egypt a mere 200 miles from King Solomon's Temple. I assure you that this is a model of their use that is something you did not know, and the evidence for it seems quite compelling, but most curious is the clue that lead to the discovery of the function of the pyramids is hugely blatant and obvious, so why have Egyptologists told us for so long they were tombs for Pharaohs? Is it a function of the human condition that we are so blinded by our addiction to our beliefs that the most obvious facts go unrecognized in the ego's relentless support of a narcissistic belief? Are the people that disseminate our history to us so loathe to change their narrative when new information is discovered that they will dogmatically insist that the old, now foolish looking model is still the "truth"? I know we all do this in small ways all the time, but are we really doing this on a global scale among the smartest of us? Or has this information been kept secret from the world, and if so, why? I am starting to have an idea why. When visiting some pyramids tourists must first watch an indoctrination video explaining how they were built with thousands of slaves for hundreds of years to be tombs, using copper hand tools. It is amusing to watch videos of people in these indoctrination attempts laughing at the ridiculousness of the model being presented. No one seems to believe the official narrative anymore. Yet the officials do?

I'm not sure if Masonry ever draws our attention to the megalithic pyramids in Egypt that are only a couple hundred miles from where King Solomon's Temple was (ten days by camel). I haven't looked for pyramid images or references in Masonry about pyramids before. I think there are pyramids on the poster that is in most lodges, we have one, that shows the hierarchy of the different bodies of Freemasonry

in like a pyramid shape. I'm not sure if that part is a pyramid, or just a triangle, I'll have to look, but I'm pretty sure in the lower right corner there is a small image that shows pyramids in the distance. I find only slight references to the pyramids in Albert Pike's *Morals and Dogma*.

The mainstream narrative has King Solomon's Temple (the first one) being built 957 BC. How can they be so exact with the year? I'm surprised they don't tell us what month and day too. Well, in any case, the mainstream narrative on the pyramids is they were built around 2500 BC. So the builders of King Solomon's Temple, and all the players in our Masonic story, must have been very aware of the pyramids not that far away. Some likely right there in the same area as the temple. I wonder, did the builders of King Solomon's Temple know what we now know about the pyramids actual function? Is there a connection with the alchemical aspects of Freemasonry, and the "Land of Khem" (chem...as in chemistry)?

I have suggested before that Masonry holds a secret that has not yet been discovered. It has to do with a frequency, or set of frequencies, or in other words, a specific undulating tone, or you might call it a word (as in the lost word), that was used to lift or work megalithic stone blocks. We also know there is a strong element of alchemy interwoven in Masonry. Is there an ancient secret chemical knowledge stored within the fabric of our Craft that has also gone undiscovered?

Come to stated meeting and hear about this fascinating new discovery and you can let me know if it excites you as it did me. And here I thought I had been down all the possible rabbit holes already :-)

See you at Stated,
Michael McKeown



Truth is a Divine Attribute

I'm a heat lover; I love the heat of our Clearlake summers. I like putting on a good sweat. I've heard some of you have escaped to cooler climes. I'd follow you if I could. It could be that I choose to love the heat because I can't leave. I've always thought that I wouldn't want to be in my last minutes alive and look back and wish I had chosen to enjoy all those times I had hated or been mad at. Our life is a treasure, a beautiful expression of the pure nature of our Supreme Creator. The little self gets all twisted up liking and not liking things and misses the whole point.

Some things are a bummer regardless of how our rose colored glasses fit, but there's a lot of things we can enjoy if we allow ourselves to see the other side of a disliked thing. And I don't mean: "I hate the heat, but I suppose I can grin and bear it instead of complaining". Rather, what I mean is can you actually "be" a heat lover if you are a heat hater? In a child like way can you find joy and fun like we're living on a hostile planet (we are) and we have to move quickly from cooled space to cooled car, drink extra water, and love the sweat you didn't have to pay a sauna for, and glorify in our strength as humans in our ability to endure hardship and even relish it? Can you do it honestly, at the core of your being? Can you be the opposite of your like/dislike in anything? Can you be the opposite for a week? Can you decide that this opposite condition you grudgingly put on originally is a better position and more fun, so now you actually are a heat lover, and go around telling everyone how much you love the heat? Which one are you? "I hate the heat. That's me. That's who I am." But now, "you" are something completely opposite? Who changed who's mind? Who is this person that likes or dislikes? Who is the over arching "chooser"?

Like or dislike are positionalities of the ego. We do have choice on how we respond to some things we experience, but most people

stand pretty firmly on what they “believe” in, and in many cases people have not even been exposed to the concept that it’s possible to put on the other side and “be” the opposite of what you normally “are”. For the most part people completely believe they “are” the responses they’ve (largely unknowingly) learned to have, so they narcissistically believe they can’t change, or they wouldn’t be true to who they “are” anymore.

So, this philosophical conversation about the heat and whether we like it or not got me reflecting on one of the three principal tenets of Masonry: Truth. We are told “Truth is a divine attribute”. Truth is what the entire subject of Philosophy is ultimately about. Centuries of enlightened sages told us about Truth, and thousands of books have been written on the subject. Truth gets to the point of Freemasonry’s core secret, and we should expect nothing less from a society that purports to hold ancient, real secrets, since Truth is the world’s oldest, biggest, and most enduring secret. This is a secret that can not be conveyed, taught, or learned. It can not generally be imparted upon a person, though Ramana Maharshi was reported to be able to impart awakening upon people with a touch, but my guess is probably not everyone. The awakening response to his touch was likely the same kind of response that sometimes a sharp jab in the middle of the forehead by the teacher at just the right moment can be the impetus to drive illusion out. In the Scottish Rite we learn that “each must discover it for himself”. Not because we are not allowed to communicate it, but rather because Truth is “ineffable”, in other words, it can not be spoken of. It is not possible to speak of it directly. All we can do is speak in parables and exercises to do to put the mind in a position to be able to recognize what was going on all along.

Truth is about honesty and integrity, but Masonry does not mean to reference only the outer teaching of being honest in your dealings in the world, but to point out that we must also be honest with ourselves, like super honest, to the very core of our being. If we were to be completely honest about our responses to the world we would instantly awaken to who we really are. By this I mean most of us

think we are the entity that likes and dislikes.

What does Masonry mean by Truth being a “divine attribute”? Divinity of course refers to God, but when we use the word “God”, we instantly get anthropomorphized images in our head of a bearded deity in the sky doling out blessings to the deserving rather than an image of that which creates all that is observable, so I prefer to use our Masonic terms of Great Architect of the Universe, or my variation on it, “Great Creator” which more accurately give an impression of the meaning. There are better words in Sanskrit, but they would require lengthy explanations. Great Architect of the Universe is a pretty clear expression in a language we know.

The word attribute means: “a quality, character, or characteristic ascribed to someone or something”. So Truth is a quality, or characteristic, of the eternal presence of the Great Creator. The attribute of Truth is inseparable from the Great Architect.

At the simplest level, Truth is honesty and integrity. To see Truth one must be brutally honest with oneself first. An example is the mental exercise of identifying who is at fault for things that happen and see if you can identify anything that is happening “to” you because of the fault of something “out there”. Have you ever worked with someone, maybe on a car, and the wrench slips out of his fingers and clangs on the ground and he cusses and swears and seems quite angry? I’ve always wondered, are these men actually angry in that moment, which would be weird, or do they behave that way because that’s how they think men behave when things don’t go well, but they’re not actually angry? Which would be even weirder. Did the wrench somehow impart anger into the guy? If the fellow were to look very honestly at his response, he might realize that, well, he’s really mad because he didn’t want to work on the car to begin with, so he’s really mad at himself, and then if he looked even closer he would realize that there are not two of him, one to be mad at the other one, but rather experiences arise through the eternal creation of the Great Creator, and he made a mistake of identifying with what happened.

There is an exercise to recognize root responsibility for everything that happens. This exercise leads one to realize that actually, at its core, nothing is ever anyone's fault, for there is actually no "doer", and no one for it to occur to. It happened. The movement of anger is the movement of God's presence mis-identified. The energy is one of joyous creation, but we feel the movement of energy and identify with it, and turn it into what I call "energy becoming" and the little self arises to take ownership of the energy and labels it and adopts response to it and then we all say "that's me! That's who I am! I'm the angry one, and that thing out there, it made me angry, it's that thing's fault!"

I am not suggesting that there aren't things that happen to us or in the world in general that aren't other people's fault. There is cause and effect in the world, and there are consequences to our actions, but rather this exercise leads one to the realization that emotion arises from within, it is not imparted to us from without, and this is a Great Truth that leads to awakening. In every instance you can find a decision that you made that lead to where you are now. Is there anything out there in your experience that is ultimately someone else's fault? Does anyone actually do anything "to" you to make you "feel" a certain way? Or is it that things arise in awareness, and there isn't a "you" they are happening to?

It has been measured in the laboratory that, for example: the phone rings, you answer the phone, and you say: "oh yea, that was me. I chose to answer the phone". But we know that choosing to answer happens first, ownership of it happens after. The one that decides what things mean (the little self) takes ownership of things that are actually occurring all on their own, arising from the continual creation of the Great Architect. The ego adopts learned responses to everything. Every single thing. And then we make the mistake of identifying with those responses and saying "that's me". The problem is we place our identity on the energy movement, instead of identifying with awareness of the energy. It is the sense of awareness

that is the unchanging thing we are looking for, and we must be brutally honest with ourselves to discover it.

Life is a whole lot easier without walking around with this heavy sack of self identity. I don't mean self importance, I'm talking about the removal of appearances, of the false self. A wisdom seeker is someone interested in Self proximity. Justice is the natural projection of Truth. If we are not able to see what is actually real, we can not be honestly just. Justice is an expression of Truth. In a sense, justice is a posterior attribute of truth.

Truth is a divine attribute, and the foundation of every virtue. Lux et veritas. Light and Truth. Truth is illuminated by the divinity which arises in every single moment in everything we do, feel, and experience, but we take ownership of it and place our identity on it, instead of recognizing that we are actually awareness at our root, which is the eternal, constant, unchanging Truth.

Michael McKeown

Lodge Officers

Master	Michael McKeown, PM mastermasonmichael@gmail.com	(707) 337-9410
Sr. Warden	Bryce Brin Brycebrin@gmail.com	
Jr. Warden	Robert Hipkiss, Jr., PM hiphouse12895@gmail.com	(707) 995-9568
Treasurer	Brandt N. Peterson, PM brandtpeterson707@gmail.com	707-489-6734
Secretary	Donald N. Auradou dauradou@hotmail.com	707-433-2836
Inspector	David Jones, PM justdave9@gmail.com	(707) 994-9315

Happy Birthdays

Vincent Taylor	08-02
Linda Jones	08-12
Gina Smith	08-12
Herman Strauss	08-14
Raymond Silva	08-16
Richard Wolfe PM	08-17
California Howland	08-29

HAPPY 3RD DEGREE Anniversary

Richard Gorman PM	08-07-1982
Richard Moore	08-07-1968

Assisted Living and Memory Care, Elevated



The PAVILION

AT THE MASONIC HOMES

Welcome home! The Masonic Home at Union City is pleased to announce the grand opening of its new Pavilion, where those who need memory care and assistance with day-to-day living can enjoy comfortable living quarters in a beautiful, community-minded atmosphere.

Our person-centered philosophy of care offers residents the opportunity to live their best life safely, with a helping hand when needed. From a rousing card game, an event in our communal living spaces, or just relaxing in their beautiful new apartments, residents find that the Pavilion offers a haven for their body, mind, and soul.

Call to schedule a tour today:
(888) 466-3642

34400 Mission Blvd. in Union City, CA



Masonic Homes
of California

Masonichome.org