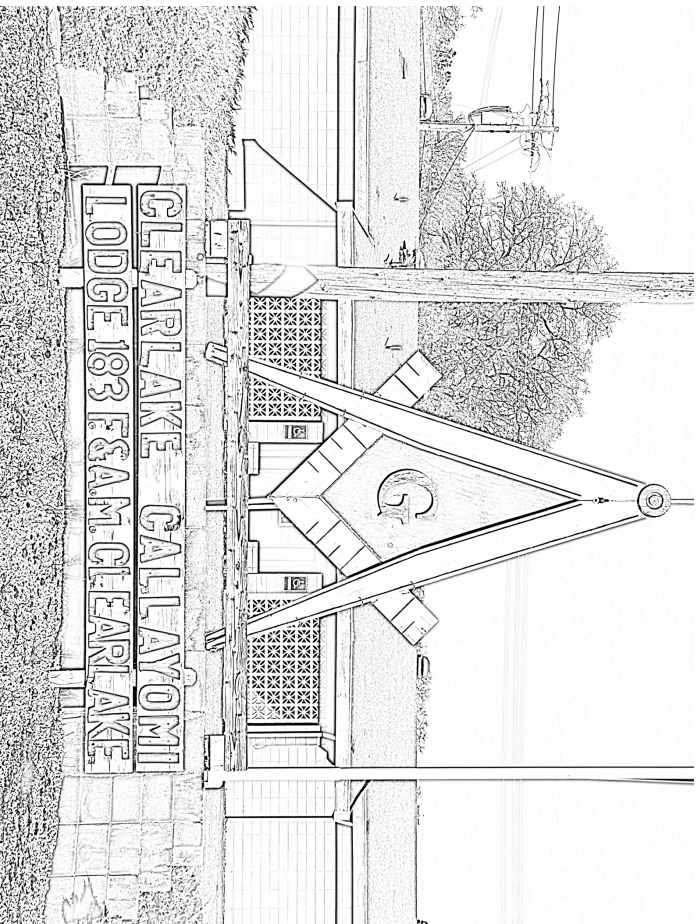


Clear Lake Callayomi No. 183
P.O. Box 3590
Clearlake, CA 95422



SEPTEMBER 2023



Serving Masons and their Families, Across the Lifespan

EMOTIONAL HEALTH DESERVES attention, just like physical health. In the same way you turn to your physician with medical questions, it's important to seek emotional support when you're facing difficult feelings or hard times. As California Masons, you have an incredible resource available in MCYAF, which has a team of licensed professionals ready to help. With a sliding-scale fee schedule and video-conferencing services available, MCYAF's model of care is available to all. **Scan the code to visit [MCYAF.org](https://www.mcyaf.org) or call (877) 488-6293 to learn more or schedule a session.**

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Our dynamic groups and workshops connect children, individual family members, or peer groups with shared experiences.

EDUCATIONAL THERAPY

Create custom learning plans to support children with learning differences. Homework and consultation support specific learning needs is also available.

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MCYAF offers senior support services to help navigate illness, grief, loneliness, and end-of-life transitions.

INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY THERAPY

We build trusting relationships allowing clients to explore areas of concern in a safe and accepting environment.



MASONIC CENTER FOR
YOUTH AND FAMILIES
Integrated Therapeutic Services



(877) 488-6293 • [MCYAF.ORG](https://www.mcyaf.org)



AS THE SUN RISES IN THE EAST

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

MICHAEL McKEOWN

Brethren, family and friends of Clearlake Callayomi Masonic Lodge, Another month of summer has zoomed on by and we are now at our September Stated Meeting, Sept. 6. Hall Board meeting at 5:00, dinner at 6:00, and Stated at 7:00. Our Jr. Warden tells me dinner will be chicken and rice casserole with salad.

I am told there are several new income opportunities that will be discussed at the Hall Board meeting, and of course updates on building maintenance. All are welcome to attend, and your voice is greatly encouraged.

Let's do one more month of summer dress. This means long pants (no shorts please), button up or polo shirt (no t-shirts please). You can skip the tie and jacket though.

This is the end of our summer "dark" schedule, so the officers will resume degree practice the following Wednesday. It will probably be on the first degree, but there is at least one first degree proficiency pending, so if that happens we might jump over to the 2nd degree. It would probably be wise for the officers to review the work for both and we'll firm up the plan at the Stated meeting.

We have a lot of responsibilities as a Mason. These are responsibilities we accept when we don the ring of a Master Mason. We want our actions in the world to bring honor to the fraternity. When I joined Masonry I had the idea that this was an organization of men who behave in an enlightened way, even if not yet actually Self realized, but what I found is basically men acting the same as they do everywhere, with few Masons understanding our alchemical, hermetic, and spiritual roots and how to integrate them into our psyche so as to improve ourselves.

I recently watched a video of one of the historical researchers I follow

who had spent some time in prison. He told about sitting across from some inmates who, as he described, seemed soulless. He described them as looking like human, but behind the eyes there was nothing remotely like human in there. I have heard psychopaths described this way, as looking like human, but nothing about human inside of them, almost as if they are a dangerous alien entity.

And then there are men who are not at that depraved level; men who indeed seem human, but seem so early on the soul's evolutionary path as unable to even fathom the concept of integrity or of being able to make choices in alignment with those values. They hold tightly to rigid beliefs in who they believe themselves to be and have an inability to chose to make changes to become better men. Very often these are the narcissists who believe themselves to be so "right" in their beliefs that they can't even consider changing themselves to be better, because they are already "right" in all things they believe in, and they go to great lengths to tell everyone how great they are and seek validation from everyone around them that they are right. They like to play little games to make us look like fools so they can be the "smart one". This is gaslighting, which is at it's core about trying to make other people doubt their own sanity in remembering how things went in a given situation. This is a way for the narcissist to aggrandize themselves, for after all, look how stupid you are.

And then we get to the level of man we seek for membership in Freemasonry. Men who have a connection, even if poorly understood, with a higher power. Men who believe at their core that there is a something greater than them, and exhibit the humility that comes with realizing we are not that great compared to that eternal loving presence that we believe exists but can not know. These are men who may still exhibit the results of a poorly trained psychology, but are willing to listen when aspects of it are pointed out to them because they know they're not perfect, and strive to be better men.

These are "good men". Sure, they still behave as most mortal men do,

with plenty of ego attachment and emotional responses to situations that maybe aren't all that healthy. But they strive to be better by paying attention to those aspects of their behaviors that aren't all that great. They do not get mad and put their back to the wall if a friend or wife or a brother might point out a bad behavior. Most of us lack the training and skills to do a whole lot about our poorly trained ego responses, but we are humbled by our limitations and truly strive to be better men.

These are the good men Freemasonry seeks to "make better men" out of. But then we get into Freemasonry, excited to learn, and are stymied that beyond the mandates of our obligations and the explanations of our lectures we don't really get a lot of training on how exactly to go about becoming better men. The signs and symbols that point the way to the real teaching of Freemasonry seem so obtuse that without going on to the further education of the York and Scottish Rites (and the Eastern Star for that matter), we are left with good men who memorize lectures and put on degrees without really learning the promise of the lessons of Freemasonry.

The point I'm trying to make, in my usual type-too-much long winded way, is we as Masons are indeed a special breed of man. In actual essence, no different than men everywhere (except those lower awareness levels I described above). We are after all, all on the level, all members of the same human species, but we join Masonry because we suspected that there was something powerful going on behind our closed lodge room doors; something transformative. Something mysterious. Something that would benefit us on our journey of becoming better men in our race towards the Acacia. We suspected the rituals of Freemasonry would lead us down a path of becoming the better man we all aspired to be before we even heard of Freemasonry.

When you look at your Master Mason ring on your finger, with the base of the finger on the palm side thick with callous from long (or short) years of wearing, be proud. We sought out membership in our fraternity for all the right reasons. Being allowed into our fraternity

and the privilege of wearing the ring means you are indeed among that special class of men considered by Masons to be “Good Men”.

This is what it means to be a Mason in one’s heart before asking for membership in our beloved fraternity. The more we learn to understand what Masonry tries to teach us in it’s extremely veiled and hidden way, the more opportunities we have to grow as men. People out there in the world might comment to one another: “that fellow, he has integrity; he’s a really good man”, and someone might then say: “well, he’s a Mason you know. They’re a special kind of particularly good men”.

Our desire when we joined Freemasonry was to find a home with other like minded good men who desire to bring positive change to our community and our world. Our goal once we joined was to understand our veiled messages. Our work as blue lodge Masons is to attract good men and make them Masons. Look around you in your world for these good men. We can not invite them to join, but we can most certainly tell them they are the kind of men we look for, and invite them to our dinners.

Our responsibilities as Masons go beyond showing up for Stated meeting and degree practices and taking care of our building. Our main responsibility is to the world, by our actions, and to ourselves, through our inner transformation from a man attached to his own awesomeness to a man identified with the eternal awesomeness of the Great Creator.

Michael McKeown



Happy Birthdays

Michael Berryman
Gerhard Luck PM
Mary Russell

09-04
09-14
09-21

HAPPY 3RD DEGREE Anniversary

Rodney Yanez
David Russell
John Flynn PM
Benjamin Murphy
William Bening Jr.

9/13
9/14
9/19
9/23
9/24

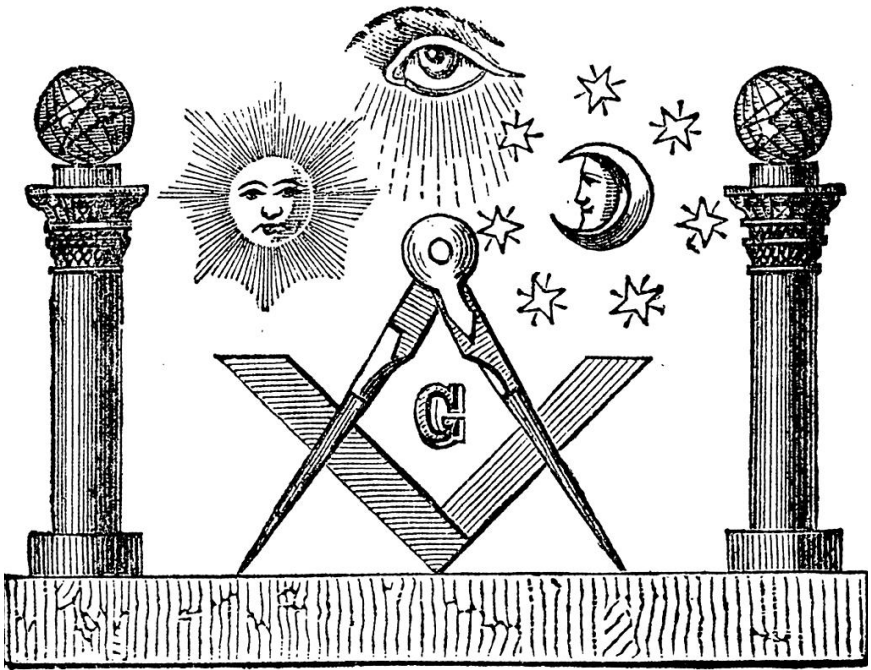
The Mystical Significance of the North Side in Freemasonry: A Journey into Spiritual Growth

Freemasonry, a centuries-old fraternal organization shrouded in secrecy and symbolism, has intrigued and fascinated individuals for generations. One of the enigmatic aspects of Freemasonry is the symbolism associated with various parts of the lodge, including the north side. From a spiritual growth perspective, the north side of a Freemason lodge is considered “dark,” and its significance goes beyond the physical orientation of the building.

In Freemasonry, the orientation of the lodge is not arbitrary; it is a carefully designed and meaningful aspect of the Masonic tradition. The lodge is typically laid out in the shape of a square, symbolizing morality, and the entrance is located in the west. The east side represents the place of light and knowledge, while the north is associated with darkness and ignorance. The north side carries a unique and mystical symbolism.

From a spiritual perspective, the north side of the Masonic lodge represents the darkness of ignorance and the unenlightened state of the human soul. It is a reminder that Masons enter the lodge as uninitiated individuals, seeking to progress on their spiritual journey toward enlightenment. This concept aligns with the Masonic belief that each member must work diligently to improve themselves morally and spiritually.

When a candidate seeks initiation into Freemasonry, they begin their journey in the northwest, symbolizing their initial state of ignorance and darkness. As they progress through the rituals and teachings of the Craft, they move toward the east, symbolizing the attainment of knowledge and enlightenment. The west side, where the sun is making its transition into darkness, represents the transitional phase



of this journey, where the candidate is neither fully enlightened nor completely in darkness.

The journey from darkness to light is a central theme in Freemasonry, emphasizing personal transformation and spiritual growth. The north side symbolizes this transformative phase, where individuals are encouraged to reflect upon their own spiritual progress and the lessons they have learned. It serves as a reminder that the path to enlightenment is not without its challenges and requires dedication and self-improvement.

The north side also serves as a place for moral reflection and contemplation. In Freemasonry, moral values and ethics are of utmost importance, and members are encouraged to constantly assess their own conduct and strive for moral improvement. The darkness associated with the north side represents the imperfections and moral shortcomings that individuals must confront and rectify on their journey towards spiritual growth.

It's essential to understand that the symbolism of the north side in Freemasonry is not about perpetuating darkness but rather recognizing the balance between light and dark in the human experience. Spiritual growth, from a Masonic perspective, involves acknowledging one's imperfections, working to overcome them, and continually seeking knowledge and enlightenment.

The north side of a Freemason lodge is considered "dark" from a spiritual growth perspective because it symbolizes the transitional phase of the candidate's journey from ignorance to enlightenment. It serves as a reminder that the path to spiritual growth is a continuous process of self-improvement, moral reflection, and seeking knowledge. In Freemasonry, darkness is not to be feared but embraced as an essential part of the journey toward the light of enlightenment and moral perfection. As Masons move from the north side to the east, they carry with them the lessons learned in darkness and continue to strive for spiritual growth and transformation.

Lodge Officers

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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



Masonic Homes of California

SENIOR OUTREACH SERVICES

Masonic Senior Outreach Services (MSOS) connects senior Masonic family members with the resources they need to stay healthy and safe at home or in a retirement community in their local area.

Care management is provided to California Masons and their wives, widows, and mothers. There are no financial eligibility requirements to receive MSOS care management with a demonstrated need.

Financial support is need-based and offered to California Master Masons in good standing for five consecutive years, age 60 or older (55 or older, if permanently disabled) and to their wives, widows and mothers.

Services Include:

- Assistance reconnecting senior members to their Lodge
- Regular visits and/or telephone contact
- Help navigating health-related matters, financial situations, and care plans
- Information about local support services, public benefits, home care providers, and transportation agencies
- Support in selecting a retirement community



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