

SADDLEBACK LAGUNA LODGE

No. 672 F.&A.M.



BROTHERLY LOVE CONTINUES

JOHN J. GRACE
WORSHIPFUL MASTER

WHAT IS TRUTH?

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SENIOR WARDEN

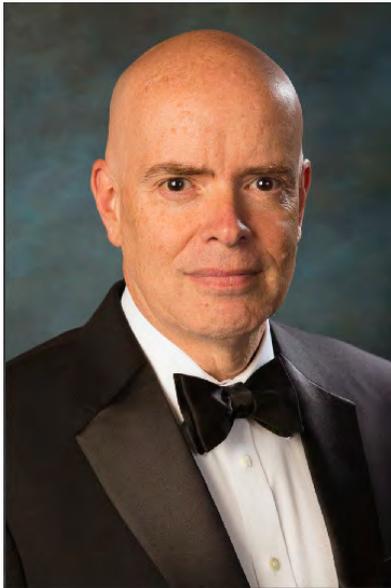


MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD - NOVEMBER 2020

The Most Worshipful Arthur Weiss, Grand Master of Masons in California



Message from the East



John J. Grace

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Brotherly Love Continues

If there's one person that understands the challenges of 2020, that would be our previous Grand Master John E. Trauner. I'll quote his executive message from the September/October edition of the California Freemason magazine.

"This past year has not been a loss. In many ways, the challenges we've faced have given the Masons of California an opportunity to show how important the fraternity can be to its members and their community."

Indeed, 2020 should not be regarded as a lost year. For all its negative aspects, this year has taught us quite a few things, from

the power of simple hobbies and diversions (I'm looking at you, jigsaw puzzles!), to the strength of communities and informed discussion. Three specific examples follow.

First, let's start with Zoom. The simple act of sitting in front of a computer screen and connecting to a virtual meeting has changed business and society for the better, if you ask me. Family and friends once distant, remain part of our lives. The fun stories and the laughter certainly make personal calls and gatherings incredibly warm and cheerful. As for 672, the weekly Lodge meetings have served to extend our fellowship and brotherly love.

Next, our Education Nights are definitely a cause for celebration. I'd suggest that the number and variety of speakers rivals that of any "normal" year. I can point to almost any 2020 speaker and describe the impact and food-for-thought moments that each has delivered. Thanks again to our Education Committee, Bro. Jack Auld and Bro. Raul Sayno, for all their hard work putting the series together; a "Huge Well Done!" to both, an expression I've heard on certain BBC programming.

Finally, the way we've presented Masonry to a group of Lodge prospects has been truly inspiring. Brothers from Saddleback Laguna, to a man, have demonstrated the fundamental

power of the fraternity. These discussions, held on "Meet the Freemasons" nights, have been everything I could have anticipated and more. Each participant has demonstrated wisdom, patience, and more good attributes than I could possibly list. Many thanks to one and all.

According to the calendar, we still have a few months to go in 2020. Let's spend that time as we have in recent months: with family and friends (while observing safeguards and protocols), online (when it makes sense to do so), and in our time spent in isolation. Think of it this way: if astronauts ever make the long journey



from the Earth to Mars, you'll understand what the crew will go through in terms of solitude and quiet.

By the square,

John J. Grace
Worshipful Master



Message from the West



Michael Ballou

seniorwarden@saddlebacklaguna672.org

What Is Truth?

The three principle tenets of Masonry are Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, but what exactly do we mean by Truth? As with everything in Masonry, it can mean something different to each of us. To me, Masonic truth is about finding the truth of our existence. But in our journey down that path, we have to find sources of information. This is the case for all things we want to learn about in our lives. However, we need to question and validate the information we take in, no matter from where it comes.

In the current era of 2020, digital media and social media have become daily methods and even habits used on a constant basis to consume information of all kinds including news, education, and even how to make the best pancakes. But have you ever ques-

tioned the truth and integrity of the sources of all that information we are constantly searching to fill our minds? Being an engineer and researcher in the tech industry for many years, I've had this question in the back of my mind for many years, and when I recently saw "The Social Dilemma" on Netflix, it all came together for me. If you have not seen it, I recommend checking it out as it's very enlightening.

The human mind has learned over many thousands of years to fit in with our tribe. Stray too far from the norms of your tribe, and you risk being ostracized and left out. That simple trait has worked to keep societies stable and personally connected for a long time. However, the globalization effect of the Internet and especially the mechanisms that social media and news employ, have changed where people find their tribe". Your tribe



is no longer limited to the group of family and friends you are in close proximity to. Social media platforms intentionally use artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms against our human psychology to intentionally connect us with

people who have similar thoughts. They do this in order to keep you engaged on their platform and ultimately show you more ads. To bring in a quote from the 1970's about TV ads, "If you don't pay for the product, then you are the product."



In school, I learned that people thought the Earth was flat thousands of years ago, and sailors quickly figured out that the Earth must be round because the harbors would sink below the waves when they went out far enough. But today, some people question the idea. Questioning what you have been taught is always a healthy exercise, but when you turn to the easiest tool we have today, the Internet, to learn more about the question, you are tracked and that search goes into your profile. In order to keep you engaged, these platforms will start showing you more people asking about flat-earth, and after a while, you have found a new tribe filled with people that self-reinforce each other into a new belief whether it's true or not.

This leads to increasing polarization among opposing groups.



Being fed information whether the earth is flat or not, doesn't significantly change our daily lives, but many topics do, especially politics. As Masons, we rightly avoid political discussions in lodge because of their derisive nature, but we have seen a fast-growing polarization among various groups over the past 10 years since social media has taken over the Internet. So what can we do as Masons to improve this situation? First, recognize if you have a screen addiction and take action to address that. This takes a considerable amount of effort, but remember that time, patience, and perseverance can accomplish all things. The Internet is a valuable tool, but like all tools, you must use them

wisely. The Internet is the one tool that tries to use you at the same time. The "Social Dilemma" has some great suggestions as well, such as disabling unimportant notifications, and never go down the "YouTube rabbit hole" of recommendations. And most importantly, continue to question everything and remember there are two sides to every story.

On the level,

Michael Ballou
Senior Warden

November 2020 Calendar



DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT:	LOCATION
Thursday	5th	7:00 P.M.	LODGE MEETING - ZOOM STATED MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS Virtual Meeting @ 7:00 P.M.	Online
Thursday	12th	7:00 P.M.	LODGE MEETING - ZOOM Virtual Meeting @ 7:00 P.M.	Online
Thursday	19th	7:00 P.M.	EDUCATION NIGHT - ZOOM "THE PSYCHOLOGY OF FREEMASONRY" Virtual Meeting @ 7:00 P.M.	Online

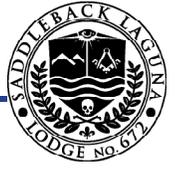
Past Masters (Living Members)

- Donald G. Mc Myne 1976
- Leonard L. Todd 1981
- Sr. Gerald E. Heaton 1984
- Lyle J. Robertson 1987
- Frederick H. Baribeault 1991
- Ronald G. Shores 1993
- Robert Nick 1994
- George W. Morton 1995
- Steven J. Frogue 1996
- Ronald G. Shores 1997
- James T. Brown 1998
- James T. Brown 1999
- Frederick H. Baribeault 2000
- Joseph H. Stout III 2001
- Gary L. Peterson 2002
- Scott E. Preston 2003
- Tuoc Kim Pham 2004
- Joe J. Suarez 2005
- Wil Garcia 2006
- Erich Kreidler 2007
- Erich Kreidler 2008
- Jerad Schulte 2009
- Steven Bass 2010
- Gary C. Silverman 2011
- Eric Hanan 2012
- Peter Lofthouse 2013
- Jack C. Hennings Jr. 2014
- Russell E. Hennings 2015
- Jason Petz 2016
- Kenneth Bennett 2017
- Tom Gruenbeck 2018
- Tom Gruenbeck 2019

Related Organizations - All meetings are virtual until further notice

Saddleback Laguna Masonic Hall Association	Meets 1st Thursday	Jack Hennings (949)-683-4747
Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter No. 524	Meets 3rd Monday	Linda Carlson (949) 355-5868
International Order of the Rainbow for Girls Assembly #261	Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday	Barbara Okin (949) 533-7392
Lake Forest Chapter of DeMolay	Meets 2nd and 4th Mondays	Art Salazar (949) 292-7253
Irvine Valley Lodge #671	Meets every Tuesday	Michael Neben (949) 872-3979

2020 Officers of the Lodge



Worshipful Master
John J. Grace



Senior Warden
Michael Ballou



Junior Warden
Chuck Chiodo Jr.



Treasurer
Ross Hernandez



Secretary &
Officer's Coach
Kenneth Bennett



Chaplain
David Hansch



Senior Deacon
Michael May



Junior Deacon
Diego Sanmiquel



Marshal
Jack Auld



Senior Steward
Oscar Cortez



Junior Steward
Chris Holder



Tiler
Jack C. Hennings Jr.



Asst. Secretary
Bob Feltz



Officer's Coach
Tom Gruenbeck

Inspector of the 901st Masonic District
Worshipful Russ Hennings, P.M.

Saddleback Laguna Masonic Center
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