

Updates from the San Francisco and Burlingame Childhood Language Center



San Francisco and Burlingame Childhood Language Center

January/February Donations

365 Club

Chris and Lynise Smith
 Durward and Caroline Ayre
 Edwin M Del Rosario
 Gregory & Annette Mariel

General Donations

William Kneebone
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 Adobe
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Donations \$10,000 or More:
 Curusis Family Charitable Foundation

In Memory of:

Marshall Zemon
 -Bernard Dehovitz
 -Clarence Goldfinger
 -Stanley Sussman
 -Euclid Sperow
 -Herbert Blumenthal

Checks for contributions to the San Francisco and Burlingame Childhood Language Center should be made payable to the **California Scottish Rite Foundation** with the note "SF/

Burlingame CLC" on the memo line. Checks may be sent to the following address.

Burlingame Scottish Rite, Burlingame Masonic Center, 145 Park Road, Burlingame, CA 94010

Your donations to the San Francisco and Burlingame Childhood Language Center are critical to the continuing operation of the Center. The children of San Francisco and the Peninsula are counting on your generosity.

To the Families of our Members:
 Please let us know if one of our members is in the hospital or nursing home, or is incapacitated in any way.
 Please write or call:
 Burlingame Scottish Rite
 Burlingame Masonic Center
 145 Park Road
 Burlingame, CA 94010
 650-344-4841



The Bulletin of the Burlingame Scottish Rite Bodies

A Small but Mighty Valley
 Working to Support Freemasonry and Our Community

May/June 2020 - Our 99th Year

The Lodge of Perfection

~See Page 4 for Calendar



Vincent D. Chan, 32°
 Venerable Master
 Lodge of Perfection

Greetings Brethren.

These are unprecedented times. The covid19 crisis has caused the entire world to be turned upside down and our valley is no exception. Please remain safe and practice good social distancing as well as hand washing etiquette. As for our valley, we are formulating new ways to conduct ourselves with the current situation: meeting remotely/virtual meetings, communicating as much as we can with each other through video calls or voice, emailing as much as we can to provide information with each other. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any one of your Officers if you are in need, no request is too trivial and I would gladly hear from all of you than not. I believe that we are all in this together and our brothers can rest assured that we can lean on each other for support, be it emotional or physical.

I know that these are stressful times and that we all deal with stress differently. Please take care of your mental health. Email, call, or video conference with a brother; we can stay connected in more ways than being inside a building together. Write a letter to someone and send it through the mail, putting your thoughts in words may be a stress reliever to you. Ensure that you maintain a day-to-day schedule as keeping one may be beneficial to your mental capacities. Learn a new language during this time of social isolation, keeping the mind active can also be some form of stress relief. But above all, call a medical professional if mental stress gets in the way of your daily routine.

Until we can be together again and share our good fellowship I wish everyone well and be safe.

From The General Secretary



Ill. David R. Jolliffe, 33°
 General Secretary

Many of our members have been receiving email blasts from our Personal Representative, Marty M. Cusing, 32°, KCCH, using Constant Contact. This has proved to be a timely and effective means of keeping in touch to update you on how COVID-19 has affected our events and giving you some notice of changes or cancellations. He will also be using this method of contact to invite members to any virtual meetings that we hold during the

pandemic. But it is only effective if you are on our email list. If you have not been receiving these emails from our PR it is because we do not have your email in our system. Please send an email so we can get that fixed to secretary@burlingamesr.com or you can call me at (650) 773-5034. Leave a message if I don't pick up right away.

Please note that the Burlingame Bodies office is having phone issues and our phone number – (650) 344-4841 - is not currently receiving calls. Please use my cell number (650) 773 5034 if you need to contact us by phone.

Burlingame Scottish Rite Knights of St. Andrews



Joshua L. Cusing, 32° K.S.A.
 Chieftan, Knights of St. Andrew

Greetings from the Knights of Saint Andrew, I hope that you and your families are doing well during this time of crisis. This Covid-19 pandemic is no joke. Please do take care of yourselves. Follow the guidelines of constantly washing your hands, wearing a mask and gloves when you go out, practice social distancing and only go out if absolutely necessary. Together, we can beat this issue and become stronger when all is said and done.

As the service arm of the Burlingame Scottish Rite, the KSA help in all events, degrees and dinners. We are here to serve. We also plan to have fun in the KSA. Once the Stay-in-Place is lifted, there are a few possible fun events that we have in mind. Stay tuned. We are looking for more brothers to join our ranks. Must be 32nd degree and willing to serve the valley. KCCH and 33rd dgreees need not apply. Please do not hesitate to contact any member of the KSA when you wish to join. Contact me via email at JLCusing@Gmail.com for any questions.

Thank you very much for your time and may the Great Architect of the Universe keep you safe, happy and healthy.

The latest news from the San Francisco/Burlingame Childhood Language Center



Ill. Chris D. Smith, 33°
 Chairman, SFBRCCCLC Board of Directors

Operations at our CLC have changed dramatically due to the school closures and shelter-in-place, but we are still providing much-needed services to the children in our program. Our Center Director Jim Cartwright has done an outstanding job ensuring that our clients have not been without service during these challenging times. When Jim and

I first discussed what to do with our CLC, we were both certain that we had to figure out how to provide services remotely, and we did!

As I have mentioned before, 2020 marks 50 years that our CLC has been in operation, and we are planning a wonderful fundraising dinner for 22 August at San Francisco Scottish Rite. The issue though remains with the timing of the ending of the shelter-in-place, and when we will all feel safe returning to our "normal" activities. Please block your calendars just in case! We may need to institute an online campaign instead, but we will certainly keep all of you informed either way.

CALENDAR

All Events are tentative - Subject to Covid-19 Restrictions

Monday May 18th - Stated Meeting and Feast of Consistory

Dress: Business Casual
 6:30pm Stated Meeting
 7:15pm Dinner and Feast of Consistory

Monday June 29th - Stated Meeting and Education Event

Dress: Business Casual
 6:30pm Stated Meeting
 7:15pm Dinner and Education Presentations

Monday July 27th - Stated Meeting and Remembrance and Renewal

Dress: Business Casual
 6:30pm Stated Meeting
 7:15pm Dinner
 Remembrance and Renewal to follow

From the Office of the Personal Representative



Marty M. Cusing, 32° K.C.C.H.
Personal Representative

During the early part of March 2020, Burlingame Scottish Rite preemptively cancelled Degree work, events and in person meetings in response to the then recommended guidelines and information from local and state public health authorities. On March 18, 2020, the Grand Master of California, MW John E. Trauner issued a halt to all Masonic gatherings of any kind in the state until further notice from the Grand Lodge. Many other Masonic bodies issued guidelines on how to meet and conduct important business, and other states around the US then followed suit with their own meeting restrictions. California then ordered a Shelter in Place order for all except essential workers, recommended “social distancing” and continually reduced the maximum number of people allowed in small gatherings.

Boy, what a time we live in! Masonry through the centuries, notwithstanding, has withstood wars, pandemics, persecution, economic fluctuations, recession of membership and has weathered the storm with the aid and assistance of that sense of “fraternity” and “relief” we have as Brothers and for the community in which we live in. The schools and workplaces around the world have had to quickly integrate technology and the virtual speed of [WiFi] connections in order to function, which prompted many Lodges to experiment transitioning from traditional Lodge to virtual Lodge (or virtually anywhere Lodge). This paradigm shift in the fabric of Masonry in the way we connect with our members could likely give our fraternity the much-needed boost to be relevant in the 21st century.

Although our March 2020 stated meeting was cancelled, the Executive Officers were invited to meet via video conference call (Zoom.com) to approve bills and discuss business which could not be held over. Over the next few months, Burlingame Scottish Rite will continue to use Zoom.com for our stated meetings until the Grand Master has lifted his restrictions on meeting in-person.

Our April/May/June 2020 stated meetings will be held online via videoconference beginning at 7:00pm, with virtual room open at 6:45pm and afterwards for social time. For our May stated meeting, we will observe the Feast of Consistory/Feast of the Manifesto during this meeting. Please pour yourself your favorite beverage of choice to participate during the toast. If you are not receiving monthly Burlingame Scottish Rite emails from me, please send me a message to be added, as I will release the video conference link and password to our members through these emails.

The June 5–7 statewide Orient Reunion at Oakland Scottish Rite has been postponed until further notice. As soon as Burlingame Scottish Rite’s restriction on meeting has been lifted, we will evaluate over the next couple of months if we will hold our own Reunion to cover the 4°-32°, or however many of the Degrees our Ritual Team can practice and be prepared for.

I highly encourage members to practice out of the Lodge the other parts of the 24-inch gauge we Masons are charged to observe and are often neglected by our service to our Masonic duties. Spend time with your family (albeit virtually), enjoy a good book on your balcony or backyard, or renew your devotions your ever-living God by pouring over the Holy Scriptures. Should you decide to gain further knowledge in Scottish Rite Masonry, I recommend beginning the Scottish Rite Master Craftsman Program or reading current and past issues of the Scottish Rite Journal. Should you be encouraged in your studies to share with other Brothers, I can schedule a videoconference meeting day on Mondays.



Roberto Diaz, Jr., 32° K.C.C.H.
Almoner

Greetings Brethren,

I hope that you and your families are healthy and doing well. We all know we’re in the middle of difficult times. Now’s the time to practice outside of the lodge the great and moral principals we are taught inside it. Let’s start with the concept that with time, patience, and perseverance, we will accomplish all things

Despite the challenge of being stuck indoors and away from our fellow members, we’ve seen inspiring examples of Masons finding creative ways to spend time with one another—and finding ways to help.

One of the most impactful and simplest ways to do that is by giving to the Distressed Worthy Brother Relief Fund. The Grand Lodge of California has just created this relief fund to help Masons facing urgent needs during the COVID-19 pandemic to get back on their feet. As more and more people are put out of work, it’s the role of our fraternity to help fellow members put the pieces back together and move forward. The fund is ready and available to connect those affected with referrals to services, resources, and emergency funds. To learn more or to begin a Relief Fund application, visit the Masonic Assistance application page, call (888) 466-3642 (Masonic Outreach Services), or visit masonichome.org. To donate to the Relief Fund, visit the California Masonic Foundation online, or call (415) 292-9117.

Our Valley of Burlingame has started to reach out to our senior members through a Members’ Outreach Program in case anyone needs some form of assistance. You can also reach out to our VM Vince Chan, 32°, our PR Marty Cusing 32° KCCH or myself regarding assistance to not only yourself or a worthy brother but also anyone who may need it through the Almoner’s Fund / Box of Fraternal Assistance. Your call for help will be kept in the strictest confidence.

Almoner’s Corner

The Latest News from the San Francisco and Burlingame Childhood Language Center



Language Center in Cyberspace

By Jim Cartwright, MS, MFA, CCC-SLP
Rite Care Language Center Director

There’s an old saying, “when life hands you lemons, make lemonade.” The arrival of the COVID-19 virus has been one enormous lemon that has deeply affected us all. One of its many impacts has been making it necessary for all of our schools to close their doors, and along with the schools, the language centers have had to close their physical doors as well. To quote another saying, “when one door closes, another door opens,” and for us, that new open door has meant beginning to offer services remotely from the onset of the need for social distancing until the day it is safe to be together again.

The San Francisco Language Center was the first in the state to close its physical doors and was one of the pioneering centers to embrace the model of teletherapy, using live online video with students, as well as telephone consultations and web-based correspondence. The learning curve was steep, but we quickly offered services remotely and are continuing to offer services to all of our families throughout this time. The primary mode of instruction is now over a video platform, which also allows for the sharing of various screens and chatting via text. As all of our physical materials are locked up in the center, we have had to move to web-based materials, including digital books, shared google documents and instructional videos to supplement face to face video chat in order to address the needs of the children and teenagers who attend our center.

This adjustment has been easiest for our older kids who are already used to navigating the wonderful yet endlessly complex world of computers. For our younger clients, it has become necessary that a parent or caregiver accompany them throughout their sessions. This had led us to explore a wide variety of new projects. For example, one of our students, with my help as well as her mother’s, is writing a book entitled ‘Rabbie’s Day,’ over a shared Google Doc complete with photos her mother is taking and inserting into the story. The book is

about her stuffed animal, Rabbie. She and Rabbie visit with me and my stuffed animal (Rainbow Pillow) over video chat and we work on new skills in a play-based format.

In addition to video-based therapy, this has been a good time for extensive phone consultations with parents, teachers and other members of the children’s educational teams. I have found these consultations to be extremely beneficial as they have given me more insight into the kids I’m working with and thus have influenced my lesson plans, and I have been able to soothe some concerns that parents had about their children which they had not yet shared with me. It has also been a good time to set up more extensive home programs for families since many parents are finding that they now have more time to spend with their children. For example, for one student who is working on his “L” sound, I’ve sent home lists of words for him to practice, along with a handmade rate meter for him to practice becoming more aware of the speed of his speech as his pronunciation skills break down when he speaks too quickly. It is working well for his mother to address these skills on a daily basis, whereas in the past she had difficulty finding time to help her child at home.

Another way we have expanded our services and invited parents to become more involved in their children’s learning experience has been to develop poetry writing assignments that are designed to be completed by the parent in conjunction with their child. One assignment has been for parents and children to brainstorm what they are grateful for and then write a poem in the form of a list based upon their brainstorm. One family wrote, “we are grateful for having a safe home to live in/ we are grateful for movie nights with popcorn/ we are grateful for laughing together even when times are hard/ we are grateful for washing our hands.” While I much prefer working with people in person and look forward to the day when it will be safe to do so again, I’ve discovered that I’ve learned a lot in these challenging times, both in terms of expanding my professional skills and regarding getting to know our families in new ways. Our center continues on in cyberspace, dedicated to serving the needs of children and their families. Your support for our center is deeply appreciated and we are grateful that we are able to continue providing services during these highly unusual times.

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Burlingame Bodies of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, sitting in the Valley of Burlingame, Orient of California, derive their charters from the Supreme Council; Mother Council of the World of the Inspectors-General, Knights-Commander of the Temple of Solomon; of the 33rd and last degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, whose See is at Charleston, in the state of South Carolina. Unto said Supreme Council and its duly constituted officers, these bodies acknowledge and yield allegiance.



III. James D. Cole, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander
of the Supreme Council



III. Frank Loui, 33°
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
of the Supreme Council in California