

THE MASTER WORKMAN

THE HOME LODGE No.721 F.&A.M. BULLETIN

MARCH 2019

WWW.HOMELODGE721.ORG

THE FORMATION OF THE THREE DEGREE STRUCTURE

by Hyde Parke - Bankers Lodge No.193, Australia

It is customary today for us to speak of the Three Degrees in Craft Masonry. We just accept this and think nothing about how this all came about. The Three Degree system has not existed from time immemorial. It all came about to our Order over a long period of time and in a somewhat laborious manner. The whole change was not an overnight arrangement, but rather grew up over a period of years. In fact, the early years of this change were times of great turbulence. Much of these historic events have been shrouded, in mystery and confusion. The eventual sorting out period by our Masonic historians was done in the face of minimal historical evidence, and a large amount of reasonable assumption. Even today, some Masonic writers still find it a common ground on which to agree to disagree. And because of this lack of historical evidence it would be safe to say that the perplexing questions of the existence and growth of the three degrees, will remain a Masonic discussion point for centuries to come.

One thing is reasonably certain - prior to the early eighteenth century, two degrees were worked, the Entered Apprentice Degree and the Fellowcraft Degree. To confirm the issue, one of the ancient manuscripts, the Edinburgh Register House Ms. of 1696 and the Sloan Ms. of 1659 refer to two degrees, whilst the Trinity College Dublin Ms. of 1711 and the Graham Ms. of 1726 refer to three degrees. And so the argument has carried on for years. In these observations then, we can only give a broad spectrum of the sequence of events that led

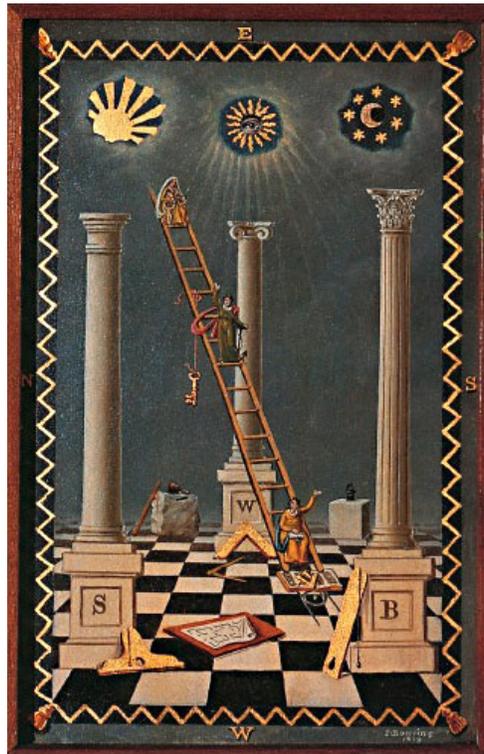
up to the establishment of the three degree system in our Order.

As our Masonic historians have agreed to disagree on the interpretation of much of the evidence, there is of a consequence no over-riding authority available to say who is right and who is wrong. Let us first look at the word "degree". In its primitive form the

word was used by the Operative masons as a method of acquiring different grades of skills, which usually consisted of Apprentices, Journeymen and Masters. (It is pointed out here that later in the sequence of events, one of the big events that caused confusion centered around the interpretation and use of the word Master). To the Speculative mason the word "degree" infers the use of some form of ceremony which would advance the candidate to a higher rank, after he had had communicated to him certain distinguishing words, signs, grip and tokens.

Thus it is reasonable to assume that the Speculative mason attained different ranks of speculative knowledge. Today, the word "degree" indicates a reward of advancing through an esoteric ceremony to a higher degree by the method of communicating words, signs, grips and tokens. A knowledge of the definitions of the words are necessary to make a good foundation towards the understanding of the history of the Masonic degrees.

Although we have a considerable amount of material available to us regarding Freemasonry generally



in the pre-Grand Lodge era, there is very little information available to give us an idea of the internal workings of the lodges at that particular time. At this stage it may be as well to remember that at that time in history, when all of this was happening, it was a time of illiteracy. Very few people could either read or write. Hence the bulk of much that happened was handed down by word of mouth. This then was the basic cause of confusion in historical records which resulted. We have seen the results of this in many other aspects of the history of man. Quite a deal of our so called "facts" concerned with these early events have been handed down through the Gothic Constitutions of the seventeenth century. Many of these, fortunately, have been preserved. In some cases to be very valuable historically. But like a great deal of the worlds aging history, some of the confusion is brought back about by the matter of interpretation.

A further source of information is the various Exposures of Freemasonry, that have come to light from time to time. Exposures assumed great prominence after about 1723. Whilst these exposures furnish the historian with valuable historical evidence, as exposures they had little effect on the acceptance of Freemasonry. Other information that one would reasonably expect to carry unlimited historical events and data, is not as readily available as one would wish. This is Lodge Minutes.

Permit the writer to digress for a short time to emphasise the tremendous importance of Lodge minutes today. They will become the major source of the history of the lodge. Unlike many ideas of our present day, too much information cannot be placed in lodge minutes; and much more care should be given to the preservation of these records.

Lodge Minutes of the early days extend back as far as 1598 and are, in the main, of Scottish origin. Only two English Lodges have minutes preserved of the pre-1717 era, and they are from Alnwick 1701 and Yorke 1712. So much information in this regard is lost forever. So, the major source of information regarding the degrees within the Order were the Manuscripts and Charges. They quite definitely marked the existence of the Two Degree System; the First and Second Degrees. By looking at the dates of the Sloane and Dublin Manuscripts it would appear as though the Three Degree System began to appear somewhere between 1659 and 1711.

Stop and ponder for a short while - think of the many similarities of the present First and Second Degree. Think of their general structure and language. The consider the tremendous difference in the structure and language of the Third Degree. The Hiramic Legend, surrounded by the Third Degree, did not happen overnight. This came to fruition over a period of time. There is no cut and dried date for this period of time. The acceptance of the additional degree was not accepted on bloc - for some time it caused great turbulence amongst the Fraternity. In the years prior to the formation of the First Grand Lodge, Lodges were answerable to no central point or control, and consequently they had no uniformity in ceremonial workings. According to the Graham Manuscript the Third Degree Legend was known in some form in the 17th Century. The phrase "Sublime Degree of a Master Mason" was used on a Grand Lodge Certificate of Ireland in 1754. There is also record that it was used in 1767 by the Lodge of Friendship No. 6. But it does not seem to be in general use until the end of the seventeenth century. The earliest known reference to the degree in Lodge Minutes in London occurred in 1727. So, taking a broad view of the confusing material available, and the reasonable assumptions made due to the lack of historical evidence, it would be, again, reasonable to assume that the Third-Degree System grew up by a gradual process between 1717 and 1730. That is about as precise as we can be.

As a matter of interest, the Third Degree System is said to have been a "fact" in, France in 1731, Scotland in 1735 and Sweden in 1737

This proved to be a very unstable period in the History of Freemasonry. As one would expect some lodges were openly against the re-arrangement of the Degrees, particularly in Scotland. This of course made the fixing of a precise date of change even more hazardous.

RECOMMENDED READING

1. The Freemasons Guide and Compendium by Bernard E. Jones
2. Coil's Mason Encyclopedia
3. Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry - Volume 1
4. History of Freemasonry by Pick and Knight.

Home Lodge Officers - 2019

- Artin Aladadyan Worshipful Master
(818) 321-0449
- Andre Aladadyan Senior Warden
(818) 309-9318
- Peter Vogelsang Junior Warden
- Moses Gazazian Treasurer
(818) 298-5652
- Richard A. Weiser, P.M. Secretary
(818) 326-3841
- Gerard E. Deprest Assistant Secretary
(818) 980-8370
- Michael Egbert Chaplain
(818) 691-0069
- Orlando Salas Senior Decon
- David Ter-Petrosyan Junior Decon
- Boris Linares Senior Steward
- Calvin A. Frieling Tyler
(661) 296-2186
- Michael David P.M. Officers' Coach
(818) 414-7080
- Wor. Jeff Yates, P.M. Inspector 709th

A Message From Our
Worshipful Master
Artin Aladadyan



Brethren and Ladies, I'd like to thank all that attended the reception of our Grand Marshal, Worshipful Ken Judd, in February. We had an amazing turnout with twenty-three Grand Lodge officers, including Most Worshipful Stuart Wright. It was an amazing evening and one I'd

been looking forward to since I learned that Kenny was going to be Grand Marshal. Ken has been a great support throughout my Masonic career. He's a Golden Veteran's Award recipient and as we can see is still extremely active in our craft. He's a shining example of the level of commitment we should all strive for. So once again, thank you Kenny for all the advise you've imparted over the years, I hope that one day I can do for others what you and so many more have done for me.

Once again we had a fantastic education night hosted by Brother Linares, where he discussed on the First Degree Trestleboard. Unfortunately February's night was only open to Entered Apprentices and above, however Brother Linares has structured the year's lessons to alternate between open to all and restricted to certain degrees of Masonry. Thus, I'd remind everyone that March will be open to all and Brother Linares has a great lecture planned once again. These nights are going to become a crucial part of Home Lodge moving forward. Our Executive Committee has committed to these nights for years to come and our hope is that we can truly impart and discover what Masonry truly for us.

To avoid making this article as long as Worshipful Judd's biography, I want to thank all my brothers that attend our weekly meetings. Your constant participation means more than you can imagine to our candidates and our officers. Thank you all for your support. As always, to those that haven't been Home in any amount of time, we're always here, and we'd love to have you.

...Remember, there's no better place to be on a Wednesday than Home.

Fraternally,
Artin Aladadyan
Worshipful Master

WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS
LODGE NIGHT

**A Message From Our
Senior Warden
Andre Aladadyan**



Most important thing we have in this world is family. By family I mean the people we choose to surround ourselves with. These are the people we build homes with, spend our weekends with, and the people we sit in Lodge with.

Family is everything.

It's easy to get absorbed in our day to days and forget to give our family the attention it deserves. We should all take the time, including myself.

I love my ENTIRE family.

Fraternally Yours,
Bro. Andre Aladadyan
Senior Warden

**A Message From The
Junior Warden
Peter Vogelsang**



"February has gone, and I hope everyone had a chance to spend time with a special someone over Valentines Day.

The reception for our Grand Marshall, Ken Judd, was a wonderful evening for fraternity. We were honored to have so

many Grand Lodge officers and attendance to receive such a worthy brother.

The second education night was another success thanks to brother Boris Linares. We welcome all brothers to come and learn more about our fraternity.

Public Schools Night is fast approaching on April 3 at the Stated Meeting, where we will honor three

Fraternally from the South,
Peter G. Vogelsang
Junior Warden

**A Message From The
Secretary Of Home Lodge,
Wor. Richard Weiser, P.M.**



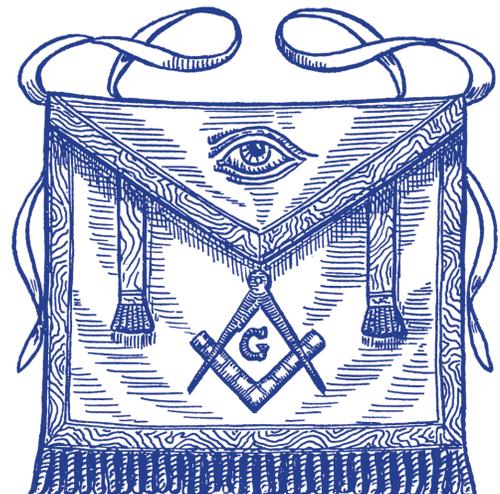
While I understand that talking about our dues. To those who have paid their dues, thank you. If you have not yet made your payment, please try do get it in as soon as you can. If you need to discuss this with the Master or

myself, please call and we can make arrangements for you.

The officers of Home Lodge are working very hard to make our degree work meaningful to our candidates. If you can join us on Wednesday nights, it would mean a lot to both the officers and the candidates.

Wor. Artin Aladadyan has made it a priority this year to provide education evenings for the brethren. Our Brother Boris Linares has done a great job creating interesting topics for everyone to increase your knowledge of Freemasonry. These sessions are the last Wednesday of every month. Please join us in an evening of learning and fellowship.

Fraternally
Richard Weiser, PM
Secretary



A Message From The
Treasurer Of Home Lodge,
Brother Moses Gazazian



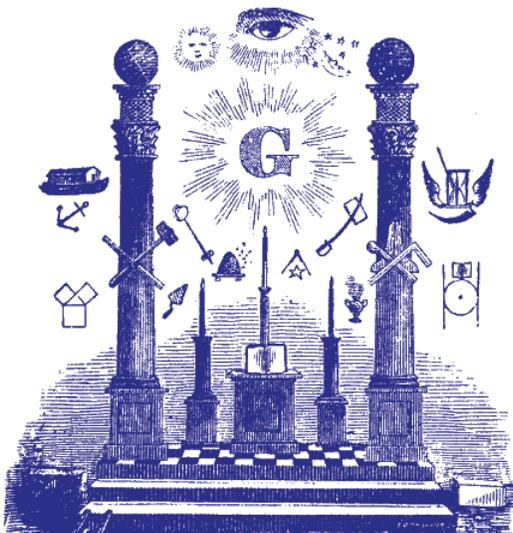
Dear Brethren of Home Lodge.

Happy to report once again that our annual audit as required by CMC of Grand Lodge California was flawless and once again year after year we are not only in compliance

but we are told that we are the best in the district by our Inspector when it comes to our process of running the best lodge in the district. I'm grateful to audit committee, our team and specially Worshipful Rick and Brother Jerry for their support and teamwork. Also and importantly I thank membership for allowing me and trusting me to do what's best for our lodge and membership.

Brethren together we always have kept lights on for Home and will continue to do so as long as we support each other and support the cause that we all thrive on.

Fraternally,
Moses Gazazian
Treasurer



Trestleboard - March 2019

Sunday, March 3rd 7:15 a.m.

ALL MASONS ARE INVITED
87th ANNUAL MEN'S BREAKFAST HONORING
GRAND MASTER STUART A. WRIGHT

Contact: Secretary Rick Weiser, P.M.
Email: secretaryhome721@gmail.com
Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel
5711 West Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Wednesday, March 6th 6:30 p.m.

STATED MEETING
6:30 PM - 10:00 PM
Dinner \$15.00 per person
Tri-Tip or Salmon
For dinner reservations please call (818) 446-6305

Wednesday, March 13th 6:30 p.m.

MASTER MASONS DEGREE
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Brother Serge Chebazian
9:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Light refreshments & soft drinks
Worshipful Master Artin Aladadyan Presiding

Wednesday, March 20th 6:30 p.m.

FELLOWCRAFT DEGREE
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Brother Shadi Karem
9:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Light refreshments & soft drinks
Senior Warden Andre Aladadyan Presidin

Wednesday, March 27th 6:30 p.m.

MASONIC EDUCATION EVENING
6:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Light refreshments & soft drinks
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Masonic Education

Masonic Humor

A Doctor and Plumber are in the same Lodge. On Sunday Morning the Doctor wakes up to find his toilet blocked. So he rings the Plumber. "But I do not work Sundays! Can't it wait until tomorrow." The Doctor said. "I do not like working Sundays either but if you were in trouble, and felt unwell, Brother I would come round to see you" "OK" says the Plumber and goes round to the Doctor. Goes upstairs and looks at the toilet, take two aspirins from his pocket and throws them down the bowel. "There" he says "If it's no better tomorrow give me a ring and I will call round.

A new initiate returns home to his wife who is naturally curious to know what went on. The conversation goes something like this. She) Well how'd it go ? He) Very well - most interesting She) What did go on ? He) I'm not really sure if I can tell you about it. She) Well is ther anything you *can* tell me ? He) well it seems there are 3 classes of men in the Lodge -walkers, talkers and Holy men. She) What do they do - if you can tell me ? He) The walkers walked me around the lodge. The Talkers talked to me and to the walkers as I was led around She) and the Holy men ? what of them ? He) They seem to be a special class of men - all in dark blue and gold aprons and gauntlets. They just sit on the benches around the lodge with their heads in their hands chanting repeatedly - "Oh My God Oh My God !""

Q: How many Masons does it take to screw in a light bulb? A: Three. One to screw it in, one to read the minutes of the previous light bulb replacement, and one to sit on the sidelines and complain about the way they USED to screw in light bulbs.

A small Lodge had a string of bad luck. It was preparing to initiate a candidate on a steamy evening in June and it's air conditioner had stopped working. After sweating their way through part of the work, the Master had asked the candidate what he most desired. The candidate replied "a beer". At this juncture the SW started and whispered "light" to the candidate. "OK", the candidate replied, "a lite beer.

Home Lodge Dues Information

Our dues for 2019 are \$101.00 per member, due on or by the 1st day of January. If you are not at the very least in possession of a 2018 dues card (haven't paid your dues for 2018) we will be sending you a notice of possible suspension, beginning in March. If you have not paid your dues in arrears or made proper arrangements, we will be suspending you in May of 2019. Many brethren have asked what that means. It means this, if you are suspended for nonpayment of dues, your name will be read in lodge the night you are suspended, the other Masonic bodies will be notified of your suspension (per the CMC) and you will become suspended in those bodies as well until you are back in good standing with your blue lodge. Bringing yourself back into good standing involves the following process-you must pay your dues in arrears, then you are put up to a vote of the brethren for reinstatement, then the other bodies are notified upon your reinstatement.

- Dues for the 2019 term are \$101.00
Petitions for membership are \$425.00
Petitions for affiliation are \$130.00
Petitions for out of state affiliation are \$285.00

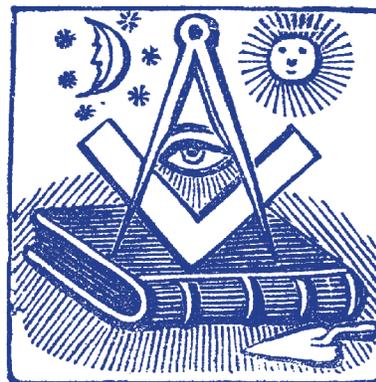
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR 2019

- Under the age of 49 is 21 times the annual dues: \$2,121.00
50 to 54 is 19 times the annual dues: \$1,919.00
55 to 59 is 17 times the annual dues: \$1,717.00
60 to 64 is 14 times the annual dues: \$1,414.00
65 and older is 11 times the annual dues: \$1,111.00

Past Masters of Home Lodge No. 721

*William H. Eyler	1952-54	*Mark A. Leibert	1993
** Allyn S. Abramson	1955	Herschel P. Mazer	1994
*Marius Thisted	1956	*Allen F. Kelman	1995
*Samuel Crystal	1957	*Jack A. Klapper.....	1996
*Michael Garner	1958	David M. Townsend	1997
*Arthur D'Avellar Jr.	1959	Russell E. Singer	1998
*Abraham J. Marks	1960	Ralph B. Dash	1999
*Marvin Shapiro	1961	Rafael Hernandez	2000
*Seymour Glick	1962	Stanley R. Taub P.M.	2001
*Sidney L. Herman	1963	*Robert V. Downs	2002
*Frank Gelfound	1964	Robert M. Berger	2003
*Jay Ludwin	1965	Lynn M. Freed	2004
*Abel Tobey	1966	*Gordon E. Perry P.M.	2005
*W. Robert Banks	1967	Harvey M. Tapper	2006
*Irving Wapner	1968	Lynn M. Freed P.M.	2007
*Harold J. Zinkow	1969	Eduardo Estrada	2008
*Benjamin Ennis	1970	*Jose A. Fiss P.M.	2009
*David Tribich.....	1971	Steve L. Eberhardt, P.M.	2010-11
Stanley Kadesh	1972	Robert H. Borden	2012
*Harvey Solochek	1973	Michael David	2013
*I. Robert Brown	1974	Richard A. Weiser, P.M.....	2014-2015
David Springer	1975	Aaron J. Cohen P.M.	2016-2018
*Marvin Linn	1976	Leland H. Celestre	2017
*Meyer M. Swartzman	1977		
*Stuart A. Graboyes	1978	*Deceased	**Demitted
**Marvin Winchell	1979		
Murray Tobias	1980		
*Lester Price	1981		
*Meyer S. Levine	1982		
**Joe Winchell	1983		
*S. William Gershon	1984		
Roger Sterneck	1985		
*Irving Levine.....	1986		
Melvin H. Barlam.....	1987		
Stanley R. Taub.....	1988		
Seymour Empol.....	1989		
*Norman I. Libes	1990		
Donald T. Pollock	1991		
Clifford C. Schlesinger	1992		



WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS LODGE NIGHT

Past Masters By Affiliation

Gordon M. Van Sanford	1962
David S. Handelman	1970
Henry H. Tarica	1971
Robert B. Brandt	1972
Richard V. Franco Sr.	1974
Ken Judd	1976
Stanley Garnett	1978
Harvey B. Lyman	1982
David P. Ottinger Jr.	1983
Thomas C. Crompton	1985
Vanso O. Jenabian	1986
Sam Makarem	1986
Alvin Gorenbein	1988
Ray Rosenbaum	1990
Jerome A. Shubb	1992
Russell H. Weis	1992
Aldo A. Dipre	1993
Jose A. Fiss	1994
Bruce E. Hudson	1995
Steven M. Weinberg	1995
Steven L. Eberhardt	1996
Sean N. Foran	1996
Stepan S. Varsam	1997
Victor M. Lerma	1998
Lloyd R. Turnquist	1998
Carlos H. Gonzalez	1999
Gordon E. Perry	1999
William H. Pike	1999
Vatche Izakellian	2001
Nishan "Nick" Khatcherian	2002
Avedis A. Abdoyan	2004
Burton E. Haaz	2004
Vartan Assadourian	2006
Ralph W. Morton P.M.	2009-2010
Dan Shepard	2015
Leland H. Celestre	2016

Hiram Award Recipients

*Irving Levine P.M.	1979
*Fred R. Price	1980
*Sidney L. Herman P.M.	1980
*Allen Price	1983
*Irwin Rosenberg	1984
*Harry J. Angel	1985
*Buddy Samuel	1986
*S. William. Gershon P.M.	1988
*Ben Leibowitz	1988
*Lester Price P.M.	1989
*Allen F. Kelman P.M.	1990
Stanley R. Taub P.M.	1991
Howard Levine	1992
*Norman I. Libes P.M.	1993
Herbert Hyman	1994
Louis Kaminer	1995
Donald T. Pollock P.M.	1995
*Benjamin Ennis P.M.	1996
Barney B. Kort	1996
*Jerome H. Shatanoff	1997
**Bruce M. Blitz	1998
Clifford C. Schlesinger P.M.	1999
**Jack Brehm	2000
Leo W. Witz	2001
*Jack A. Klapper P.M.	2002
Ralph B. Dash P.M.	2003
Herschel P. Mazer P.M.	2004
Seymour Borenstein	2005
Gary B. Levitt	2006
Gerard E. Deprest	2008
Lynn M. Freed P.M.	2009
*William "Bill" Rosenthal	2010
*Ralph Feldfeber	2011
*Jose A. Fiss P.M.	2012
Steven L. Eberhardt P.M.	2013
Moses M. Gazazian	2015
Richard A. Weiser P.M.	2016
Javier De La Torre	2017
Stephan Varsam, P.M.	2018

*Deceased ** Demitted

WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS LODGE NIGHT

Concordant Bodies

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY SCOTTISH RITE
Meets the 3rd Friday of Every Month at 6:30 p.m.
Van Nuys Masonic Building, 14750 Sherman Way,
Van Nuys

YORK RITE BODIES
SIGNET ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER #57
Meets the 1st Monday of
Every Month at 6:30 p.m.
Van Nuys Masonic Building,
14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys

OMEGA COUNCIL #11
Meets Five Times a Year
Van Nuys Masonic Building,
14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys

LOS ANGELES COMMANDERY #9
Meets the 3rd Monday of
Every Month at 6:00 p.m.
Van Nuys Masonic Building,
14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys

AL MALAIKAH SHRINERS
NORTH VALLEY SHRINE CLUB
Meets the 4th Wednesday of
Every Month at 7:30 p.m.
At IHop Restaurant 22810 Van Owen, West Hills

ENCINO SHRINE CLUB
Meets the 2nd Thursday of
Every Month at 7:00 p.m.
Van Nuys Masonic Building,
14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys

CENTURY HI TWELVE CLUB
Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of
Every Month at 12 Noon
At The China Olive Buffet
9224 Reseda Blvd., Northridge

RAINBOW FOR GIRLS SAN FERNANDO
ASSEMBLY #223
Girls Service Organization ... Ages 11 to 20 Years
Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of
Every Month at 7:00 p.m.
Van Nuys Masonic Building,
14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys

Committees, Chairs & Co-Chairs

Communications & Website
Scott I. Weber (*Webmaster*) - 818-280-0833
Michael David P.M. - 818-414-7080
Richard A. Weiser P.M. - 818-326-3841

Constitutional Observance
Ralph B. Dash P.M. - 818-766-3263

Funeral Committee
Wor. Artin Aladadyan - (818) 321-0449
Gerard E. Deprest - 818-980-8370
Moses Gazazian - 818-298-5652

Golf Committee
Eduardo Estrada P.M. - 818-880-8707
Scott I. Weber - 818-280-0833

Head Candidates Coach
Steve Varsam P.M. - 818-515-0093

Hiram Award Night
Gerard E. Deprest - 818-980-8370

Hunny-Do
The Ladies of Home Lodge

Picnic Committee
Gerard E. Deprest - 818-980-8370
Moses Gazazian - 818-298-5652

Public Schools
Peter G. Vogelsang J.W.

Sick & Visitation Chair
Bob Brandt P.M. - 818-891-6476
Richard A. Weiser P.M. - 818-326-3841

Sideliners
Andre Aladadyan S.W. - (818) 309-9318

Social Events
Michael Egbert - 818-708-3810

Sweethearts Outreach
Michael Egbert - 818-708-3810
Richard A. Weiser P.M. - 818-326-3841

Telephone Committee
Richard A. Weiser P.M. - 818-326-3841

Trustee President
Moses Gazazian - 818-298-5652

Trustee Secretary
Gerard E. Deprest - 818-980-8370

Youth Activities Coordinator
Lynn M. Freed P.M. - 818-341-3954