

Trestle Board

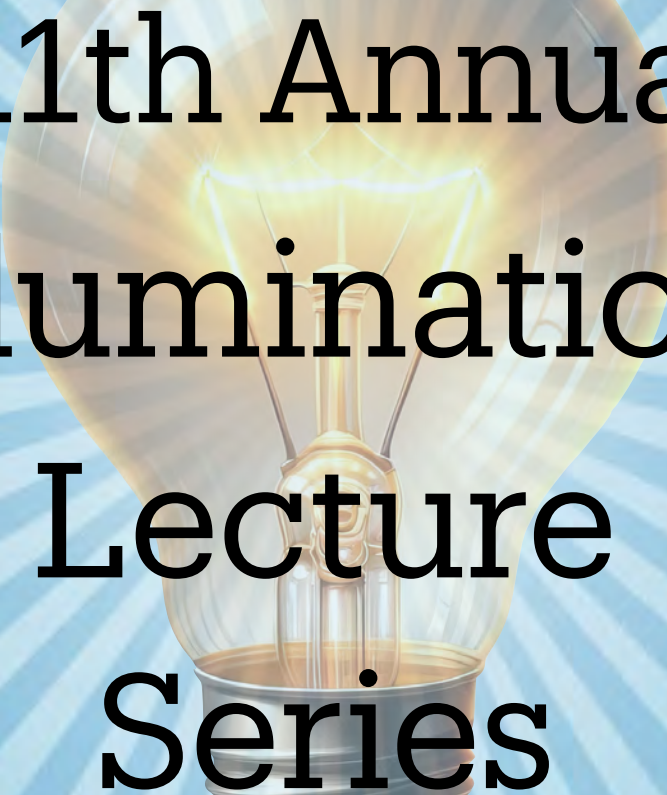
Volume 136

290

March 2024

Issue #3

South Pasadena Masonic Lodge of F&AM



11th Annual
Illumination
Lecture
Series

WWW.SOUTHPASADENA290.ORG

MARCH

4

MONDAY

Illumination Lecture:
PGM Russ Charvonia,
Civility and Freemasonry

7pm Open to All.

6

WEDNESDAY

Stated Dinner and
Meeting 6:30pm

Inspector's Official
Visit

16

SATURDAY

CHILI COOK
OFF

4pm

19

WEDNESDAY

OSI at
Pasadena Lodge

7pm

20

WEDNESDAY

Officer Practice

6:30pm

23

SATURDAY

Breakfast &
Masonic
Meditation

9am

27

WEDNESDAY

EDDIE G - NIGHT

7pm



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Bryant D'Adrian, Burdett Ives (03/15), Dennis Griggs (03/18), Arthur Stevens (03/19), Stephen Boyd (03/21), John Hill, Duane Moody (03/22), David Saldana (03/28), Madison Caldwell, Adam Crawford, Edward Nigolian (03/29), William Carney (03/30).

South Pasadena Masonic Lodge No. 290 Illumination Lecture Series



SPEAKER
Past Grand Master
Russ Charvonia

TALK
Civility and
Freemasonry

March 4, 2024

OPEN TO ALL - FREE - 7pm

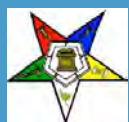
www.SouthPasadena290.org

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR EMAIL

If you have not been receiving lodge emails please contact our Lodge Secretary to update your email. His info is on page 12.
Thank you!



HALL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS
THURSDAY March 21, 2024
Meeting @ 6:30pm



EASTERN STAR DINNER and MEETING
MONDAY March 11, 2024
Dinner @ 6:30pm Meeting @ 7:30pm



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1

MONDAY

Illumination Lecture:

Jeriel Smith

*Altruism in and Throughout
Freemasonry*

7pm Open to All

3

WEDNESDAY

Stated Dinner and
Meeting 6:30pm

Masonic Awards
Presentation

10

WEDNESDAY

Officers School of
Instruction

Wisdom Lodge
7pm

17

WEDNESDAY

Second Degree
Bro. Angel Perez
6:30pm

20

SATURDAY

Public Schools
Awards Dinner
5pm

22 - 26

MON. - FRI.

Lodge Trip to DC

24

WEDNESDAY

Eddie G - Night
7pm

27

SATURDAY

Breakfast &
Masonic
Meditation
9am

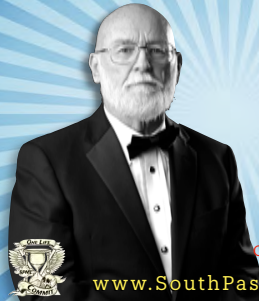


APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Vincent Creighton (04/04), Arthur Martirosyan (04/05), James White (04/06), Michael Arnold, Nicholas Herr (04/08), Randall Black, Jeriel Smith (04/14), C. Douglas Russell (04/16), Emery Selley (04/22), George McNamara (04/24), Paul Porner, George Vieth (04/26),

South Pasadena Masonic Lodge No. 290

Illumination Lecture Series



SPEAKER

Jeriel Smith

TALK

*Altruism in and
Throughout
Freemasonry*

April 1, 2024

OPEN TO ALL - FREE - 7pm

www.SouthPasadena290.org



HALL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

THURSDAY, April 18, 2024

Meeting @ 6:30pm



EASTERN STAR DINNER and MEETING

MONDAY APRIL 8th, 2024

Dinner @ 6:30pm Meeting @ 7:30pm



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RESEARCH

LODGE STATED MEETING

MONDAY APRIL 15th, 2024 @ 7pm

SAVE THE DATE

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Teacher Appreciation and
Essay Contest Winners Dinner

Saturday, April 20, 2024 @ 5pm



From The East



Hi Brothers,

This month, we had a heartwarming gathering for our “Sweethearts Dinner,” where couples and guests came together for a delightful evening. It was a feast for the senses, with delectable dishes and an array of desserts that made our taste buds dance with joy. Our culinary maestro, Wor. Ed Spalding, and his wife Zarahi, outdid themselves with their culinary creations, leaving everyone in awe of their talents.

Amidst all our festivities, we also dedicated much time to hone our craft, with a few officer practices geared towards the upcoming Fellow Craft degree ceremonies. These sessions are crucial as we prepare to pass our Entered

Apprentices on to the next big step in their Masonic journeys.

However, amidst all the joy and fellowship, there came a somber moment as we received distressing news. Our beloved brother, EDDIE G, who was to again take up the baton as our Marshal this year, encountered serious health challenges. Even though he had been appointed Marshal this year, he had not yet been officially installed, due to his health. The news that he had been called to the Celestial Lodge above hit all of us hard; and our hearts now go out to Eddie G and his family. In times like these, the SPML family will always stand united, offering our unwavering love and support.

In honor of Eddie G’s happy spirit and dedication, we dedicated our February 28 G-Night to celebrate his life. It was a poignant yet uplifting gathering, where we reminisced about his contributions as photos of the cherished moments we had shared with him showed on the screen in the recreation room. Brother Eddie G may no longer be with us in person, but his presence will forever echo within the walls of our lodge, a testament to his enduring impact on our hearts and minds. We will keep you all informed of his upcoming funeral service. It is our solemn duty as Masons to be there for our brothers until the end of their earthly journeys. Following his family’s service, our plan is celebrate his life and spirit with a memorial reception at our lodge. Thanks, and condolences to you all, my Brethren.

Fraternally, Wor. Geno Nadirov
Lodge Master, 2024

Lodge News & Notes



Sweethearts Dinner
February 10, 2024

Bro. Ed Spalding, PM, with his lady Zarahi, led the charge and cooked up a mighty steak dinner for this year's Sweetheart Night. The 25+ guests in attendance enjoyed the music and fellowship, and a rose for every visiting lady.



Super Bowl Sunday
February 11, 2024

About a dozen brothers and guests gathered in our rec room to watch the Super Bowl game, where the Kansas City Chiefs barely beat out the San Francisco 49ers in close Super Bowl match (Score: 25-22). The second in its history to go into overtime.



South Pasadena High School Fundraiser
February 29, 2024

Bro. Johan Garcia, along with Bro. Max Mironenko, attended SPHS Music Booster high school fundraiser, at which our lodge had the pleasure of donating two gift baskets for their silent auction.



Eddie G-Night February 28, 2024

At a rare solemn G-night, brothers gathered to pay their respects to our recently departed Brother Eddie Gudino. A prayer was led by Brother Charlie Fisher, PM; and a first toast by Worshipful Geno Nadirov kicked off a night of remembrance and fellowship, as many brothers shared their stories of brother Eddie G while puffing on cigars—in true Eddie G fashion. Bros. Adrian Howard and Phil Donlon also cooked up a nice meal for the 40+ brothers and guests who attended.



The Illumination Lecture Series

The Lecture Series Enters A New Decade

The eleventh year of The Illumination Lecture Series kicked off last month, with Junior Grand Warden Ara Maloyan giving his talk on *Astronomy or Is It Astrology?* He is the first of an exciting list of speakers, some traveling from across the Country (South Carolina, Arkansas and Texas) to share their Masonic knowledge and insights with our lodge and guests. Their topics will range into Masonic Symbolism, Altruism, Civility, Philosophy, Self-Improvement and even Death.

Eleven years ago, a small group of SPML Brothers, in search of Masonic education, gathered around and simply shared their deep findings of Masonic ritual, symbolism, and philosophy. That soon grew into “talks” and later into a monthly lecture series that earned the name—*The Illumination Lectures*. Now the longest continuing lecture series in our State, the Illumination Lectures have hosted illuminating scholars from across the Country. Many of the most noteworthy Masonic Scholars alive today have graced our lodge halls and spoken in our lodge room, spreading their wisdom to all light seekers willing to listen.

This year, six of our eight speakers are first time presenters at our lecture series; and we have two Past Grand Masters and the current Junior Grand Warden in our roster; the most Grand Lodge representatives we’ve ever hosted in a single lecture year.

The highlight of the year will undoubtedly be the third Installment of SPML’s Masonic Con (August 9th thru 11th), with a tentative visit by our present California Grand Master, Most Worshipful Sean Petroka, who will take part in the great Festive Board that will open our ceremonies, taking place on Friday, August 9th starting at 7pm. Our scheduled speakers will each share their own take on studies connected to Masonic education; and several will be visiting our lodge for the first time.

The Illumination Lecture Committee—Lodge Master Geno Nadirov, and Brothers Dago Rodriguez, PM; Jeriel Smith; Nathan Brown, Nate Bexton, Max Mironenko and Aaron Habibipour—have all been hard at work, seeking out the most unique and exciting Masonic speakers to visit our lodge and spread the light that they have researched to share with the brethren of 290 and surrounding lodges, and interested guests in the community.

Our Illumination Lecture nights will also continue on their traditional first Monday of most months (Dark in January, July, August, and September) at 7pm. Most of their talks will be open to the public and will be live streamed through our Instagram page. Please read page nine for a detailed list of this year’s confirmed guest speakers and topics. In 2024, we recommit to this important part of our lodge’s vision for Masonic education. Join us often during this 11th Anniversary year of our Illumination Lecture Series!

Our First Lecture of The Year

Written By Jeriel Smith



The Lecture Committee Welcomes Junior Grand Warden Ara Maloyan

On February 4, two dozen hearty brother Masons and guests braved a proverbial “dark and stormy night” to be a part of the commencement of a second decade in the annals of the Illumination Lectures. Our guest speaker for this occasion was a truly distinguished Mason, well known locally—Right Worshipful Ara Maloyan—who, for this occasion, chose to respond to his own question: *Masonic Astronomy, or Is It Astrology?* He was introduced by Brother Nathan Bexton, who also reviewed the history of the first decade of the Illumination Lecture Series.

Last October, Wor. Maloyan, PM was elected Junior Grand Warden of California Freemasons. He was raised in 1999 at Hayastan Lodge No. 94, Washington, D.C., and a year later he affiliated with Santa Monica-Palisades No. 307, where he served as Lodge Master in 2005 and received its Hiram Award in 2015. His Grand Lodge website profile runs to 5 pages, including memberships in 15 Appendant Bodies. His education and professional experience are both of a scientific and technical nature. He graduated from California State L.A. with a degree in Civil and Structural Engineering, obtained his Civil Engineering License, and worked in a series of positions as City Engineer and/or Public Works Director for the cities of Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Long Beach, and Pasadena; and is now the Director of Construction for a private real estate development company.

As his talk was tiled (Masons only), due to some direct references to Masonic Ritual, I will not attempt my usual summation of the contents here. Suffice it to say that much of it was technical, all of it interesting, and parts were very similar to the Astronomy class I took years ago as an undergraduate at UCLA. After noting that the modern science of astronomy is a descendant of the much earlier, but still extant, practice of Astrology. (Continue on page 12)

2024 Guest Speakers

February 5th

Ara Maloyan, JGW

Lecture: *Astronomy or Is It Astrology?*



March 4th

Russ Charvonia, PGM

Lecture: *Civility and Freemasonry*

April 1st

Jeriel Smith

Lecture: *Altruism in and Throughout Freemasonry*



May 6th

Ben Wallace

Lecture: *Nature of Initiation*



June 3rd

Lucas Miston

Lecture: *The Hero's Journey and Masonry*

SPML's

August 9 - 11

MASONIC CON

October 7th

Greg Cherry

Lecture: *Death and Freemasonry*



November 4th

Nathan Bexton

Lecture: *The Hieroglyphical Emblems*



December 2nd

R. Stephen Doan, PGM

Lecture: *The Masons Word (MM Only)*

SPML's A LOOK BACK LECTURE SERIES ILLUMINATION

Illumination Lecture December 4, 2023
Review by Jeriel Smith



The Illumination Lecture Committee Welcomes Bro. Charlie Fisher, PM

December 4, 2024 marked a momentous event in the history of South Pasadena Lodge 290, as our 10th Anniversary Illumination Lecture Series reached its conclusion—the same way that it had started back in 2013—with Wor. Brother Charlie Fisher, PM giving the lecture; on *Our Masonic Brother Mark Twain*. Twenty-five brothers and guests gathered in the Lodge Room for this event; compared to the four who were present at that inaugural lecture.

Dressed appropriately in Brother Twain's iconic white suit, Brother Charlie's presentation was delivered as the very person of the immortal author, speaker and humorist who became an iconic pioneer of American Literature. Just as appropriate, "Brother Twain" began his reminiscence by referencing the legendary coincidence that both his birth (Nov 30, 1835) and his death (April 21, 1910) were marked by Halley's Comet making its regular 76-year appearance in the heavens. In 1909, Twain famously remarked: "I came in with Halley's Comet. It is coming again next year. The Almighty has said, no doubt, 'Now there are these two unaccountable freaks; they came in together,

they must go out together.” How singularly appropriate for Brother Charlie to choose this topic to celebrate the beginning and end of the first decade of our Illumination Series. Thus, he now takes his place as the “Halley’s Comet” of South Pasadena 290’s Masonic Education! [Worry not, my brothers, the Illumination Lecture Series itself will continue on. Perhaps it will still be going strong in 2061, when Halley’s Comet will next become visible in our sky?]

Charlie’s “Twain” continued with musings of his boyhood in Hannibal, MO; the death of his father when young Sam Clemens (his given name) was 11 years old; and his experiences as a Mississippi River Boat Captain. Navigating the Big River then was fraught with danger; Twain’s own brother was killed in a boat explosion at age 20. His own riverboat career was short. Soon after having earned his Pilot’s license, the onset of the Civil War began a long demise in civilian river travel. After a brief few weeks’ service in the Confederate army, he headed next to the Nevada Territory, where gold and silver beckoned. Unfortunate at mining, but always a keen observer, he began writing for local newspapers. It was here, at a miner’s camp in 1865, that his sense of humor and gift for irony brought forth their first bounty: *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*. Along with several “other sketches” it became his first book in 1867.

He recollected appropriating his pen name from that of a fellow riverboat captain, both being based on the practice of boatmen calling “mark twain” when their plumb line measured the river’s critical depth at two fathoms. Following his travels to San Francisco, then Hawaii and back, Twain began his renown lecturing career with stories of his Hawaiian experiences. Space does not allow even a summary of the world travels that Twain

shared next, many of which were humorously described in his *The Innocents Abroad* (1869). After his wife-to-be finally accepted Twain’s third marriage proposal, they moved to Buffalo, NY where he penned *The Gilded Age* (1873). He then built his famous house in Connecticut, where their family (with 4 daughters) lived thereafter.

A type-setter himself, and always interested in new technology, Twain invested in and lost a fortune (\$300,000 then, equivalent to \$7 million today) on an unsuccessful attempt to perfect an automated type-setting machine. He traveled the world for years lecturing, during which time he began wearing his iconic white suit; he even received an honorary degree from Oxford. “Not bad for someone with a scanty education” quipped Brother Charlie’s Twain. Later, Mark Twain also became a very successful publisher. He persuaded Ulysses S. Grant to write his *Memoirs*—finished mere days before the great general and president died—which was such a great literary success it rescued Twain’s own financial future, and provided that of Grant’s grieving widow.

“Read my books” the real Mark Twain once mused; “My life is an open book.” Then he added: “Huck Finn wrote *that* book; I just edited it.”

In closing, Brother Charlie’s Twain briefly assessed author Twain’s scant Masonic career. He petitioned Polar Star Lodge No. 79 in St. Louis, MO, in December 1860 and was raised in July, 1861. Suspended for non-payment of dues after he had left for Nevada Territory, he was later reinstated; but he then dropped out after 1869. Though there is little evidence of any Masonic activity in his extensive world travels, Freemasons today continue to take great pride in remembering him as their beloved *Brother Mark Twain*.

(Continued from Page 8)

He explained how both concern the apparent arrangement of stars as seen from Earth, and their actual and perceived impacts on humanity and nature.

He shared many informative slides to illustrate and explain constellations & signs of the Zodiac, planetary orbits and alignments of the sun, moon and earth; latitude and longitude; the effects of earth's 23.5° tilted axis to its orbital path; solstices and equinoxes; holidays and festivals, etc. To that were added cogent connections with Freemasonry and references to our symbolism and ritual; salient of which being the Point-within-the-Circle & the Holy Saints John, concluding with a humorous image of a fried egg with a slice of bacon tangent to each side. There followed a robust Q&A and a discussion that continued into the Library at our traditional candle-lit dinner.



2024 Line of Officers

MASTER Geno Nadirov	SENIOR WARDEN Nate Brown	JUNIOR WARDEN David VanderSmith	SECRETARY Mimo Akkari, PM niftymimo@yahoo.com
TREASURER Bob Arnold, PM	SENIOR DEACON Nathan Bexton	JUNIOR DEACON	CHAPLAIN Charlie Fisher, PM
SENIOR STEWARD Max Mironenko	JUNIOR STEWARD Johan Garcia	MARSHAL	ORGANIST Miko Merced
TILER Sean Finley	ASST. SECRETARY Jerry Harris, PM	DISTRICT INSPECTOR Paul Bazerkanian, PM	OFFICER'S COACH Ed Spalding, PM

South Pasadena Masonic Lodge No. 290 Meets On the First Wednesday of Every Month At 6:30pm. Please make a reservation at (626) 799-2695 if you wish to visit our Lodge.