

Updates from the San Francisco and Burlingame Childhood Language Center



San Francisco and Burlingame Childhood Language Center

May-August Donations

365 Club

Mike & Janet Salazar
 Joshua Cusing
 Gary Shweid
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 Farmers Mutual Cusing Agency

General Donations

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

In Honor of:

Joshua Cusing
 -Chris D. Smith
 -Marty M. Cusing

In Memory of:

Herbert Blumenthal
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 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

The Bulletin of the Burlingame Scottish Rite Bodies



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

September/October 2020 - Our 99th Year

The Lodge of Perfection

~See Page 4 for Calendar

Greetings Brethren!



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



Normally I would call your attention to the change of the seasons and the need for our minds, bodies, and spirits to prepare for the coming winter. This year has been nothing short of being exceptional. Exceptional in the way we deal with our day-to-day lives, even so far as meeting with our brethren from our valley in ways we could not have fathomed a year ago. It has been six months since the start of quarantine and covid-19 seems to be here for the long run. I admit that I look to the past and remember how we all came together as a valley, broke bread, conducted business, and conferred degrees.

I do long for the fellowship of our valley. Many things have been turned upside-down and we all have to step back and pause all our activities and lives. I call on all our brethren, therefore, to use this time of isolation to reflect upon the inequities in our past world. I believe that this "pause" can be used for the introspection of our communities, starting with each and every one of us here in our valley. How do we deal with each other? How are we thinking subconsciously? Are we as malleable as we believe we are? How are my actions and words seen by other people? Am I open for conversations of difficult nature? Am I done learning? These examples are ideas that I challenge you to ask yourselves, brethren, so when we are together again, we can continue to do the good work of our great valley to glorify the Great Architect of the Universe.

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



III.°. Chris D. Smith, 33°
 Chairman, SFBRCCLC Board of Directors

In my last article, I mentioned the possibility of an in-person fundraiser in San Francisco in August, and unfortunately that certainly isn't going to happen. Even though we haven't been able and won't be able to hold events, our CLC is still providing services every day. Jim Cartwright continues to charge ahead improving our kids' lives – we can't stop!

For your consideration – in honor of 50 years of our CLC, I'm setting a fundraising target of \$50k! Who wants to be part of the group? Who wants to create a matching program? Who wants to make a significant donation and get temporary naming rights of our CLC? If you are able to contribute, please put "SNF/B CLC + 50 years" in the memo line of your check or PayPal donation, so we can track this effort and properly acknowledge this special group. Thank you all in advance for your ongoing support of our CLC – the kids need us!

Burlingame Scottish Rite June 20 Father's Day Drive Up Lunch Event



Don't know how to spend your stimulus check?
 Want to show your Masonic pride in and out of the Lodge?
 Burlingame Scottish Rite has a brand new online store where you can choose apparel, gifts & promotional items and custom apply one of our Masonic logos directly on your items:
business.landsend.com/store/burlingamemasonic/



Join the Burlingame Scottish Rite Knights of St. Andrew

K.'C.'C.'H.'. and 33rds Need Not Apply
 If you're not afraid to serve the Burlingame Scottish Rite then ask a man with a feather in his cap how to get involved

From the Office of the Personal Representative



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

Many things have changed since the last printing of our Burlingame Scottish Rite Bulletin. The events that we planned to have live and in the building were either presented virtually on Zoom or pushed back to the end of the year. The Orient-wide reunion was first postponed, and then cancelled completely. The State of California began allowing businesses to open, then quickly reevaluated the rising cases of COVID-19 and shuttered the opening of certain businesses. Which brings us to September, no closer to a vaccine or plan for opening all businesses or let alone Masonic activities.

My own Masonic schedule has been chock full of virtual meetings and presentations on Zoom and other platforms, or conference calls to plan for [distant] future events. The Masonic leaders in California have been meeting to make headway for handling Masonic events with the aid of ever evolving technology platforms. One such change we have experienced in our own Valley is the use of virtual meetings through a Zoom account provided by the Supreme Council that allows us to hold our regular stated meetings online, Childhood Language Center board meetings, and a Masonic study group we call "Burlingame College of the Consistory". If you have not plugged in and are wondering how to access these meeting, please reach out to me or one of our other officers.

Remember that Orient-wide reunion that was cancelled this year? Well, you'll be surprised that it's not dead in the water. The Supreme Council has made some provisions to allow the Sovereign Grand Inspector General (Ill. Frank Loui, 33° in our Orient) to communicate the Degrees virtually. There is a team working on those logistics as we speak (myself included) and when the final details are released, I will share with our Valley members. Keep the second Friday and Saturday in November free!

Hang in there guys, there is hope at the end of the tunnel! Masonry, notwithstanding, has survived centuries of pandemics, persecution and decline and has risen like a phoenix stronger, better and more equipped to handle the growing needs of our fellow Brothers.

Almoner's Corner



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

Historically, an Almoner has been a Christian Church functionary, whose duty it was to distribute financial relief to the deserving poor. Within our Fraternity the Almoner is an officer of the Scottish Rite Bodies whose duty is to dispense the charities of the Valley. True charity happens without fanfare or recognition of the source. The various expenditures are an investment made to assist the family by giving them a feeling of security, and knowing that someone cares enough to give their time and money to help lift their worries. Maintaining the Almoner's Fund is the duty of each member of the Scottish Rite and exemplifies the three principle tenets of Masonry - Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. When attending meetings, no Brother is expected to leave without making his contribution. If he is at the meetings, he will hear the injunction by the Junior Warden regarding contributing to the Box of Fraternal Assistance, i.e., Almoner's Fund. This is in no way intended to embarrass a Brother, but to remind him of his duty. Brethren who are unable to attend the SR meetings may still contribute by including a contribution to the Almoner's Fund when they pay their dues.

If you are aware of or are a Brother in need, you can contact our SR Office at (650) 344-4841 or you can contact the Almoner directly (650) 245-7338. The identity of anyone requesting assistance from the Almoner is held in strictest confidence and will never be made public. All referrals are confidential and under no circumstances does the Almoner disclose the identity of anyone in distress so as not to cause them embarrassment.

Regarding our SR Brothers who are indisposed healthwise, our well regarded and respected Bro. Jim Pettit is in need of our prayers and well wishes. Please remember that a simple call to a Brother to check on their well being goes a long way and is usually well appreciated.

Brethren, please be safe and take the proper precautions to maintain your safety and those of your loved ones. May we soon meet again.

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



Deepening Collaboration and Wearing Different Hats

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

As we continue to live with the coronavirus, the San Francisco Rite Care Language Center carries on serving the children virtually. While we all look forward to the day when it is safe to be together again, we are making the best of the current situation and sometimes even discovering new possibilities and connections in our online world which probably would not have happened if we were not facing this situation. This has led to both deeper collaboration in cyberspace with people in the bay area and beyond, as well as expanding the roles (wearing different hats) that we are playing in the kid's lives.

Our statewide director's meeting took place virtually this year, as have further meetings with other centers across the state, which has led to greater collaboration between the centers. I have met with the speech paths in Santa Barbara center, Julie DeAngelis, and Summer Calvert, on a few different occasions as we worked together to plan our summer offerings. Historically, they have had a summer camp for pre-schoolers. This not being possible, they have become more interested in working on reading and writing with older kids. As this is one of my specialties, I have been sharing my lesson plans with them which they will hopefully find useful over the summer. In turn, they have been sharing materials they have gathered with me as well.

I've also been collaborating with Katie Samples, who works part-time at the Santa Rosa center. In addition to being a speech path, Katie is a life coach who specializes in stress reduction. I participated in her workshop for speech paths entitled Coming Together Virtually, and we have also discussed the importance of helping our kids and their families with their stress at this time.

One significant shift in our services this summer has been a greater emphasis on counseling. While counseling of children with language and learning differences and their families is always a part of the services

we provide, the need for this has increased due to living with the coronavirus. Many kids are having meltdowns, experiencing fear over their loved ones' safety, and having difficulty understanding why they can't go to school and see their friends. One mother has talked with me about her daughter's fear of her going to the grocery store as she was afraid it will make her sick. She has tried to grocery shop while her child is asleep only to have the child wake up while she was gone and have that upset her as well.

While we cannot take the place of psychotherapists, we can practice active listening and empathy for our families at this time. We can also help the children by talking about their feelings with them while helping them to accept these feelings and build resilience. While many kids are able to make steady progress using a virtual format, it is also important to let parents know that temporary regression of skills is completely normal for some kids given the stress they are undergoing. It's also important to share with families that "regression" is not necessarily loss of skills but can be a temporary loss of access to skills, especially newly acquired ones, due to stress. We need to let our families know that we are there for them and will get through this together.

On a lighter note, another way our offerings have expanded is connected to the age-old practice of pen-pals, in this case, "cyber pen pals." One of the many ways that Maria, our administrative assistant, has expanded her traditional role at our center has been to assist me in setting up a cyber pen pal relationship between her son and one of my clients, as they are in the same grade and have read some of the same books. Another pen pal relationship I'm facilitating is between one of my students and a college student from San Francisco State who had visited our center as an observer and taken a particular interest in the student who is now her pen pal.

As always, your donations and support are much appreciated in keeping our center alive in its current virtual form. A new term has arisen on our field called "flexible-location therapy," with an eye towards offering therapy both in-person and online, depending on which is best for each individual given the circumstances as they arise. Who knows what the future will bring? But, whatever the best practices emerging in the field of speech pathology turn out to be, rest assured that our center will be a part of them.

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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.



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



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