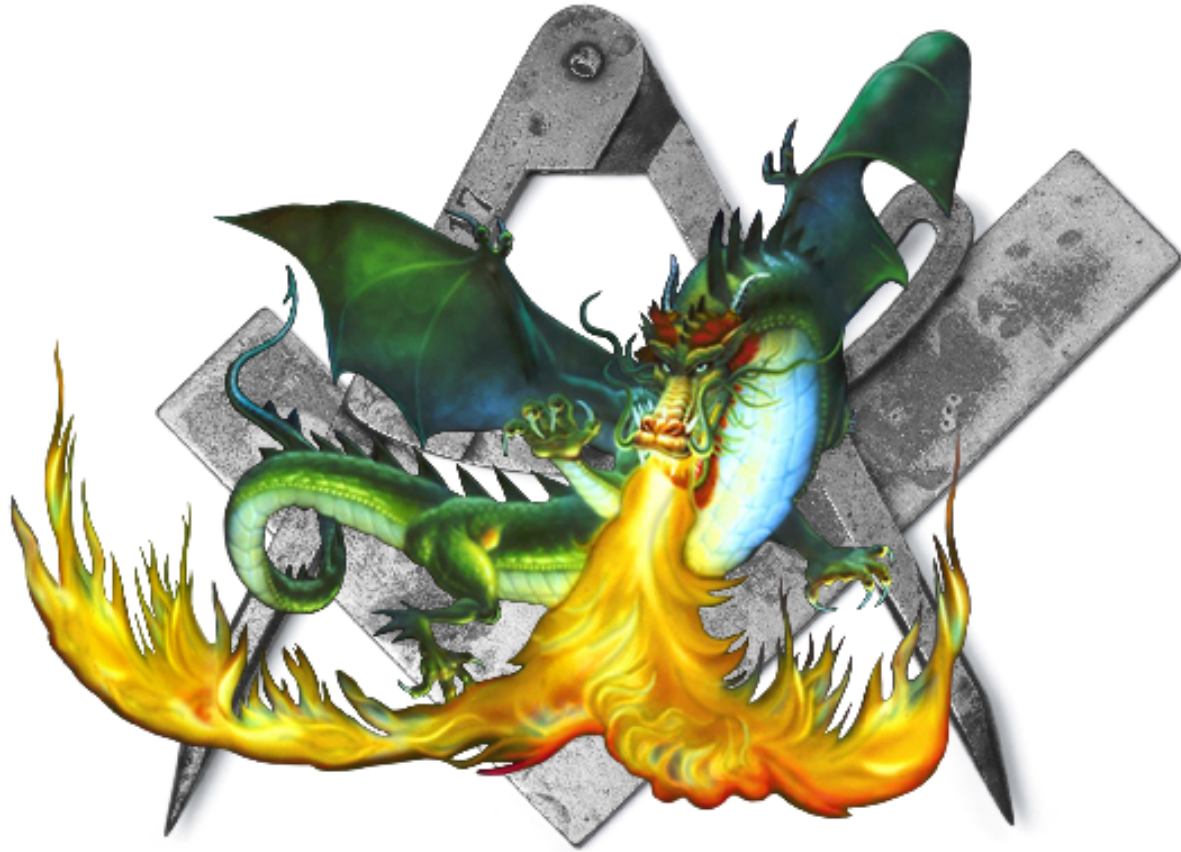


# Dragon's Breath



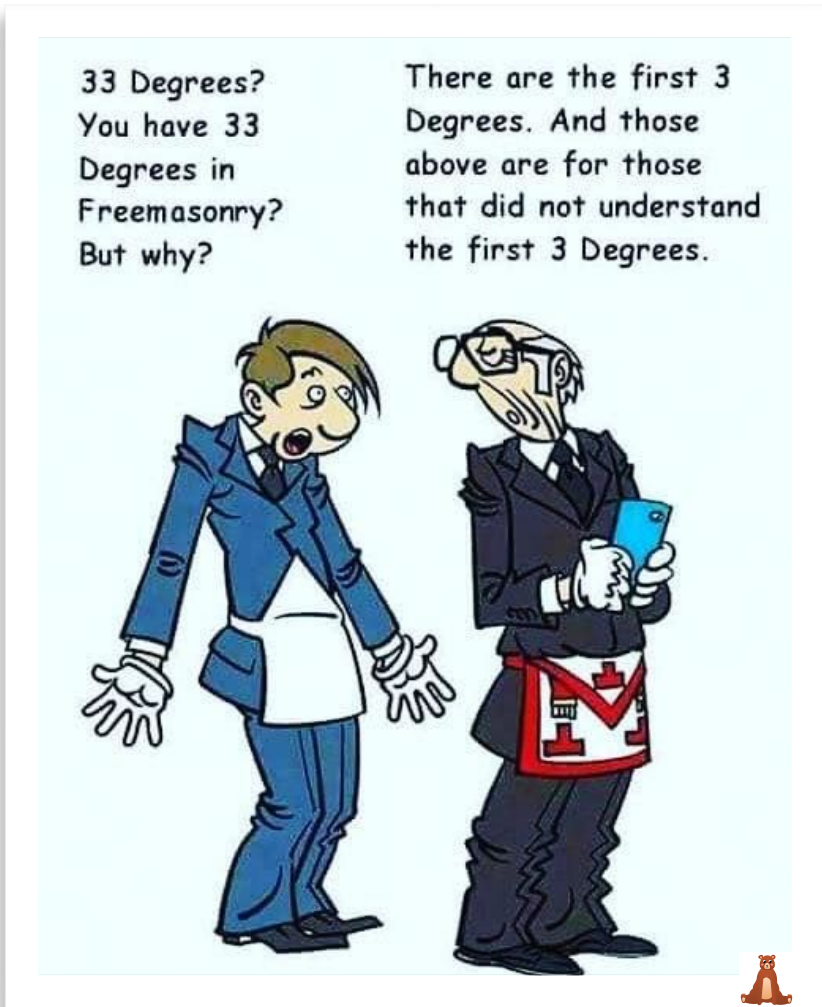
Green Dragon Masonic Fellowship No. 857

[greendragonfreemasons.org](http://greendragonfreemasons.org)

This publication is being sent to all Green Dragon Members, applicants, prospects and friends of Freemasonry that come to our knowledge. If you wish to be removed from this mailing list please respond to [gd.freemasons@gmail.com](mailto:gd.freemasons@gmail.com).

*Artificial Intelligence Disclaimer: any Intelligence found in this publication is to be considered Artificial. Some material has been used in prior newsletters, just deal with it.  
The Editor.*

# Editorial . . . .

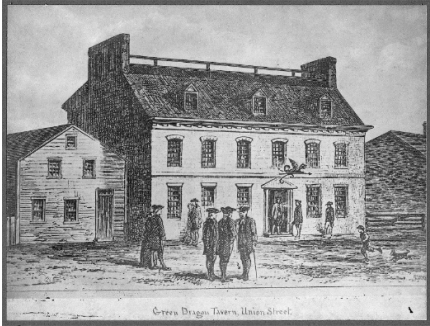


*Is this the way to grow a Masonic body? . . . . Does anyone else see a pattern here, or is this just a lack of leadership with vision?*

*. . . . just asking for a friend.*

Comments to the Editor, good, bad or indifferent should be emailed to Gary Jackson at [gd.freemasons@gmail.com](mailto:gd.freemasons@gmail.com)

# If masonry is good, let's talk about it.....



## Masonry and the Seeds of the American Revolution – From the Sons of Liberty to the Boston Tea Party; the Green Dragon tavern and the Mohawks

Join Bro. Alex Claytor for a talk on a subject he's been researching and has held a keen interest in for many years. We all know the basic history, but he is going to present many aspects of historical context including local customs and details relating to these events. Reading about what our Brothers participated in 250 years ago is one thing, but to understand the nuances of the social and political culture they were living in and their rationale behind decisions is another.



There are many aspects which are often misunderstood when interrupted via a retrospective lens. Historical texts tend to focus on the inflection events without often giving the necessary background to provide sufficient light on the matter, leaving us with as many questions as answers. This is meant to be a casual interactive talk with Q&As which will no doubt lead to discussions on other period historical events, such as the Second Amendment and anything else of interest.

Pull up a chair and enjoy a drink with a cigar while we take a trip to mid-18<sup>th</sup>c colonial America!

**RSVP - Saturday @ 1700, 12<sup>th</sup> of October.** Gary to host. Fine Rhum and Whiskey provided.

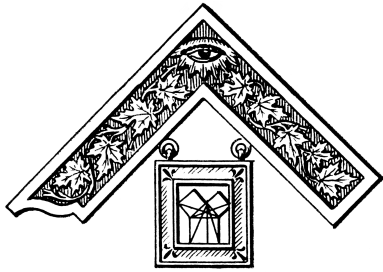


Please RSVP to [gd.freemasons@gmail.com](mailto:gd.freemasons@gmail.com). No charge for this event, however feel free to bring your favorite libation and cigars.



# Our Master's Swan Song . . . .

## INSIDE EVERY CHALLENGE IS AN OPPORTUNITY



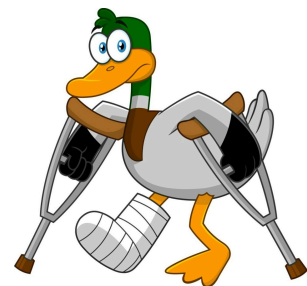
As we look forward to a new year with new lodge officers the first thing we should consider is our accomplishments for the past two years. We have a comfortable and stable location to meet. We have continued our commitment to quality in-house ritual with our degree teams. We have hosted several Inspectors, Grand York Rite Officers, Assistant Grand Lecturers, Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Masters at either degree conferrals, stated meetings or our World Famous Burn n Brews. Our mutual interaction with our Prince Hall Brothers of San Joaquin No. 11 has been acknowledged in the California Grand Lodge publication, *California Freemason*. And equally important our commitment to Quality Fellowship has been recognized and emulated. I personally believe that as a lodge we have a lot to be proud of.

Our incoming lodge officers have several opportunities to explore. The Burn n Brew with our Grand Master, his officers and the Prince Hall Grand Master followed by a tree planting ceremony to commemorate the lodge's ten year anniversary and our continued Fellowship with Prince Hall San Joaquin No. 11....Smoke n Jokes, our version of "Ted's Talks" featuring Masonic education plus other topics of interest, and our commitment to the York Rite Bodies, as well as promoting Fellowship. I have no doubts that our new officers will continue our accomplishments, because where others see challenges, we only see opportunities.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Worshipful Stephen Ray Hubble

2023 & 2024 Master, Green Dragon Masonic Fellowship No. 857



*From the West.....*

*“If you can't run with the big dogs, stay on the Porch!”*



I recently ran into a Masonic Brother that used to be a Green Dragon, but had requested a demit. I asked my wife if she remembered him. His comment to her was, that “he wasn’t mean enough to be a Dragon.” I disagree with him, he is a good man and a good Mason, he just traveled in a different direction.

To be a force that is hard to beat, doesn’t take meanness. There’s a lot more that builds a man to become a driving force for others to emulate. More times than not, an Alpha male is misread, misunderstood, and unapproachable. Green Dragons are not star chasers, but rather goal driven with a fierce determination to meet those goals. We do not see obstacles as challenges, but opportunities.

There are those that choose to ignore success, and the chance to glean and grow. I call them MINO’s, Masons in Name Only; small minded, no future, and no vision; useless drones in the beehive of Masonic Industry. We have had many that have tried to keep us down, however we believe in the Masonic path we are traveling. It may not be for all in the future of California Masonry, but I trust that it will be in the future of Green Dragon Masonry.

We are always here to help, and extend Brotherly Love to those in need. But we are also cautious, not quick to answer, swift to hear, slow to speak, seek good counsel among the Dragons. We are mindful not to be taken advantage of. Our talent, time, and resources are valuable to us. Most of all we seek guidance and wisdom from The Great Architect that has brought us this far!

Most Worshipful Russ Charvonja said he wanted to use us as the spearhead for change in freemasonry for California. I hope that we haven’t disappointed him.

It’s very encouraging to Run with The Big Dogs, Green Dragons!!!!

Fraternally,

*Randall McCormick*  
Senior Warden



*Dragon Quote .....*  
“Always be yourself, unless you can be a Dragon, then always be a Dragon.”



## *Inspector's Corner....*

Brothers,

We are moving into the month of October and then into November, the month most lodges elect new officers. This is the time to make sure your lodge officers are qualified and prepared to advance to their next position. To assure that your lodge officer's are installed on schedule it is a good practice to make sure your nominees are qualified before they are nominated. It is not a requirement, just a good lodge practice.

We also have our Grand Lodge Communication the last weekend in October. Our Grand Master has eleven recommendations to be considered, several are of great importance to the rank and file Freemasons of California. Study them and make sure your lodge officers and/or representatives understand the wishes of the members.

Fraternally,

*Charles Malar, PM*

Inspector District 526, Division V

*Dragon Quote .....*

"A dragon is the keeper of secrets and the teller of truths."

## *Circumambulation in the Lodge*

“...I was conducted once around the lodge that the Worshipful Master and brethren might see that I was dully and truly prepared...”

Masonic circumambulation (cir-cum-am-bu-late-ion) of the alter is one of the oldest ceremonies of Freemasonry. The ritualistic explanation is simple enough and of course the act does permit continued and lengthy inspection of the candidate by the brethren. But this explanation was obviously made to fit into the lodge and was composed by men who had lost the authentic knowledge of the real meaning of the ceremony of circling the alter so that now few brethren are convinced that the simple ritualistic explanation conveys all the truth. If you think about it.... If the Stewards and the Senior Warden have done their job there is no real need to inspect the candidate. It is the Senior Warden job to guard the West gate.

Vedic (ve-dic) Circumambulation, from India, (vedic refers to Hindu history and culture 1500 b.c. and 500 b.c.) is a religious practice consisting of walking around a sacred place as a sign of veneration and piety. Vedic Circumambulation or "Walking the Way" is a form of deep veneration with origins dating to ancient India, where to circumambulate three times was a means of honoring a greatly respected person or holy place or object generally keeping the holy object on our right side. We remind ourselves that holy things are precious, that they are our guide, and that one day we will be more worthy of the refinements they offer to us. This contemplation of the holy place or object, will help us overcome our attachment to material things, concern with outward appearances, and achieve brotherly love and overcome hatred. Three circumambulations should also remind us that there are three remedies to overcome our attachments and passions; they are right thinking, right speaking, and right viewing, looking for the good in all things. Therefore, we should contemplate how to acquire right mind, right speech, and right views.

In Japanese Buddhist ritual, circumambulation is usually accompanied by recitation of sutras and the scattering of petals. Islamic circumambulation is practiced around the Ka'ba in Mecca, the Rock of Mount Moriah in Jerusalem, and in many mausoleums and shrine where the sages of Islam are revered.

*Continued on next page....*

*Continued from previous page....*

In a Masonic lodge circumambulation is a humble imitation of the form of worship of those ancient men to whom the sun in the sky and fire on the stone altar were representations of God.

Ancient man imitated that which he respected, venerated or feared. Although ancient man could imitate the sun by a fire on the altar, he could imitate the sun's movement only by his own. In the Northern Hemisphere, the sun appears to rise in the East, move across the sky to the South, and then disappear in the West. Therefore, in his worship, early man traveled about his fire on the altar from East to West by way of the South, and West to East by way of the North, in imitation of the greatest representation of God he knew.

From that ancient past to this day, men have circled about or within their holy place from east to west by way of the south, though many if not most forget the reason for their movements.

Modern Buddhists, for example, in keeping with the ancient tradition of enclosing a sacred tree with a fence, the alter is enclosed by a railing. This serves to demarcate a boundary between the sacred space with the secular world. The lowest sacred space has four entrance gateways, North, South, East, and West, and is enclosed by the main path, the circumambulatory path. The orientation of the gateways (east, south, west and north), and the direction of ritualistic circumambulation corresponded with the direction of the sun's course: from sunrise, to zenith, to sunset and through night.

In Masonic Circumambulations, we are showing respect to the beliefs of our ancestors long past, as well as our brothers in India, Asia, and throughout Persia.



*Barb non facit philosophum*





# Save the Dates!

- Tuesday, 17 September: Mark Master practice in Kernville
- Sunday, 15 September: Fellowship breakfast, 08:00 Pyrenees Cafe, Please RSVP
- Saturday, 21 September: Murder Mystery Dinner by Meudell-Oildale Lodge.
- Wednesday, 25 September: Commandery Meeting
- Saturday, 5 October: Mark Master Degree in Kernville
- Saturday, 12 October: 17:00, Masonry and the Seeds of the American Revolution by Brother Alexander Claytor. Please RSVP, see flyer on page 3.
- Wednesday, October 23: Royal Arch Chapter Meeting
- Saturday, 23 November: Super Excellent Master Degree, Pasadena Scottish Rite
- Saturday 1 March: World Famous Burn n Brew, Please RSVP, see flyer on page 10
- Sunday, 2 March: GDMF and PH Tree Planting Ceremony with Grand Lodge. Please RSVP, see flyer on page 11.

*Please note:*

*This calendar is subject to change as well as special meetings called by the head of each body!!!*

*Also spontaneous Fellowship events will be scheduled and announced as they are planned!!!*

# **World Famous Green Dragon Tavern Masonic Fellowship**



## **Annual Burn n Brew**

*Celebrating 10 Years as a  
Masonic Lodge*

### **\$50**

***New York Strip Steak Dinner by Chef Bruce  
BBQ Oysters (if available)***

*Featuring a selection of cigars and adult beverages;  
feel free to bring your favorite cigars*

*Bring your spouse, partner, mistress, girlfriends or all*

*Casual attire: Lodge Polo, Hawaiian or T shirts/ Pub Kilt if you have one.*

*One free cheap cigar to all Kilt wearers*

*Saturday, 1 March 2025*

*Fellowship: 17:30 hrs. Dinner: 19:00 or whenever Chef Bruce is ready*

*Venue: Residence of Gary Jackson, 6319 Parsons Way, Bakersfield*

*Due to the venue's limited seating prepaid RSVPs will be given priority*

*Please do not wait until the 11th hour to respond. No tickets sold at the door.*

*Payment by Zella or PayPal to [gd.freemasons@icloud.com](mailto:gd.freemasons@icloud.com)*

*Checks: P. O. Box 9423, Bakersfield, CA 93389*

*This is not a lodge fundraiser*

*Hosted by the Green Dragon Masonic Fellowship No. 857 F & A. M.*

*For the benefit of Bakersfield Masonic Youth*

*[gd.freemasons@icloud.com](mailto:gd.freemasons@icloud.com). 661.345.3320*



**zelle**

*A man does not plant a tree for himself; he plants it for posterity.*

Alexander Smith



In Commemoration of the 30 years of mutual recognition between the Grand Lodge of California and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge and to moralize the relationship between the Green Dragon Masonic Fellowship No. 857 and Prince Hall San Joaquin No. 11 the two lodges are planting three Valley Oak trees in the Masonic Section of Bakersfield's Historic Union Cemetery.

Sunday, 2 March 2025

730 Potomac Ave, Bakersfield

The Masonic section is on the east side of South King Street. The entrance is at the southeast corner of the King Street and East Potomac intersection.

09:00: coffee and fellowship

10:00 Tree planting followed by lunch

Please RSVP to: [gd.freemasons@gmail.com](mailto:gd.freemasons@gmail.com) or 661.345.3320

Gary Jackson, Secretary  
Green Dragon Masonic Fellowship No. 857

*A small bit of wisdom*

*Aesop's Corner.....*

## *The Owl & the Grasshopper*

*The Owl always takes her sleep during the day. Then after sundown, when the rosy light fades from the sky and the shadows rise slowly through the wood, out she comes ruffling and blinking from the old hollow tree. Now her weird "hoo-hoo-hoo-oo-oo" echoes through the quiet wood, and she begins her hunt for the bugs and beetles, frogs and mice she likes so well to eat.*

*Now there was a certain old Owl who had become very cross and hard to please as she grew older, especially if anything disturbed her daily slumbers. One warm summer afternoon as she dozed away in her den in the old oak tree, a Grasshopper nearby began a joyous but very raspy song. Out popped the old Owl's head from the opening in the tree that served her both for door and for window.*





*“Get away from here, sir,” she said to the Grasshopper. “Have you no manners? You should at least respect my age and leave me to sleep in quiet!”*

*But the Grasshopper answered saucily that he had as much right to his place in the sun as the Owl had to her place in the old oak. Then he struck up a louder and still more rasping tune.*

*The wise old Owl knew quite well that it would do no good to argue with the Grasshopper, nor with anybody else for that matter. Besides, her eyes were not sharp enough by day to permit her to punish the Grasshopper as he deserved. So she laid aside all hard words and spoke very kindly to him.*

*“Well sir,” she said, “if I must stay awake, I am going to settle right down to enjoy your singing. Now that I think of it, I have a wonderful wine here, sent me from Olympus, of which I am told Apollo drinks before he sings to the high gods. Please come up and taste this delicious drink with me. I know it will make you sing like Apollo himself.”*



*The foolish Grasshopper was taken in by the Owl's flattering words. Up he jumped to the Owl's den, but as soon as he was near enough so the old Owl could see him clearly, she pounced upon him and ate him up.*

*Flattery is not always proof of true admiration. Do not let flattery throw you off your guard against an enemy.*

# Exit laughing .....



## The Past Bastard Your Best Source for Masonic News Satire

Crowheart, WY -- Earlier this week, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A. issued an edict to reverse the recent approval of so-called "templar aprons" displaying the *memento mori* and skull and bones in favor of a uniform update of the Most Eminent Grand Master's own design. SK Joe Snow, spokesperson for the Grand Encampment, announced the news: "Given the ME Grand Master Bike Mohnson's stance that 'every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar', he felt it was pertinent to give the the KT an option for a streamlined uniform the better encapsulates our relationship with Christ, the blameless white lamb. To that end, I am announcing a new uniform for KT everywhere which the ME Grand Master personally plans to enact immediately. Minimalist in style, the new uniform is blazing white cloth, emblematical of Christ's perfect sacrifice. It also has the benefits of being super-absorbent and easy on the wallet. Its name is 'Prevail,' which is what the ME Grand Master will do in the face of his opponents. As the ME Grand Master often says: 'While I may often forget how to think and act like a rational human being, I never forget loyalty.'"



Not all members of the Grand Encampment are thrilled with the ME Grand Master's latest sartorial decision. Several state-level Grand Commanderies have signaled the desire to form a Special Conclave to review the ME Grand Master's decision and possibly remove him from office. When asked what the ME Grand Master thought about this turn of events, SK Snow simply replied "The Most Eminent Grand Master is not concerned with the antics of 'doo-doo heads'."

While the Most Eminent Grand Master's recent actions leave *The Past Bastard* concerned about the future viability of the GEKT, there is perhaps one thing everyone can agree on: Adult diapers--still better than a chapeau.

