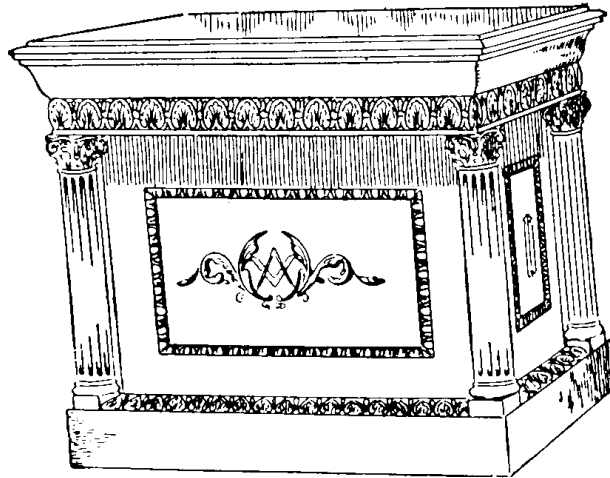


JULY 2009



**The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of  
Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines  
Batong Buhay Lodge No. 27 F. & A. M.**



*Living Stone Trestle Board*

The Official Newsletter of Batong Buhay Lodge No. 27 F. & A. M.

Stated Meeting every 3<sup>RD</sup> Friday of the month

Jacobo Zobel Masonic Temple, Sacred Heart Street,  
San Antonio Village, Makati City, Philippines

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## Editorial Board

Editor in Chief	WM Antonio J. Limpoco III
Associate Editor	Bro. Tito Cuenco
Publisher	Bro. Erich Somera
Contributors	VW John Llamas, Bro. Ben Reyes
Circulation Manager	VW Jun San Luis



## From the Oriental Chair

The second Wednesday of each month is when the lodge comes together for its regular caucus and the last one might be rightly described as being truly productive.

These informal meetings not only provide us an excellent opportunity magnify and pick on relevant issues presented this lodge but as those among us who regularly attend will aver, it provides the added incentive of a hearty meal and some really cold drinks at a nearby homely place to top-off the evening. It provides an informal venue to fellowship with brethren or gets to know our petitioners up close and personal.

At each meeting, we assess the present state of our on-going projects, map out strategies, or alter our directions to address current issues – things we very seldom have ample time at our regular stated meetings. Items such as postponing the draw on our Summer Bonanza Raffle to coincide with our Masonic Information Forum on September 19 were debated and decisions reached; as well as mundane issues akin to our next initiation schedule or lining up speakers during that event. It also provided us an opportunity to do some forward planning for two very important activities down the road; the Lodge of Remembrance in October and our Lodge Charter celebration in November.

Important discussions that bear heavily on how this lodge moves forward or spends its funds are being hurdled. Critical issues and excellent fellowship – what else could one ask for?

So, how come I never see you around these meetings? How come your voice is never heard?

Decisions are made by those that show up!

WM Tony J. Limpoco, III



## Look well at the West

Congratulations to Bro Anil Amarnani and Bro Romeo Calooy on their initiation last June 20! I hope that you will pursue your journey and in due time take your proficiency exams to be passed as a Fellowcraft.

Members of the craft undergoes the same cycle of Entering, Passing and Raising. It now resides upon the individual on how he will make these degrees spice up his everyday life. The lessons learned in each degree will surely help its members build character in a fast phase not like the operative method of years in apprenticeship. This maybe one reason that “Good Men” are accepted for it will take a few tweaking to bring out a better person.

The methods employed are ancient and time tested which may seem irrelevant in this modern age. We can compare this to a family tradition like celebrating special occasion together. In our country, parents often have a unique way of calling their child or children making it confusing to them when they grow up. We call our eldest daughter “Sam” but her name is Sophia. This has been going on for 6 years so it is customary for us to introduce her as Sam. No matter how Filipinos cope with the changing world, we still have our customs and traditions.

Now our kids will someday grow up and the lessons of life will come in to play an important role on their future. Friends, school and work will shape them also. The power to choose will be theirs and we just pray that they choose wisely.

In our Fraternity, the lectures equip us with many good virtues suitable to our daily needs in being a good person, neighbor and citizen. These tools we have to use not only for ourselves but to carry the message to others that we are catalyst of change.

Fraternally yours,

Bro Xerxez S. Coronado



## View from the South

Fraternal Greetings from the South!

Congratulations to our newly initiated brethren, Bro Anil Amarnani and Bro Romeo Calooy. Let us all welcome our youngest initiates to our beloved fraternity. It is hoped that Bro Amarnani and Bro Calooy will progress to the next degree in no time at all. Bro Erich Somera and VWB Rei Cedeño have been assigned as their instructors, respectively.

I would like to congratulate the conferring teams as well for both candidates for a job well done. Everyone did their assigned part pretty well. Thanks to all who had also helped and had a part in the preparation to ensure this conferral will be a success. Let us all keep up the good work!!!

I regret I will miss the stated meeting, dinner and fellowship and the planned first degree conferral on July 25, because I will be out of the country and leaving on the eve of the stated meeting this Friday. See you all next meeting.

Lastly, again a reminder with the flu season around us, let us all try to stay healthy and keep ourselves and family safe. Prevention and living healthy is the best form of medicine.

Mabuhay to all!!!

Bro Tito L. Cuenco  
Junior Warden

## 2009 Officers

Worshipful Master	WM Antonio J. Limpoco, III
Senior Warden	Bro. Xerxez S. Coronado
Junior Warden	Bro. Tito L. Cuenco
Treasurer	WB Reinaldo A. Cedeño
Secretary	Bro. Ruferick C. Somera
Auditor	WB Eduardo S. Alcaraz
Assistant Treasurer	Bro. Oscar C. Hipolito
Assistant Secretary	Bro. Omar U. Obias
Chaplain	Bro. Jovencio E. Reyes
Marshall	Bro. Enrique B. Turaray, Jr.
Senior Deacon	Bro. Joel Eustaquio A. Purugganan III
Junior Deacon	Bro. Mariano C. Bassig
Senior Steward	Bro. Dino Albert R. Maniquiz
Junior Steward	Bro. Charles A. Bañez
Almoner	Bro. Christian Gerald P. Lantoria
Lecturer	WB Lauro F. Garcia, Jr.
Tyler	WB Ferdinand F. Pacis

## Masonic District NCR - G Grand Officers

District Deputy Grand Master	VW Sim Cañonero
District Grand Lecturer	VW Jaime Bacho
Grand Lodge Inspector	WI Oliver Yabut

# Committee Chairmanship

## STANDING COMMITTEES:

- Masonic Education WB Lauro F. Garcia, Jr.
- Ritual & Degree Works WB Antonio M. San Luis, Jr.
- Jurisprudence & Resolutions WB Gerardo B. Lantoria, Jr.
- News Letter Publication Bro. Ruferick C. Somera
- Sports & Youth Development Bro. Mariano C. Bassig
- Ways & Means WB Reinaldo A. Cedeño
- Inter-Lodge Relationship WB Ferdinand F. Pacis
- Sunshine & Lapsation Bro. Xerxez S. Coronado
- Refreshment & Fellowship Bro. Tito L. Cuenco
- Harmony Officer WB Eduardo S. Alcaraz

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

- Fund Raising WB Reinaldo A. Cedeño
- Special Projects WB John B. Llamas
- Adopt a School Program Bro. Xerxez S. Coronado
- Union Lodge Visitation WB Eduardo S. Alcaraz
- Bahay ni Maria Project Bro. Tito L. Cuenco
- Charter Day Celebration WB Antonio M. San Luis, Jr.
- Bring a Friend – Win a Brother WB Lauro F. Garcia, Jr.

## LODGE COUNCIL OF ELDERS:

- WB Alexander C. Costales WB Keith Ernard L. Singian
- WB Antonio M. San Luis, Jr. WB Lauro F. Garcia, Jr.
- WB Eduardo S. Alcaraz WB Lini L. Hernando
- WB Ferdinand F. Pacis WB Marni C. Marcos, Jr.
- WB Gerardo B. Lantoria, Jr. WB Reinaldo A. Cedeño
- WB John B. Llamas WB Reynaldo V. Paz

THE REAL SECRET OF  
**FREEMASONRY**  
MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

## Lodge Activities

Caucus Meeting	July 8
Stated Meeting	July 17
Conferral – First Degree	July 25



## Trestle Board

### *Petitioner:*

Name	Date Presented
1. Rixon Rey P. Ducusin	Feb. 20, 2009
2. Clint Vincent A. Chua	May 15, 2009

### *Entered Apprentice Mason:*

Name	Conferral Date
3. Bro. Anil R. Amarnani	June 20, 2009
4. Bro. Romeo G. Calooy, Jr.	June 20, 2009





## Birthdays Celebrants



Joey Vibandor	July 7
Ike Flores	July 11
Gerry Lantoria Jr.	July 16
Nilo Oropesa	July 19

**Batong Buhay Lodge No. 27 – Official Website**  
**Web Master – Bro. Alex Casas**

<http://www12.asphost4free.com/bbuhay27/Home.html>



Brethren your articles, are welcome. Likewise we would be glad to print your Birth and Raising dates. Please email it at [erichsomera@yahoo.com](mailto:erichsomera@yahoo.com) for publication to our monthly Living Stone Trestle Board.



# Masonic Education

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE RITUAL OF OUR ORDER

By VW John B. Llamas, PSGL

Of the thousands upon thousands of candidates who annually pass through the ceremonies of the three degrees conferred in Masonic Lodges, very few ever know anything of the history of the ritual of the Order.

These appeared in “The Builder”, a journal of the National Masonic Research Society, published in Anamosa, Iowa, a reprinted article on the history of the ritual, which is said to have appeared in the Masonic Monthly of Boston in 1863. The following has been prepared.

Before 1717, previous to the revival on masonry in 1717 and the organization of our present system of grand lodges and chartered lodges, the secrets of the order were undoubtedly communicated, and the instructions and explanations given to candidates in such forms of language as the presiding master and wardens could command at the time, and was transmitted orally from one generation to another.

1723 - Dr. James Anderson (Scottish Presbyterian Minister), a distinguished scholar and freemason, compiled and printed the Ancient Charges and Constitutions of the Order known as the Anderson’s Constitution. Simultaneous with the publication of this book of constitutions, Dr. Anderson, assisted by Dr. John Theophilus Desaguliers, an Episcopal clergyman and a mason, arranged the lectures, for the first time, in the form of questions and answers.

The first lecture extended to the greatest length. The second lecture was shorter and the third, called the “Master’s Part” contained only seven questions and answers. So favorable were these lectures received that the Grand Lodge of England adopted the form and ordered them to be given in all the lodges. Thus was compiled and disseminated the first regular form or system of Masonic Lectures. It was a fact that the drama of the third degree was promulgated by Dr. Desaguliers and introduced by him into the working Masonry of Scotland and Ireland.

1732 - Martin Clare, an eminent mason and who afterwards was deputy grand master amended the lectures which consisted of:

- Addition of a few moral and scriptural admonitions, and
- Simple allusion to the 5 human senses and to the theological ladder

A few years later – Thomas Dunkerly, an accomplished scholar and considered the most intelligent mason of his day, considerably extended and improved the lectures. Among other things, he first gave the theological ladder in its three most important rounds which are denominated Faith, Hope, and Charity.

1763 – Rev. Thomas Hutchinson revised and improved the lectures. He first introduced the:

- 3 Great Pillars, Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty as the supports of the lodge
- 4 cardinal virtues, Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice
- Rendered the degrees emphatically Christian in their allusions and teachings

1772 – William Preston revised and greatly extended the lectures and his system continued to be the standard in England until the union of the two grand lodges of England which took place in 1813. The first lecture was divided into 6, the second into 4, and the third into 12 sections.

1798 – Thomas Smith Webb, an accomplished and distinguished mason of New England made little change in the system of Preston. In his first edition of “The Freemason’s Monitor” published in 1797, he says; “the observations on the first 3 degrees are principally taken from Preston’s Illustrations of Masonry with some necessary alterations”.

1801 to 1802 – Benjamin Gleason, an intelligent and zealous brother, then a student in Brown’s University at Providence, Rhode Island, received the lectures of Preston as modified by Webb directly from Webb himself. Gleason then became a Masonic lecturer.

July 2, 1804 – Isaiah Thomas, then Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, commissioned Bro. Gleason as Grand Lecturer to the lodges in his jurisdiction.

1806 – The Grand Master of New Hampshire, Thomas Thompson, wrote to the Grand Master of Massachusetts requesting a committee might be chosen by the two grand lodges to meet and confer the subject of the uniformity of the works and lectures. The proposition was favorably received and such a committee was appointed

Grand Lodges of New Hampshire

Rev. George Richard  
Lyman Spawlding GS  
John Harris

Grand Lodge of Massachusetts

John Fowle  
Benjamin Gleason  
Stephan Bean

The report was approved by the respective Grand Lodges and the Preston-Webb Ritual continued to be taught by Bro. Benjamin Gleason.

1810 – The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts formally adopted the Preston-Webb Ritual and voted to employ Bro. Gleason to communicate it to the lodges under its jurisdiction.

1813 – In England, Dr. Hemming compiled and modified the form of the lectures by William Preston in the English lodges known as the Hemming lectures. The Hemming Lectures differ widely from those of Preston. A few of these differences may properly be mentioned:

- The symbolic working tools of an Entered Apprentice Mason are; the 24-inch gauge, gavel, chisel
- Those of the Master Mason are; a pair of compasses, a skirett, and a pencil
- The ornaments of a master mason's lodge were; a porch, a dormer, and a stone pavement

Bro. Jeremy Cross, long and well-known as a Masonic lecturer and the author of the Masonic chart and other works.

The funeral ceremony most in use was compiled by Bro. Garrett, Past Grand Master. Thus closes the historical article which appeared in the Masonic Monthly of Boston.



## District Corner

### VW Sim Cañonero

- District Deputy Grand Master
- Las Piñas Lodge 332
- Raised – November 3, 2001
- 2005 Worshipful Master – Palanyag Lodge 323
- 2006 Grand Lodge Inspector
- 2006 Secretary – Palanyag Lodge 323
- 2007 District Grand Lecturer



### VW Jaime Bacho

- District Grand Lecturer
- Noli Me Tangere Lodge 42
- Raised – January 15, 1993
- 1996 Worshipful Master – Noli Me Tangere Lodge 42
- 2001 Worshipful Master – Las Piñas Lodge 332
- 2007 Secretary – Las Piñas Lodge 332



### VW Lauro Garcia, Jr.

- District Grand Lecturer
- Nueva Ecija Lodge 73
- Raised – May 14, 1966
- 1993 Worshipful Master – Batong Buhay Lodge 27
- 2009 Lecturer – Institute of Masonic Education & Studies



### VW Oliver Yabut

- Grand Lodge Inspector
- King Solomon Lodge 150
- Raised – September 16, 2003
- 2008 Worshipful Master – King Solomon Lodge 150
- 2009 Auditor – King Solomon Lodge 150



# Petitioner's Corner

## **RIXON-REY PANTANOSAS DUCUSIN/ "Yvanne"**

- September 28, 1976 / Malaybalay City, Bukidnon
- 32 years old / Single
- MNOQ, AFP Medical Center, VLGH Quezon City
- Head Nurse at the V. Luna General Hospital
- Date Presented – March 20, 2009
- Date Circularized – March 30, 2009
- Date Elected – not yet balloted



## **CLINT VINCENT AWAYAN CHUA/ "Vince"**

- February 9, 1978 / Iligan City
- 31 years old / Single (with dependent)
- 10-B CDC St., La Loma, Quezon City
- Businessman engaged in dental supplies & equipment trading
- Date Presented – May 15, 2009
- Date Circularized – not yet circularized
- Date Elected – not yet balloted



## *Knocker:*

1. Jonathan Tagala



2. Christopher Manalo



# Pictures

## FIRST DEGREE CONFERRAL



## Statement of Unpaid Annual Dues

As of July 17, 2009

Name	Status	Arrears	Current	Total
1. Bañez, Charles	Regular	0.00	800.00	800.00
2. Corpuz, Angelito	Regular	12,650.00	3,300.00	15,950.00
3. Costales, Alexander	Regular	3,300.00	3,300.00	6,600.00
4. De Guzman, Abner	Regular	12,650.00	3,300.00	15,950.00
5. Enriquez, Ramon	Regular	16,500.00	3,300.00	19,800.00
6. Jiz De Orterga, David	Regular	10,650.00	3,300.00	13,950.00
7. Lantoria, Christian	Regular	0.00	3,300.00	3,300.00
8. Lantoria, Gerardo	Regular	3,300.00	3,300.00	6,600.00
9. Lastimoso, Noel	Regular	12,650.00	3,300.00	15,950.00
10. Maniquiz, Albert	Regular	0.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
11. Marcos, Marni	Regular	0.00	3,300.00	3,300.00
12. Maturan, Ben	Regular	0.00	3,300.00	3,300.00
13. Misa, Ricardo	Regular	0.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
14. Noveras, Clifordo	Regular	0.00	3,300.00	3,300.00
15. Paz, Reynaldo	Regular	0.00	3,300.00	3,300.00
16. Purugganan, Joel	Regular	0.00	3,300.00	3,300.00
17. Reyes, Ben	Regular	2,700.00	2,300.00	5,000.00
18. Tan, Juanito	Regular	3,300.00	3,300.00	6,600.00
19. Thornton, Roger	Regular	16,500.00	3,300.00	19,800.00
20. Asa, Romeo	Plural	7,650.00	2,300.00	9,950.00
21. Cedeño, Reinaldo	Plural	0.00	2,300.00	2,300.00
22. Llamas, Ernesto	Plural	9,150.00	2,300.00	11,450.00
23. Llamas, John	Plural	9,150.00	2,300.00	11,450.00
24. Ramirez, Jovencio	Plural	0.00	2,300.00	2,300.00
25. Sydiongco, Jim	Plural	9,150.00	2,300.00	11,450.00
26. Vibandor, Joselito	Plural	2,300.00	2,300.00	4,600.00

*“For payments made not reflected on the above statement, please coordinate with our Bro. Secretary – Erich Somera (0917-8542173, [erichsomera@yahoo.com](mailto:erichsomera@yahoo.com)) for verification.”*