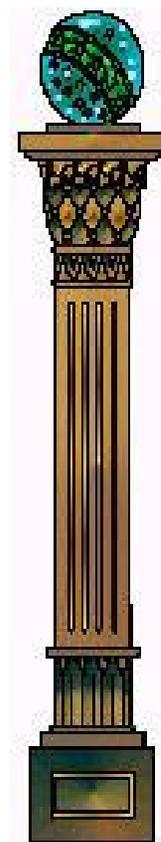




# *the Living Stone*



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

August 21, 2008

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



## **Message from the East**

### **WM Antonio J. Limpoco, III**

#### **Worshipful Master**

Fraternal greetings!

Brethren please join me in congratulating three newly initiated brethren into our fold. Brothers Romeo “Caloy” Calo-oy and Anil Amarnani saw the light of freemasonry on the same Saturday afternoon of June 20; while Bro. Rixon-Rey “Yvanne” Ducusin followed some weeks later, on the 25th of July. In time and with our earnest encouragement and support, these brethren will progress through the various other degrees of Masonry. It is also my pleasure to welcome into this Lodge petitioner Mr. Christopher “Tophet” Manalo whose application was read at our last stated meeting and Mr. Marv Morales who has expressed a keen interest to pursue his application for membership. To all of these gentlemen and brothers, my sincere gratitude for choosing to invest your time with Batong Buhay Lodge No. 27.

It is worth mentioning also, that during the last three initiations, our conferring teams did very well and with everybody’s cooperation and support we should see more brethren coming forward and taking more active roles in our rituals. Kudos to Bros. Omar Obias, Tito Cuenco, and Eric Somera for splendidly presiding in the east and Bros. Nonoy Bassig and Joel Purugganan for excellent handling of candidates as senior deacons.

Congratulations are also in order to two other brethren for having successfully hurdled the master masons proficiency examination – Bros. Dino Maniquiz and Charles Bañez. Your journeys in our mystic craft are barely just beginning, there is much to do and newer heights to scale. Look well in your several stations and continue the good works.

Our Summer Raffle Bonanza has earlier been deferred to September 19 in order to give ample time to distribute more tickets. Brethren, I urge you all to lend a hand to support our Lodge projects. If you already have collections on hand, you may now turn them over to Bro. Nonoy Bassig or WBro. Rei Cedeño. We still have more tickets available.

I am also pleased to report of the warm support extended by the following brethren for my call to sponsor/subsidize the major prizes. The following have thus far, given their time and resources: Bro Oscar Hipolito; WBro. Norman Cases; and Bro Alex Casas. In the meantime, we are expecting several more pledges in cash or in kind. If you know of anyone, brother or otherwise who might be willing to extend assistance to this project, please let me know - donations and pledges are always welcome.

In lieu of our planned Masonic Information Forum, we have decided that the necessity of a School of Instruction on the Basic Floorworks and Rituals far outweigh and is more relevant to the needs of our Lodge. Although purely a Lodge activity, brethren from Lodges within the district, especially those newly raised, are welcomed/invited to benefit from this rare opportunity. No fees will be collected and certificates of participation will be awarded.

The project was warmly welcomed by the District Deputy Grand Master during the last district council meeting and with slight adjustment to their plans, the same committee is now working full speed to host this event. Furthermore, this activity jives with the district ritual competition next month and the third degree exemplification, which should be interesting knowing that this year, it will be presented by newly raised master masons.

We have also made inroads in our preparation for hosting this year's District Lodge of Remembrance slated on October 24. I expect everyone in this Lodge to work together to be able to present a very solemn and dignified ceremony. The Lodge of Remembrance commemorates the lives and legacy of our brethren who have gone to distant shores. We plan on sending out formal invitations to the families of those brethren whom we are paying tribute. We are also expecting a well-attended program considering that the ceremony highlights the district convention held earlier in the day.

As you may notice, we are making much progress in improving and professionalizing the Living Stone, our monthly newsletter, making sure that each issue is relevant, informative, and Masonically rich in education and hopefully well worth the time it took to read it. Perhaps a little less of the mundane, page-filling stuff and more of those write-ups well worth reading. My gratitude goes to WBro. Ed Alcaraz our editor-in-chief and VWBro. John Llamas for the most of the materials and valuable suggestions. Of course all these would never materialize without the entire editorial board and your support. We still need your views and articles – please send them one month in advance, as we are currently working to have future issues ready for editing and proofreading a month ahead of their intended publication.

Finally, I urge all to revisit your monitors and learn by heart the rituals of our degrees. External instructions alone will not guarantee learning, we all need to spend time to go through our materials and carefully understand and rationale for the various ceremonies of our order. Only in continually improving ourselves and striving for excellence can we rightfully claim to be truly freemasons.



**Message from the West**  
**Bro. Xerxez S. Coronado**  
**Senior Warden**

Midway through the year, we can look back and see numerous things we have accomplished and yet there are still more objectives to be fulfilled.

To highlight some milestones of the past months, we have the following: Installation of Officers for MY 2009-2010, Union Lodge No. 70 Visitation, ANCOM 2009, District Hosting and Conferrals of Brothers Anil Amarnani, Caloy Calooy and Yvan Ducusin.

Looking forward, we will have our Adopt a School Project, District Lodge of Instruction, Summer Raffle, Charter Day, Bahay ni Maria Project and Christmas Party to name a few. Conferrals and District events will also be part of the monthly activities.

Let us focus our efforts to have these activities completed as planned and give our best to achieve them to success. We now have to band again to reach our objectives for this Masonic Year so we can show the strength and beauty of being a Batong Buhay member.

We have to live up to our Lodge name of being unified in our endeavors just as we did in the past. The spirit of teamwork which puts life to our Lodge will push us to deliver what we have envisioned from the start of the year.

Cheers!



**Message from the South**  
**Bro. Tito Cuenco**  
**Junior Warden**

Greetings from the South! I would like to congratulate and welcome our newly initiated brother Rixon Rey Ducusin who was conferred the first degree last August 25, 2009. I missed the conferral as I was out on a trip to the U.S. It is my hope that Bro Ducusin will progress to the next degree in no time with the able guidance of Bro Joel Purugganan. I was told we had a pretty good conferral and everyone tasked to do their job performed very well. Congratulations to the conferring team as well! Let us all keep improving on our rituals and floor works.

Masonic District NCR-G , recently concluded a very successful and enjoyable Ladies Night and Cabletow Awards last July 29, 2009 at the Main Dining Hall of AFPCOC, Camp Emilio Aguinaldo in Quezon City. A sumptuous dinner was prepared followed by the awarding ceremonies for the Cabletow awardees by our DDGM Sim Cañonero. There were drinks, dancing and raffle prizes were drawn thereafter making it an enjoyable evening for everyone. Congratulations to all the Cabletow awardees from our lodge and to the other lodges belonging to our district as well!

We have scheduled the second degree conferral of Bro Romeo Calooy this Saturday, August 22, 2009. Let us all find time to attend and support our brother as he is passed to this degree.

Mabuhay to All!



## Secretary's Corner

Brethren in this issue of our Living Stone, I included pictures from the recently concluded Masonic Ladies & Recognition Night.

I'm proud to report that the following Brethren of Batong Buhay Lodge No. 27 were given a plaque of appreciation in recognition of extra assistance extended in their own field of work. The awardees were: VW Antonio San Luis, PDDGM; WB Eduardo S. Alcaraz, PM; Bro. Tito Cuenco and Bro. Joel Purugganan.

On hand to celebrate the occasion were our lovely sisters: Sis. Doreen Somera, Sis Jasmin Purugganan, Sis. Gloria Turaray and Sis. Emery Olayvar. Other Brethren who supported the event were WM Antonio Limpoco III, VW John Llamas, PSGL, Bro. Ruferick Somera, Bro. Enrique Turaray, Jr., WM James Olayvar and VW Ike Flores.

## Birthday Celebrants

- |                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Bro. Arjan Hassaram | August 3  |
| 2. Bro. Erich Somera   | August 7  |
| 3. Bro. Ramon Enriquez | August 21 |
| 4. Bro. Ike Turaray    | August 23 |
| 5. Bro. Noel Lastimoso | August 27 |

## **Trestle Board**

Brethren, on August 22, 2009 we will confer the 2<sup>ND</sup> Degree of Masonry to Bro. Romeo G. Calooy, Jr.. To the members of the conferral team, let's prepare well for our own parts to make it an impressive one.

Listed below are the gentlemen who seek light by knocking on the doors of Freemasonry as well as our Entered Apprentice brothers who also seek further light.

### ***Knockers:***

Name

1. Mr. Jonathan Tagala
2. Mr. Marv Morales

### ***Petitioner:***

Name

Date Presented

- |                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| 3. Mr. Clint Vincent A. Chua | May 15, 2009  |
| 4. Mr. Christopher Manalo    | July 25, 2009 |

### ***Entered Apprentice Mason:***

Name

Conferral Date

- |                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| 5. Bro. Anil R. Amarnani     | June 20, 2009 |
| 6. Bro. Romeo G. Calooy, Jr. | June 20, 2009 |
| 7. Bro. Rixon Rey P. Ducusin | July 25, 2009 |

# Masonic Education



## MASONIC INVESTIGATION

(Petitioners for the degrees of Masonry)

By VW John B. Llamas, PSGL

Masonic investigation covers a broad field. It includes that particular phase of investigation obtainable about a petitioner for the degrees of freemasonry; his moral, mental, physical, and other qualifications.

### Qualifications and other requirements:

1. Age (at least 21 years old)
2. A believer in the “Supreme Being” and a future existence
3. Good moral character (no criminal record)
4. Literate (sufficient education)
5. Physically fit (to participate in the degrees)
6. Adequate provision (for himself and for his family in case of death)

### Residency requirement:

Must have been a resident within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge for at least 12 months immediately before petitioning and within the jurisdiction of the lodge for at least 6 months.

### Degree Fees:

The petition shall be accompanied by at least ½ payment of the degree fees.

### In-House Requirement:

In aid of the investigation process, some lodges may require the petitioner to submit the following.

1. NBI, Police, and Court Clearance
2. Medical certificate

The lodge brethren who are appointed by the WM to serve as members of the investigating committee should consider such appointment a high honor. The WM believes that the appointee will faithfully discharge this most important Masonic duty.

A suggested simple step-by-step procedure should be followed by the investigators on how to go about investigating a petitioner for degrees in masonry:

1. Upon receipt of your appointment (written or verbal) from the WM, determine whether you can serve. If you can't serve, say so - if you do serve, serve well, wholeheartedly and promptly.
2. Obtain from the WM photocopies of the following.
  - Duly accomplished petition form (back to back) and endeavor to scrutinize the same
  - Reference of petition for degree form
  - NBI, Police, and Court clearances, and
  - Medical certificate
3. Conduct discreet checking on petitioners moral character.
  - From his neighbors, friends, relatives, business acquaintance, and recommendeesCollate and evaluate the petitioner's qualification to become one of us
4. Make a brief investigation report using the form provided on the lower portion of the reference of petition for degrees, detach the same and submit to the WM in the next stated meeting.

### **Suggested pointers on Masonic investigation**

1. At the beginning of his "year", the worshipful master would be well advised to examine his membership roll and select certain brethren whom he knows to be qualified or have some talents as are required. He should then call a meeting of those selected for the year and explain to them their duties and what the lodge requires them.
2. The worshipful master, in making appointments should not concern himself with the convenience of the investigator to appoint him merely because he lives near or works in some proximity with the petitioner. It is always advisable for the worshipful master, wherever possible, to select those who have investigative experience or a talent for such, like lawyers, law enforcement officers, private investigators, and the like.
3. The investigator should go deep enough to satisfy himself beyond doubt that the petitioner is indeed worthy of consideration for membership.
4. The investigator, perhaps pushed for time on his assignment, should never, under any circumstances, restrict his inquiry to contacting the petitioner's recommender and asking him for evaluation.
5. Each investigator should make an independent inquiry and file his own report, regardless of what others may do. (Sec 10, Art VI Part II – amended 2006 ANCOM. All petitioners for degrees and affiliations shall be referred to a Committee of three (3) who shall Individually and Separately make a strict examination into the moral, mental, physical, and other qualifications of the petitioners and report thereon to the master at the next stated meeting, unless further time be granted) Freemasonry is in no hurry and works by no timetable.

6. The investigator should be strongly advised that after a thorough and painstaking investigation, and after he has exhausted all known sources of information, if he still possess doubts of the petitioner's qualifications, he should always without variation or hesitation, resolve his doubts in favor of freemasonry and the lodge and not in favor of the petitioner. No man has a right to become a freemason; it is a privilege controlled at the ballot box.
7. All areas are to be explored in detail by the investigation. Generally speaking, all sources of information should be explored which would lead to a complete picture of the petitioner. Such inquiry should be conducted with utmost tact, discretion and as diplomatically as possible.
8. And lastly, "make freemasonry hard to get into. Don't sell it cheaply. Worthy men and worthy men only, are the ones we want. We cannot afford less". Let us never forget one of the greatest maxims of freemasonry; "careful inquiry into the physical, intellectual, and moral fitness of every candidate for the mysteries of freemasonry is indispensable" and when you have accomplished this duty with efficiency, zest, and impartiality, you will have rendered your brethren, wherever dispersed, an invaluable service. Your compensation will be the satisfaction of a job well done and the knowledge that you have been the eyes and ears of the craft during this period.

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References:

Freemasons for Amity and Unity

Masonic Investigation by William C. Councill, PGM Grand Lodge Philippines

Masonic Law Book, revised 1994, updated 2005.



## Masonic Experience in Singapore

By WB Reinaldo A. Cedeño

On June 25, 2009, five brother masons of Batong Buhay Lodge # 27; WM Antonio Limpoco III, WB Juan San Luis Jr., WB Ed Alcaraz, Bro. Omar Obias and WB Rei Cedeño, took separate flights to Singapore to attend the third degree conferral of no less than the blood brother of our Worshipful Master.

We are proud to report to our brethren in Batong Buhay Lodge #27 that we were tried, tested and proven as Master Masons before witnessing and observing how they conducted their business meeting and 3<sup>RD</sup> degree Conferral on Bro. Day Limpoco.

Our group is happy to inform our brethren that Worshipful Master Antonio J. Limpoco III participated in the ritual of the 3<sup>RD</sup> degree, St. George Lodge #1150 version when he delivered the Apron lecture of 3<sup>RD</sup> degree Mason.

In our light moments after the stated meeting and 3<sup>RD</sup> degree Conferral, we took a leisurely walk behind the St. George Masonic Temple. As if the sumptuous dinner with lamb chop as the main dish, and feeling that the night was not yet over, we passed by a restaurant owned by a Filipino (waiters & waitresses spoke in Tagalog). We ordered Singapore beer and some delicious finger food before boarding a bus that brought us to nearby "Casa Limpoco."

In retrospect, this writer told the group that the trip to Singapore was worth it; for the following reasons:

1. Masonic bonding was mystified by just giving an ordinary hand shake under two different Masonic Jurisdictions.
2. We were brought to the ante room for examination (tried tested and proven) by the Junior Warden and one Senior Officer of the Lodge.
3. All four masters of Batong Buhay Lodge # 27 were formally conducted to their seats in the East.
4. Once inside the Lodge, a Filipino Master Mason cannot help but notice conspicuously the location of the Altar. The altar is seemingly attached to the Oriental Table and they are therefore free to traverse the eastern border or area.
5. Beautifully engraved at the Northside and Southside of the walls are names of Master Masons who are members both living or died.
6. They have a Master of Ceremonies seated at the South East Corner of the Lodge, who plays an important role in keeping the Lodge in their proper order and propriety during the entire proceeding both in the business portion and the conferral of the 3rd degree. He makes important announcements; directs and prompts the principal casts and look at him to be prompted whenever they get lost in their memory line.
7. Compared to the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden has many communications to be stated to the brethren following the direct orders from the Worshipful Master.
8. They have a Trestle Board located at the South West corner of the Lodge with big charts and a standee. They just flip the chart by order of the Worshipful Master for announcement, or some quotations from the Holy Bible.

9. Since there is no altar at the center of the Lodge, the Secretary's place is at the Northside of the Lodge directly in front of the Junior Wardens place in the Southside.
10. The principal casts were all very proficient in their assigned task making the ceremony very impressive.
11. Entry to the hall is made by the door thru a hole next to the door knob.

What about how they conduct their fellowship hour? They still observe proper order and decorum as if they are still inside a tyled Lodge. Table etiquette or manner is observed. We were seated in the presidential table with the conferring Worshipful Master at the center. The Conferring Worshipful Master was always served first before anybody else.

The conferring Worshipful Master was seated at the center of the Presidential table; the Junior Warden on the left side among the Brethren, and the Senior Warden seated on the right side. The Master of Ceremonies is seated behind the brethren but directly in front of the Worshipful Master.

The Master of Ceremonies always starts the discussion by informing the Worshipful Master of the agenda to be taken at hand. The three lights are constantly communicating with one another with the rest of the brethren listening. An individual brother is only allowed to talk or express himself if the Worshipful Master acknowledges him. Once the agenda was formally opened for discussion no small pocket discussions were allowed.

Everybody was in proper attire throughout the entire fellowship Hour. They were not only Mason's by heart but a real gentleman by deed, respecting each others company regardless of creed race or religion.

The five determined brethren of Batong Buhay Lodge #27 definitely gained added knowledge in masonry which they will cherish until they shall drop their working tools forever. We have strengthened our Mystic bonding because we were all lodged in one big room just enough for the five of us. So we slept together ate together, travelled together walked together and most of all had fun with each other. Shopping in a foreign country is a Filipino trait that we love to do. Sister Monette, wife of WB Jun San Luis ordered him not to go home without buying "Gucci Envy Me too a brand of lady perfume," not knowing that the brand is no longer available in market. We will not be surprised if WB Jun San Luis will show this article to his wife to confirm that it is already out of the market.

Marina Square, particularly the Giant Waterfall, the biggest in the world, was our rendezvous point in case somebody gets lost. Underground Marina Square are shopping malls all over that one could no longer distinguish which is up or down because there several escalators.

The Giant Waterfall was the Landmark we directed Bro. Omar Obias to use since coming in by a solo flight from Manila a day after us. He found it difficult to locate us because we purposely stationed ourselves (four officers) hidden in different places near the Giant Waterfall.

Fond and wholesome memories to remember by, just by working together, taking pictures, watching people pass by, feeling detached from the real world we live in knowing that we were in different country beautiful and very clean Singapore

Together brethren – SMILE!

# Pictures

## Ladies & Recognition Night



Left to right: Bro. Erich, Bro. Tito, WB Ed, WM Tony, Bro. Joel, VW Jun, VW John, Bro. Ike, WM James



Bro. Tito given recognition



WB Ed the dancing king



Left to Right: Bro & Sis Erich & Doreen;  
Sis & Bro Jasmin & Joel



Left to Right: VW John, Bro. Tito, WM Tony, WB Ed

## **Schedule of Activities**

- Aug. 22      Conferral – 2<sup>ND</sup> Degree – Bro. Romeo Calooy, Jr.
- Aug. 28      Exemplification (NCR-G) has been postponed indefinitely until further notice.
- Sept.        Month long lodge ritual competition
- Sept. 9      Lodge caucus
- Sept. 18     Stated Meeting
- Sept. 19     Lodge School of Instruction
- Sept. 25     District NCR-G Palaro
- Oct. 24      District NCR-G Annual Convention and Lodge of Remembrance
- Dec. 5       NCR Multi-District Convention (host NCR-E, Quezon City)

Brethren, please exert extra effort to participate in all our forthcoming activities.  
Let's enjoy our Masonic life!

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