

OVER THE BACK FENCE NEWS

Masonic Homes of California at Covina

Volume 29, Issue 3



AMERICAN MASONIC HISTORY (continued from Vol.29, Issue 2)

By 1717 four London lodges formed a so-called Grand Lodge to supervise, coordinate and charter new lodges. Soon after, an English merchant-tailor and active Mason named Henry Price emigrated to Boston. Finding other Masons there, he decided to return to England to secure an official “warrant” for a Grand Lodge in North America. He sailed in the winter of 1732 and returned the next summer with the necessary documents. On July 30, 1733, he gathered together the required number of Masons and organized what would later be called “The Mother Lodge of America”

The Boston lodge quickly grew and many other lodges in New England were chartered. But, as membership was generally limited to well-to-do gentlemen, working men felt excluded.

As a result, in 1752 men, who called themselves “Masons According to the Old Customs”, formed their own Boston lodge. They secured their charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Although Masonry traditionally emphasized conservatism and fidelity to one’s Ruler, this Lodge soon became a hotbed of revolutionary activism in Boston. Members met at the Green Dragon Tavern, and some historians believe that the Boston Tea Party was planned there.

Freemasonry continued to grow after Independence; many of the new federal government were members of the Society. When Mason George Washington helped lay the cornerstone of the United States Capitol in 1793, he did so in a Masonic ceremony. By 1825, when the Bunker Hill Monument cornerstone was laid in a Masonic Ceremony, lodges had spread all across the old “Commonwealth” now known as the United States of America.

Courtesy of the files of Resident David Harris

IT WAS A ROYAL RENEWAL OF VOWS

It was a pleasure to be a part of this wonderfully romantic event. Since February is a “love month”, I wanted this observance to be very special for our resident married couples. The plan was for them to remember the day they were married and reminisce about the events of the day they promised to always love each other. It was a wonderful experience to watch the “brides” walk down the aisle to their “grooms” and as they each renewed their vows, to witness their love for each other.

Thank you to Father Steve, who led them in their vows and blessed them as they once again said “I do”. And, a big thank you to Hazel Rodriguez and others, who helped make this special occasion successful.

Jennelee Ramos, Activities Leader

SENIORS GET A NEW SIMPLIFIED TAX FORM FOR 2019

If you are 65 or older, you will have the option to use a new simple tax form for seniors, known as the 1040SR, when you file your 2019 taxes in April 2020. This new form is provided for in a section of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which is a two-year budget agreement passed by Congress and signed by the President on February 9, 2018. This form will be designed as a simplified tax form for seniors with uncomplicated finances and will allow you to report income from wages, salaries, tips, and other sources such as Social Security benefits and income from qualified retirement plans. You will be able to include unlimited interest and dividends, as well as capital gains and losses. Seniors who use the new Form 1040SR must take the standard deduction. Check with your accountant. Per AARP March 2019 Report.



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TO OUR MARCH CELEBRANTS:

1 – Michael Picano

16 – John Lissenberg

2 – Bill Papas

20 – Herschel Mazer

3 – Miriam Covey

30 – David Harris

8 - And a Very Happy Anniversary to Robert and Rita Dow

THE WAY IT WAS

Born in the 1930's and early '40's, we exist as a very special age group.

We are the smallest group of children born since the early 1900's. We are the last generation climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war, which rattled the structure of our daily lives. We are the last to remember ration books for everything from gas, to sugar, to shoes and to stoves. We saved tin foil and poured fat into tin cans. We saw cars up on blocks because tires were not available. We are the last to see the gold stars in the front windows of our grieving neighbors whose sons were killed in the war.

We can remember milk delivered to our house early in the morning and placed in the milk box on the porch. We are the last generation who spent childhood without television; instead, we imagined what we heard on the radio. With no TV, we spent our childhood playing outside until the street lights came on. There was no Little League. Telephones were one to a house (for those who could afford one) often shared (party lines) and hung on the wall in the kitchen.

Computers were called calculators, they were hand cranked. Typewriters were driven by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage and changing the ribbon. The INTERNET and GOOGLE were words that did not exist.

Newspapers and magazines were written for adults and the news was broadcast on our radio by Gabriel Heater and Paul Harvey.

We came of age in the 50's and 60's. The Korean War was a dark passage in the early 50's. Russia built the "Iron Curtain" and China became Red China.

We are the last generation to experience an interlude when there were no threats to our homeland. World War II was over and the cold war, terrorism, global warming and economic insecurity had yet to haunt life with unease.

Only our generation can remember both a time of great war and a time when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty. We grew up in the best of times.

