

**Masonic
Homes of
California**

MSOS Gazette

Volume 8, Issue 1
**January, February,
March**

**DON'T MISS
THESE ARTICLES**

- * **Goodbye to Charles**
- * **A Tribute To An Exceptional Artist**
- * **Joe Jackson Award**

A Message From The Executive Director



Dear Masonic Senior Outreach Clients, Families and Lodges:

We wish you all a very happy New Year! May this year be filled with optimism and strength as we work to find our way out of the pandemic with the newly available vaccine. A new year provides us with a chance to be reflective on all that we have accomplished, count the many things for which we are grateful and inspire us to take each day as it comes, being thankful for what we have and have to offer others.

I hope you enjoy this winter edition of the Gazette as you read about the various holidays and interesting articles. We also welcome back our MSW Interns from their Winter Break, as they resume the Breezie group.

Thank you and please continue to stay safe.

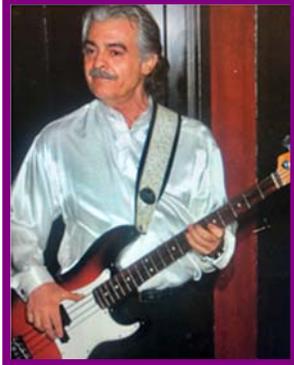
Sabrina Montes

Happy New Years

Americans had a history breaking 2020 and are ready to move on. Let us reflect on major historical events that transpired in 2020. 2020 began with escalation of political division and racial inequalities. Then the U.S. experienced the 3rd EVER impeachment trial of President Trump who was acquitted. Next, one of the best basketball players in all of history, Kobe Bryant, died in a helicopter crash, followed by a rapidly spreading worldwide pandemic of Covid-19 which devastated and touched all lives. The pandemic further divided political parties. Then, George Floyd died on video while a police officer performed a knee-on-neck choke hold. This event sparked numerous protests about racial discriminations and police violence. Next, Joe Biden wins the election and chooses Kamala Harris as Vice President making more noteworthy history of the first woman, first black, and first south Asian VP. Subsequently, President Trump responds by filing 50 lawsuits to overturn the election results which were thrown out or withdrawn. Later, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg died, and the White House suffered a Covid-19 outbreak. Finally, a second shutdown devastated businesses and workers followed by a final solution of Pfizer's FDA approved Covid-19 vaccine. Let's keep the HOPE for 2021!

-Shelly J., SoCal CM

Goodbye Charles



One of the fortunes of being a Care Manager is being entrusted by each of our clients and support systems, hearing beautiful and heart-wrenching stories about their lives, and understanding how we can help support them. *Charles Anthony Giansiracusa* was one of my clients, a Vietnam Veteran who favored talking about his more than 50 years of playing music, sharing with me that he was often referred to as “The One Man Band” when I first met him in his home. He thought it was “cool” that I wanted to highlight him, but he lost his battle to cancer last November and our time together was cut short. Charles enhanced my life by sharing laughter and music, his love for his beloved Mary, and his cat,



Bella. During his last months, he received care from a Veteran-owned homecare that carried him through his final days with dignity. He is now resting at Riverside National Cemetery where I was honored to sing his requested song, “I’ll Be Seeing You” with Mary a few feet away, and his marker inscribed “Your Service to Our Country & the Music in Our Hearts Will Be Remembered Forever.” Until we meet again, Charles.

-MaryLou M., SoCal CM

Dia De Los Reyes Magos



On January 6th, in many Latin American countries, “Dia de los Reyes Magos” is celebrated with excitement and much anticipation. It is a religious observance and not a federal holiday. Although the day of the Holy Kings may be celebrated with different traditions in its retrospective Latin American countries, the enthusiasm is the same. In Mexico for example, the children receive gifts from the three wise kings. Additionally, in Mexico many streets in major cities are packed with food stalls, gifts and outdoor parties. It is customary to eat “Rosca de Reyes”, only made during this time. “Rosca de Reyes” is a fruity bread in a wreath shaped figure with a couple of baby Jesus’ inside. This delicious fruity bread is cut into pieces and shared with loved ones. Those that get the baby Jesus in their piece of “Rosca” must offer a meal on February 2nd, “Dia de la Candelaria”, which is Candlemas Day. Whether you celebrate “Dia de los Reyes” or not, the “Rosca de Reyes” is a delicious treat that you should try at least once with a cup of hot chocolate or a cup of coffee.

-Patricia P., MA Social Worker

Remember! Celebrate! Act!

On January 18th, we celebrate the life and legacy of a man who devoted his life to sowing the seeds of hope and healing for all Americans.

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Baptist minister, civil rights leader, and Nobel Peace Prize recipient. Dr. King was born in Atlanta, GA on January 15, 1929. Federal law sets aside the third Monday in January to honor his life and accomplishments. This year, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is observed on January 18th.

Dr. King was instrumental in the passage of both the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which made discrimination in public accommodations, facilities, and employment illegal, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which made discriminatory voting practices illegal. Dr. King advocated the use of nonviolent means to bring about an end to racial injustice. He practiced peaceful resistance to discriminatory laws and practices. He embraced and spoke of the need to strengthen community by alleviating poverty, ending racism, and achieving mutual understanding and love between people. Perhaps above all, he emphasized that service to others is the hallmark of a good and full life. One of Dr. King’s most famous quotes is “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

-Gabriela A., Northern CA MOS Manager



Chinese New Year—The Ox

February 12th 2021 marks the first day of the New Year in the Chinese calendar, which is based on a lunisolar calendar, and ends on January 30th, 2022.

Each Chinese New Year is associated with an animal name for one of 12 animals in the Chinese zodiac. In 2021 this animal is the Ox. An Ox year occurs every 12 years. The recent zodiac years of the Ox are: 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, and 2021.

The person born in the year of the Ox is honest, diligent, and dependable, possessing both strength and determination in spirit, yet with a humble, honest nature. They can be a bit stubborn and slow to embrace change, but are goal driven and will change if it is necessary for them to achieve a desired goal. Ox’s lean toward the traditional and conservative in their world view and attach a great deal of importance to family and family values. Socially, an Ox is a loyal and devoted friend, preferring a few close friends, rather than, a large group of them.

-Suzanne B., NorCal CM



President’s Day

Presidents’ Day is a federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February; this year Presidents’ Day will fall on Monday, February 15, 2021.

The first Presidents Day was in commemoration of George Washington’s birthday in 1796 (the last full year of his presidency). In the 1960s, Congress proposed a measure known as the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. The Act included a provision to combine the celebration of Washington’s birthday, February 22, with that of Abraham Lincoln, on February 12, giving equal recognition to two of America’s most famous statesmen, as well as all the other men who have served as president.

I always look forward to holidays. This year I will try to set aside a time to honor and commemorate all 46 Presidents of United States of America all the way from **President George Washington** to our new **President Joe Biden**.

-Minnie I., Intake & Resource Coordinator MA

Valentine's Day



Valentines Day is upon us and love is in the air. This day is celebrated around the world and in the U.S. We celebrate by sending romantic cards, giving gifts such as chocolate and flowers or by going to a nice restaurant. While this is our tradition, other countries celebrate this day in their own unique ways.

Take a Look:

Japan- women make the first move...what?!! On this day men are doted on and given gifts, the most popular one being a homemade chocolate called honmei-choco. Men aren't off the hook though...men return the gesture a month later on March 14th. They call it White Day and gift women white chocolate along with other white gifts.

Wales- they celebrate St. Dwynwen's Day on January 25th. Welsh sailors used to carve designs into wooden spoons while at sea to bring back to their loved ones. The tradition is honored on the 25th when men gift woman with carved spoons.

South Korea- celebrating like Japan, woman make the first move and men return the gesture. Additionally, on April 14th, this day is a nod to all the single people! Single friends gather, eat noodles and celebrate their singledom.

-Submitted by Quynh T., MOS Manager SoCal, from worldstrides.com

A Tribute To An Exceptional Artist

At the age of 21, her natural beauty stopped men in their tracks. Her artistic flair, partnered with her intelligence, landed her a job as a bookkeeper, something quite radical for a woman in the 1950s.

One day, her colleague's son was home on military leave. He was stationed on the east coast and was home for only a few short weeks. As he was kissing his mother hello, he saw her from the corner of his eye, and was love struck immediately.

They dated passionately for those two weeks, and when it was time to leave, he could not say goodbye. He invited her to join him on the east coast and start a brand-new life. She, close to her mother, felt it wasn't responsible to move away from her family. So, they said their good-byes, wished each other well, and accepted the reality of their lives.

He remarried, had children, while she never did. For she never found another love, that compared to their synergy. 35 years later, she received a call on her home phone. It was the soldier from so long ago. He was now divorced, his children all grown, and he came back to the west coast to find her again. To his surprise, she had never married and the two immediately began to date again. Two months later they were married and lived 17 years happily every after.

-Kai H., SoCal CM

Union City Campus Updates

To keep the status of COVID-19 current, the campus will provide daily updates of testing on all residents and staff members. All are being tested weekly for COVID-19. As of January 2021, in the RCFE and SNF, the cumulative number of negative tests is over 3,000 and positive tests are over 10. The cumulative number of negative tests of the staff/vendors is over 6,500 and positive tests are over 35. The current active cases are over 11 in the RCFE and SNF and the total deaths were 3 in the SNF. The good news is that all residents and staff will be able to get vaccinated on January 14 and 15. The facility cares deeply for all residents, staff, and their families.

-Thu V., Applications Coordinator MA

Covina Campus Updates

As we enter 2021, we reflect not only on the unique challenges 2020 brought the Masonic Homes but also the opportunity to see the dedicated teamwork and astounding individuals that make up the amazing organization of the Masonic Homes.

Hazel has done an outstanding job of reconstructing the typical routine activities into safe, unique experiences for the residents. The kitchen and dining staff have outdone themselves to provide delicious meals while adhering to all guidelines. Housekeeping and facilities have taken every safeguard possible to ensure the upmost precautions. Nursing continues to give unprecedented care and compassion to our residents. Masonic Center for Youth & Families is diligently providing free mental health services to staff and residents so that we can talk openly about our concerns. Masonic Outreach Services has transformed our way of doing business from on campus to working from home and helping Masonic Brothers through our Distressed Worthy Brother program.

All of this would not be possible without our administration team and Gary Charland, President & CEO. They are deeply committed to keeping our campus safe and encourage staff who are feeling ill to stay home and quarantine. They keep us informed about COVID-19 positive cases and provide us with video updates.

-Tara K., MOS Office Manager



National Potato Chip Day

National Potato Chip Day is a holiday that is celebrated on March 14th. Although it might seem curious to some people to have a holiday devoted to something as simple as potato chips, it's not as surprising when you consider that this snack item is one of the most popular snack foods in America. Chips are so popular in fact that Americans consume approximately 1.2 billion pounds of them each year.

Here are some cool facts about these crunchy snacks:

- ⇒ During WWII, potato chip production had to be halted because it was deemed nonessential food.
- ⇒ During the 2020 COVID Pandemic, the likelihood of Americans buying Lay's potato chips increased by a third.
- ⇒ Potato chip bags are partially unfilled to add cushioning that protects the chips from damage during shipping.
- ⇒ Doritos have released over 100 different types of chips over the last 5 decades.
- ⇒ Each Doritos chip has approximately thirty ingredients.
- ⇒ Pennsylvania has been called the Potato Chip Capital of the world.
- ⇒ The oldest potato chip company in the U.S is Mikesell's Potato Chips. It was established in 1910.

-Amy A., Central CA MOS Manager



National Pi (π) Day

Get ready to celebrate Pi Day on March 14th! No, not Pie Day, Pi (π) Day (though feel free to eat pie in celebration). π is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. Pi (π) Day is celebrated on March 14th because when you divide a circle's circumference by its diameter, you get approximately 3.14, a number represented by the Greek letter Pi (π). Around 250 BC, Greek mathematician Archimedes created a way of approximating π and in 5th century AD, Chinese mathematicians approximated π to seven digits. Now, as of 2019, π has been calculated to 31.4 trillion digits. Pi (π) Day was founded in 1988 at the Exploratorium in San Francisco and has since become an international holiday.

Here's some things to do on Pi day:



- ⇒ Eat pie!
- ⇒ Try to memorize as many digits of pi as possible (the current record, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, is 70,000 digits)
- ⇒ Celebrate Albert Einstein's birthday (b. March 14, 1879)
- ⇒ Make a pie!

-Sol S., Manager of Masonic Assistance

Crazy Easy Coconut Pie

Ingredients

- ◇ 3 large eggs , beaten
- ◇ 1½ cups granulated sugar
- ◇ 1 cup unsweetened flaked coconut
- ◇ ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter , melted
- ◇ 1 tablespoon white wine vinegar
- ◇ 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ◇ pinch of salt
- ◇ 1 9-inch pie crust ,store bought or homemade

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. In a medium bowl, mix all the filling ingredients until well combined; pour into the pie shell.
3. Place pie on a cookie sheet and bake for 1 hour (cover crust with foil if it starts to brown too quickly, or use a crust protector)
4. Let set and cool completely before slicing.



Cesar Chavez Day



Cesar Chavez Day, March 31, celebrates the great legacy of civil rights and labor movement leader, Cesar Chavez. His life as a migrant worker allowed him to see that the treatment, conditions, and compensation of migrant workers were deplorable. He was inspired to make a change for the better and spent the 1950s and 1960s as an organizer and later the founder of the National Farm Workers Association. He later collaborated and joined forces with the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee and organized a powerful strike against grape growers which lasted 5 years. This strike resulted in better conditions and pay for the migrant workers. Eventually they

merged and created the United Farm Workers in 1972 which continues to fight for the rights of workers to this day.

Cesar Chavez led marches, boycotts, and hunger strikes without the use of violence and was successful in securing the rights of the amazing farm workers that grow the food on our tables. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Clinton in 1994 and his federal holiday was created by President Obama in 2014. Today, people use Cesar Chavez Day to celebrate his birthday and to bring to light his values, efforts, and lasting positive impacts on all society.

-Lizette M., Outreach & Education Manager

Joe Jackson Award

This year marks the 7th year of recognizing lodges with the Joe Jackson Award. This year, we congratulate Anacapa Lodge No. 710 and Oxnard Lodge No. 341 for earning the 2020 Joe Jackson Award! Both lodges have demonstrated exemplary leadership, involvement and partnership with each other to better serve their community. Joe Jackson was a dedicated Mason and lodge leader in San Diego who demonstrated amazing outreach efforts and he spearheaded the Lodge Outreach Program, which we now have today. In Joe's honor, we created this annual award and recognize a lodge for their exemplary outreach efforts to their members and their community.

Both lodges have been very active in the Division V Lodge Outreach Program and partners regularly with Masonic Outreach Services. Both lodges take initiative, thus creating a positive impact in difficult situations, in their local community and on behalf of their members. Over the years, both lodges have consistently gone above and beyond by hitting each award criteria for the Joe Jackson Award. Big congrats to Anacapa & Oxnard Lodge !

-Camille S., Lodge & Outreach Educator



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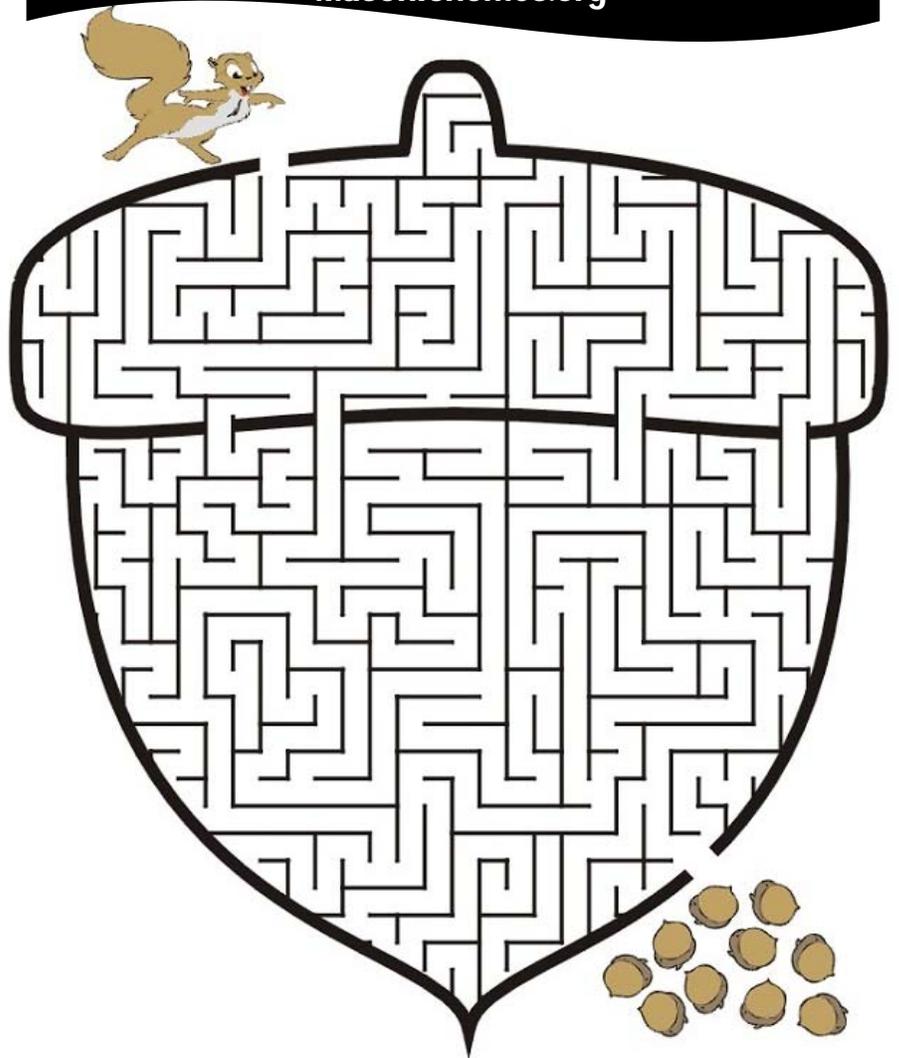
**MASONIC HOMES OF
CALIFORNIA**

Brotherly Love, Relief, Truth

Our Mission:

In keeping with the tenets of freemasonry, the Masonic Homes of California will promote the quality of life by empowering our members, their families and our communities to live well and achieve meaningful and rewarding lives.

We're on the web
Masonichomes.org



Alone
→ → → ♥ → → →
Together

From all of us at Masonic Outreach Services, we hope you stay safe & healthy during these uncertain times.