

Dear Brethren,

You and your Masonic friends are cordially and fraternally invited to attend the 417<sup>th</sup> and 418<sup>th</sup> **Stated Communications** of Aurora Grata-Day Star Lodge No. 647 F. & A.M., to be held on

**Wednesday Evening, February 8, 2012  
at 7:00 p.m.**

for the transaction of such business as may regularly and constitutionally be brought before the Lodge and then we will confer

**The Degree of Entered Apprentice**  
upon duly qualified candidates

and on

**Wednesday Evening, February 22, 2012  
at 7:00 p.m.**

for the transaction of such business as may regularly and constitutionally be brought before the Lodge and after a short business meeting we will close and then have a

*Valentine's Day Celebration*

**Officers' Dress:**  
February 8 & 22

Business Suit

By order of:

R.:W.: Joseph A. Quinones  
Master

R.:W.: Gary R. Solberg,  
Secretary



**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- February 8 ..... 1st Degree
- February 22 ..... Valentine's Celebration  
Ladies Night—\$35 per couple
- March 14 ..... 2nd Degree
- April 11 ..... Ill. Clifford Jacobs 33rd Speaker
- April 25 ..... Homecoming RW Alfonso Serrano  
DDGM 3rd Kings
- May 9 ..... Elections
- May 20 ..... Norwegian Day Parade

*Valentine's Day Party*

*Ladies Night  
February 22nd Meeting  
7-11 pm*

*Buffet Dinner  
beer, wine, soda  
\$35 per couple*

*DJ*

*A small gift for each lady  
Please make your reservations  
with the secretary*

ANNOUNCING THE SIXTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL METROPOLITAN REGION'S

**Masons & Families Dedication  
Service & Breakfast**

SPONSORED BY THE  
MASONIC BROTHERHOOD FOUNDATION, INC.

HOSTED BY  
2010-2012 METROPOLITAN REGION  
DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER'S ASSOCIATION



Guest Speaker  
**John Gambling**

DISTINGUISHED & ACCOMPLISHED RADIO PERSONALITY  
AND WOR AM RADIO TALK SHOW HOST

**Sunday Morning, March 4, 2012**

at  
Marina Del Rey  
One Marina Drive  
Throgs Neck, Bronx, NY 10465



Seating will begin promptly at 8:30 am

The site offers easy access from major highways and VALET PARKING. The Service of Ecumenical Worship will be led by our Grand Chaplains at 9:00 am, and immediately be followed by the Breakfast Program.

Tickets are available from the Metropolitan District Deputy Grand Masters for \$32 per person, payable to the Masonic Brotherhood Foundation. Tickets **MUST** be purchased in **ADVANCE. NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.**

On November 9, a motion was made & seconded that all members of AGDS Lodge who have paid their dues for 2012 will go to the breakfast for half price. If you want to go, mail a check for \$16 to the Secretary. Deadline is February 15, 2012. **Secretary has tickets now.**

## FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

I hope that this communication finds all of you, and your families in good health and spirit. Last month in January our lodge raised three new Master Masons. I know that you all join me in welcoming Brothers Kearney, Margulies and McDermott to our lodge, cable tow permitting please take the time to meet them on the level at a future lodge meeting. In January we also celebrated the birthday of Robert Burns, as is our tradition since the merger with Kilwinning Sunset lodge we hold an annual festive board in his honor. This year we combined our festive board with an event held by the fellow craft club of the seventh Manhattan district. It was a nice event and was enjoyed by all that attended. We as a lodge will decide whether to team up again in the future or go it alone as in past years.

At our first meeting in February we will confer the entered apprentice degree upon several new candidates. As I have done in the past, I urge every brother who can attend to do so; help us welcome these new brothers into our lodge properly. I look forward to seeing many of you and meeting with you upon the level.

At our second meeting in February we will have a ladies night, the cost of the evening will be \$35.00 per couple and will include a buffet dinner and Beer/Wine and Soda, a DJ for the evening and a small present for each lady attending. The festivities will be between 7-11pm, please make your reservations with the secretary.

In closing I wish you all have health, wealth and long life, may the Great Architect keep you and your families under his protecting care until we meet again. I remain your faithful brother in Strength, Fervency and Zeal.

*Joseph A. Quinones*  
Master AGDS No. 647 F.&A.M.

### GRAND LECTURERS CONVENTION

March 27, 2012  
Phoenix Lodge  
1348 E. 64 Street  
Brooklyn, NY



## FROM THE WEST

Greetings:

I hope that when you receive this communication that you and your family are in the best of health. If I haven't told you personally, I wish you a happy and prosperous New Year. Although we did not have a large turnout for the Master Mason degree I must admit that it was well done. I encourage everyone to come out and participate in the degree work of the lodge. As the Master of the lodge told me many, many years ago, "many hands make light work."

I look forward to seeing you in the lodge room of Aurora Grata - Day Star Lodge No. 647 and I would also mention the fine bible presentation given by our own R.:W.: Adrian J. Johnson, it was a pleasant surprise to see him in the lodge room helping in the degree work of the evening.

Please do not forget that AGDS 647 has purchased a table for the Masonic Inter-Faith Breakfast, which will be held on Sunday March 4, 2012. Any Brother in good standing can purchase a ticket at half price. Don't delay because tickets go fast and we have a limited supply. I look forward to seeing you in February and may the G.A.O.T.U. watch over you and your families.

Sincerely,  
*Alfonso Serrano*

### TRESTLE BOARD

#### Awaiting First Degree

Mr. Robert A. Hass  
Mr. Kenneth Hass

#### Awaiting Second Degree

Bro. Ismael Medina  
Bro. Paul Reese  
Bro. Warren Davis  
Bro. Brian McAllister  
Bro. Michael Goralski  
Bro. Israel Torres  
Bro. Christopher Filipowski  
Bro. Patrick DePuydt

#### Awaiting Third Degree

Bro. Felipe Santos  
Bro. Ricardo Garcia

#### Awaiting Investigation

Mr. Christopher Barrett

### March 28, 2012 Lecturer

R.:W.: Pierce Vaughn,  
Grand Scribe NYS RAM

## Masonic Principles

When the Great Creator breathed into man the breath of life, He included a number of strengths and a great many weaknesses. One of the strengths he imparted to man was the ability to comprehend that in union there is strength.

From the dawn of time man has been able to overcome his weaknesses by banding together in organizations. The first organization was the family which ultimately expanded into tribes and tribes into nations thereby providing a more efficient defense against enemies and the ability to obtain food and shelter. As a result, the hunter and fisherman, the builder and artisan, the priest and chieftain, the counselor and many others developed specialties in their various fields and so a wide variety of organizations came into being.

No matter how unfair it may seem we are not judged solely as individuals but are judged also by the organizations, or in our case, the Masonic organization to which we belong and by how well we live up to our Masonic principles.

An additional function of an organization is to maintain a bridge with the past so that the valuable experiences of the past can be used in the present and to extend the bridge from the present to the future enabling us to move forward in security and confidence. The past is so great, the present so colossal and the future so unlimited that organizations are needed to tend the bridge. That is why we have civic clubs, labor unions, professional societies, commercial associations, art and music societies and fraternal organizations. And that is why we have this great fraternal organization called Freemasonry.

### Principles

We know that Freemasonry was imported to our shores from England by the early founders of our country. They took the Masonic principles of love, brotherhood, morality, honor, integrity, concern for others—all of these—and wove them into the fabric of our government, our institutions, our entire culture. Masons dominated the leadership of our country in its founding years. Many of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were Masons. We know of the reliance that Brother George Washington placed on the officers under his command who were Masons. The cornerstones of our nation's Capitol and the White House were laid by the Masonic Fraternity. This country was conceived in the womb of Masonic principles, and this has created a form of government and a way of life that is the envy of the world.

As Freemasons today we are custodians of a bridge, the custodians of Masonic principles which can help preserve freedom in the world. But principles, in and of themselves, have no power to preserve anything! It takes people to put life and meaning into principles. It takes people bonded together in fellowship.

### Fellowship

Fellowship has always been a most important factor in Freemasonry. When lodges were first formed in this country some 270 years ago there were no large cities, only small wilderness settlements, and no transportation except by foot, horseback or horse and buggy. No communication or dissemination of news

except by word of mouth or special messenger. The individual lodge was designed for those isolated and rural communities and provided a place for fellowship.

When transportation, communication and commerce began to improve, people began to move about, towns / cities became larger and Masons moving there naturally sought the fellowship of brother Masons as men they could trust. This caused a need for Masonic fellowship on a wider basis than the individual Lodge could provide. Automobiles, telephone, radio, television and the Internet have succeeded in bringing about a drastic change in the fellowship requirements of people. We are no longer satisfied with Masonic fellowship in small groups - today it seems that we can't have a satisfying Masonic fellowship unless there are 20 to 25 men present and if there are 50, 100 or 500, so much the better.

That is one of the purposes of our appendant bodies; not to develop any new principles of Masonry, not to provide so-called higher degrees, because we know that the third degree is the highest degree in Masonry - not to teach the lessons of Masonry by symbols, ritual and required memory work as does the Symbolic lodge, but to teach Masonic principles in unforgettable drama with lighting, staging and costuming. In its way it attracts larger groups of men and provides the finest kind of fellowship.

### Brotherhood

A great many organizations make a claim to brotherhood, but none can begin to approach the brotherhood of Freemasonry which is based on the Biblical injunction: we are our brother's keeper. The basic Masonic pledge to come to the aid of a distressed brother master mason, his widow and orphan, does not have a great deal of direct application in our present society with its retirement plans, Social Security, aid to dependent children and Medicare. But this brotherhood is now expressing itself in great Masonic Charities such as homes for the aged, children's homes, Knight Templar Homes, Knight Templar Eye Foundation, a Scottish Rite Benevolent Foundation now expanded to help children with learning disabilities and the Shrine with their help to crippled and burned children. All of these and countless others have combined to make Freemasonry the greatest charitable organization in the world. As Masons, the song, "America the Beautiful" has a special meaning for us when we say:

*"America, America, God shed His Grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea."*

### Patriotism

Since the time of General Washington, patriotism has been a basic precept of Freemasonry. Many of our country's greatest patriots have been Masons. That is why we say "No man can worthily serve in the ranks of Freemasonry unless his heart thrills to the sentiments of a lofty patriotism that will express itself in loyal obedience to his country's laws as well as in defense of his country's flag." So fellowship, brotherhood and patriotism are three of the great principles of Freemasonry, the things that give it vitality and meaning.

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