

TRESTLEBOARD



Culver City – Foshay Lodge No. 467, F. & A. M.

<http://home.earthlink.net/~ccf467>
October 2006

FROM THE EAST



The Renaissance is here! Part II

Brethren, last month I unveiled the first part of the new *Masonic Formation Program* designed to revitalize Freemasonry in California and promised to conclude my remarks in October. Well, October is upon us and as I write, I am preparing to travel to Sacramento to be a part of the presenting team for the fourth and last of this year's presentations on the Masonic Formation concept. As Brother Winston Churchill once said, *"this is not the end, or even the beginning of the end, but rather, the end of the beginning."*

We have only just begun to lay the basic foundations for the future edifice of California Freemasonry and it will be up to all current Brothers and those who come after us to continue the traditions of our Craft and built upon the solid "foundations" thus far laid. Just as those magnificent gothic cathedrals erected by our operative brothers were not completed in a single lifetime or even several lifetimes, so our Masonic edifice will not be completed in the foreseeable future but rather will be a continuing "work in progress" for future generations to admire, protect and in their turn, improve.

In part one, I explained the importance of selecting the "right kind of stone" for our purposes – a man free of moral defects and properly quarried in the

first place. Having a good piece of material to work with, we, like the stonemasons of old, begin by shaping and forming the rough ashlar into finished stones suitable for building a solid and square Masonic edifice - One which will stand the test of time. We traditionally do this by way of the three degrees of Blue Lodge Masonry – Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason. Historically, at least recently, we often impart a degree, give the candidate the lecture, grips, passwords and then adjourn for refreshments where he is given the cipher pertaining to the degree in question and sadly, in many cases, little else. In years past, before there *was* a cipher available, Masonic knowledge was passed "*mouth to ear*" by way of a candidate's coach or mentor – a Master Mason of some experience, who taught the young candidate not only the required ritual but imparted valuable lessons in Masonic ethics, history and behavior as well. Very often, the bonds formed between coach and candidate during these educational sessions resulted in the formation of lifelong friendships. With the advent of the cipher, much of the old "*mouth to ear*" tradition was lost and with it, that magic bonding between coach and candidate was also lost – to the detriment of the Craft in general. Ask any old Mason who learned his ritual "*mouth to ear*" and they will, in all likelihood agree 100% and proceed to tell you about "*their*" coach in glowing terms.

Well, that was then, this is now, as the saying goes. We can't go back but we can go forward. And so, the next phase of the process in our Masonic Formation plan is to *improve the methodology and the process of teaching our new Masons their required ritual proficiencies, the while imparting additional information on Masonic history, ethics, behavior and most importantly, teaching these new brothers the moral lessons behind the ceremonies of the various degrees through which they have just*



passed. We are now looking for more than simply the ability of a candidate to parrot the proficiency without any real understanding of what the words mean! We must ask ourselves what is more important – *a perfect rendition of the proficiency or a real understanding of the meaning of it?* A matter, I suggest of *substance* being infinitely more important than *form*. Think of the false façade of a building for example, which impresses until one is inside and sees the shabby construction behind the fancy, but false façade. Brethren, Freemasonry can no longer afford to totally concern itself with our façade; we must build for the ages.

Your Grand Lodge, in full support of the Masonic Formation Task Force has begun work on new audio-visual materials to supplement and support (but not replace) the various lectures of the degrees. These new materials, beginning with a DVD illustrating the various parts of the EA lecture, utilizing modern AV techniques and processes to “inculcate upon the mind” of the candidate, the most important tenants of our institution, etc. Those “wise and serious truths” we speak so glibly about. This first DVD will be followed by one for the FC degree and finally, for the Master’s Lecture of the Third Degree. At least that’s the plan at the present moment. The purpose of these materials is simple and straightforward - to better prepare the candidate to be a *practicing* Mason in modern society – to assist him to understand and support the moral lessons presented and to properly use the allegorical tools available to him to improve himself and by that improvement, make him better prepared to improve his family, community, nation and ultimately, the world. I’d ask you to remember what a few committed Masons did for a young United States by helping to craft our Constitution. Surely a work worthy of all emulation.

Phase Three in Masonic Formation involves the ongoing education and involvement of all Master Masons themselves in (a) the business and administrative affairs of their Lodge, (b) the vital and most important business of mentoring the younger Masons – teaching them the ways of the Craft by emulation and example, and (c) of taking responsibility for the future of Freemasonry by active participation and being living examples of our fundamental principals of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, such to the point where non-Masons will notice and wish themselves to be a part of an organization where such good men congregate. We must understand that

upon being raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason it is, as I quoted earlier “*not the end, or even the beginning of the end, but rather, the end of the beginning*”.

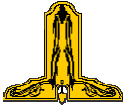
Finally, in Phase Four, we each, as individual Master Masons must take Masonry out of the private confines of the Lodge rooms and into the public sector. There to demonstrate to the world by our individual actions and department, the true meaning of our obligations and tenants. We must, as Masons, become living, breathing, *practicing* advertisements for those principals upon which Masonry was originally founded. We must take the practice of Freemasonry out of the purely speculative arena of secret ritual and lodge ceremony and place it squarely in the real world of *operative* moral Masonry. Except, we will not be building in stone and mortar but rather working for and with the hearts and minds of contemporary society, doing well by doing good.

The Masonic Formation Task Force has been assured by Grand Lodge Leadership that they not only support but actively endorse our concept of a Masonic renaissance. They have promised monetary as well as moral support on a long-term basis. They have agreed to the genuine need for such a renaissance if Freemasonry is to survive and prosper in the new millennium. They have done and will, I believe, continue to do their part – now it is up to us to do ours - to make the dream of a bright, new Masonic age a reality and thereby insure the survival of our Craft and its gift of morality and Brotherly Love for future generations of all good men and true.

Are you willing to use that silver trowel which we were all given when we were raised for its intended purpose? Or are we going to see that trowel slowly rust with disuse, apathy, neglect and indifference as our beloved fraternity slips into oblivion? It’s your choice my Brothers. Please make the right one and become a true Master Builder in the fullest sense of the word. We can’t succeed without each and every one of you. With your heart and with your help we will restore Freemasonry to its rightful place as the world’s oldest and finest fraternity and a mighty force for good in this tired old world.

Fraternally and respectfully,
Dick Pierce
Master

Greetings From the West



This September we had a good month. First of all I would like to thank all for the candidates (Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts) who attended the September stated meeting dinner and special meeting upstairs. Worshipful Dick Pierce used the special meeting to inform all members including all candidates about all the 2006 Grand Lodge Legislation which we will be voting on this October at Grand Lodge. Our Special Meeting had a good turnout.

Secondly on the 13th we had a Second Degree for our Brother Masoto Taguchi with Worshipful Dick Pierce in the East for the First Section. I was in the East for the Second section and closing. Next on the 20th we had a Third Degree for our brother Curtis Shumaker, with Worshipful Merrick Hamer in the East.

In October we will have our Stated Meeting on the 4th at 730 PM. The Grand Lodge Legislation will probably be discussed. On the 8th - 11th Worshipful Dick Pierce, Chris Sanders, Clarence Kussner, Doug Warner, Merrick Hamer, Ron Balin, and myself will be attending Grand Lodge.

Please attend the Stated Meeting on the 4th, as we will also know which degrees we might be doing for October. As of now I am not sure who will be advancing .

Fraternally,
Todd F. Langworthy
Senior Warden

Greetings from the South



The Autumn Equinox is almost upon us as I sit to write this article the second time of the year in which the sun will be in balance with the equator, a prelude to shorter days and longer nights to come. The lessons of balance and harmony are practically written in the heavens, and the teachings of our Craft are evident in the soothing transition from Summer to Fall. This is my favorite time of the year, when we are all able to kick back a bit and

enjoy the cool breezes and start gearing up for the festive holiday season ahead of us

Speaking of festivities, I am happy to announce that a Halloween party will be held at the lodge on Saturday the 28th beginning at 8 PM. Costumes and sophisticated attire are encouraged. All brethren and family and friends of the brethren are invited. There will be a spooky magic show courtesy of Bro. Charles Schneider and other surprise performances, as well as music, refreshments, and fellowship. Please feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions or contributions regarding this event. My intention is for this Halloween party to be enjoyed by all and a successful occasion that could become an annual event for our lodge, so please spread the word.

As the changing of the guard will soon be upon us and as I am preparing to qualify as Senior Warden, I would like to all Entered Apprentices, particularly those who have been E.A.'s for a good amount of time, to be aware that I am looking forward to some of them being passed to the degree of Fellow Craft within the next couple of months. I would also like to encourage all the new master masons raised this year to join us at ritual rehearsals and begin learning the officer's roles and begin participating with us in degrees. One of the great joys of Freemasonry is assisting in a new candidate's initiations, and experiencing the brotherhood and uplifting of degree work. Given that we take pride in our ritual work and have many talented ritualists and teachers amongst us, I can guarantee your involvement will be an enriching and memorable experience. And that, my brothers, is a beautiful thing.

Fraternally,
Christopher Sanders
Jr Warden

Masonic Service Bureau

The Service Bureau met on Sunday Sept. 17th, 2006. Legislation for the upcoming 2006 Grand Lodge Communication was discussed by the Most Worshipful R. Stephen Doan. November will be the annual clothing drive. Please bring anything you can to the lodge. Contact me at 310-398-4507.

Your MSB Rep,
Ed Calzaretto.

Photos



From left to right, Bro. Blumenthal, Wor. Pierce, Bros. Taguchi, Langworthy and Kussner. Thomas Taguchi (center), was passed to Fellowcraft in September.



The brethren and Job's Daughters met at Veteran's Park in August for our annual Child ID Program

We had a great turn out!

October 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 6:30 Dinner 7:30 Stated Meeting	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Annual Communication-Grand Lodge						
15	16	17	18 Practice or Degree	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 O.S.I.-7 pm	26	27	28 Halloween Party-8 pm
29	30	31				

Dates to Keep in Mind

Please Note: O.S.I. will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 25th at So. Calif. Lodge in Westchester. The Temple Board Meeting date was not available at the time this issue was published. The date will be announced at the October Stated Meeting.

Oct. 28th, 8 pm - Halloween Party,. WEAR A COSTUME!

If anyone is aware of any group which would be interested in renting the Lodge for a function, contact the Temple Association. Ask for Bill Williams.

Anyone who would like to place an article or photo in the Trestleboard, please contact Alan Ackereisen. The email address is: alacker@dslextreme.com

OFFICERS 2006

Richard K. Pierce (June)	Master	John J. Bournazos (Megan)	Sr. Steward
Todd F. Langworthy	Sr. Warden	William T. Williams	Jr. Steward
Christopher Sanders	Jr. Warden	Merrick Rees Hamer, ^{PM,HA}	Organist & Asst. Officer's Coach
Douglas S. Warner, ^{HA} (Amy)	Treasurer	Donald C. Hunziker	Tiler
Andrew R. Pedersen, ^{PM,HA} (Donna Lee)	Secretary	Clarence D. Kussner, ^{PM,HA} (Renee)	Officer's Coach
Edward Calzaretto	Chaplain	Douglas Eichen, ^{PM} (Dianna)	Interim District Inspector 366 th Masonic District
James P. Blumenthal (Linda)	Sr. Deacon	Alan Ackereisen	Trestleboard Editor
Dahlan L. Netsch	Jr. Deacon		
George Wollin (Lynne)	Marshal		

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