

Trestleboard

July/August 2009

Culver City Foshay No. 467 F. & A. M.

*A year dedicated in Loving Memory to
Gaylord "Pops" V. Roten
Outstanding Masonic Youth Leader &
Past Master of Liberal Arts Lodge No. 677*



FROM THE EAST

To begin with, this Trestleboard will cover the months of July and August, August being dark with the exception of our August Stated Meeting and "Meet The Master" on Sunday mornings.

July marks the beginning of the second half of the Masonic Year for Culver City Foshay Lodge and before the closing of Lodge at our July Stated Meeting, we will be holding a closed Installation (for Lodge Members only) at which our Senior Deacon, Brother Curtis S Shumaker, will be installed as Jr. Warden, our Jr. Deacon, Brother Masato Francis Taguchi will be installed as Senior Deacon, with the following Brothers being advance one chair. Brother Mahmoud Ghaffari to Jr. Deacon, Brother Adrian Beckmann to Marshall, Brother Snohomish Brown to Sr. Stewart and, as in January I had the honor and pleasure of appointing Brother Brown to the line as Jr. Deacon, I now have the honor and pleasure of appointing Brother Marcus E Williams to the line as Jr. Deacon. This will effectively fill the advancing Line of Officers with Masons who are not Past Masters. This is what our Jr. Past Master, Christopher Sanders set out to do in his year as Master and which will be the case when my term of service is over.

This has been made possible because Brother Merrick R. Hamer, PM, who was installed Jr. Warden in January, had graciously agreed to step out of the line in July, providing the qualifications for the positions were met by the Officers to be installed. Also, the hard work and dedication of these Officers to have accomplished this task in six months is to be admired and commended.

All our Candidates have been doing due diligence on their proficiencies and, I am proud to announce that on Wednesday, July 29th, we will be Raising Brother Curtis Falzoi to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. I am hoping for a good turnout of our members to support our new Brother's first steps as a Master Mason.

As an early notice, please set aside the evening of Wednesday, September 23rd, at which time we will be presenting the Hiram Award to a deserving Brother, Brother Richard Pierce. He is an outstanding man and Mason who has served our Fraternity with respect and dignity, and most important, Integrity. I have asked our Deputy Grand Master, The Right Worshipful Kenneth G Nagel, PM if he would attend and present the Award to our well deserving Brother and he has accepted. So please set the date aside for what will be a wonderful evening.

Speaking of Brother Pierce, I have asked him to write a motivational article for me, which he has graciously agreed to do. Below in quotes is the article verbatim.

"A FEW THOUGHTS ON MASONIC RESPONSIBILITY!"

By Richard Pierce, P.M.

Yesterday, our Master asked me to write a short piece for this month's Trestleboard as he was at overwhelm with some of his personal responsibilities. This I gladly agreed to do.

I had already been thinking earlier about the current chaos in Iran and how it might be affecting our Masonic Brothers of the Grand Lodge of Iran in Exile, and it occurred to me that we American Masons may not fully appreciate the freedoms we currently enjoy in our great country.

I'm sure our Iranian brethren in exile look upon the freedoms we native born Americans very often take for granted with a far greater sense of appreciation and respect. As I perused the local and national TV news and saw the usual daily fare of

political graft, outright theft, ethical breaches of public trust and fidelity, general lack of morality and the other problems our modern society is afflicted with, I thought "Here is an opportunity to put our Masonic principles to work for the public good to practice what we preach. We talk the talk, now is the time for us to walk the walk!"

We Masons profess to have higher standards of behavior by virtue of our various obligations; not only to our Brothers in Freemasonry but to our families, our communities, to our nation and, for that matter, to humankind in general we swore more than one oath to do these things, oaths sealed with our very honor and with terrible consequences for betraying that sacred trust!

Perhaps it is appropriate at this time of international unrest -- considering the problems in North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere (Including the United States and its current fiscal crisis) for Masons to take the lead in demonstrating to the world that morality and ethical behavior are not outdated or flawed concepts -- useless in a dog-eat-dog world.

We Masons are proud of our historic roots and American Masons in particular, lay claim to an even greater heritage of democratic idealism -- American Masons helped draft our Constitution and its Bill of Rights - perhaps the greatest testament to man's ideal nature ever written to govern a young Republic and its free population.

At the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia on September 17th in 1787, as Brother Benjamin Franklin was leaving the hall where the delegates had been meeting all that long, hot summer, a woman was said to have asked Franklin "Sir, what kind of government do we have?" and Franklin was said to have replied, "A Republic, Madam, if you can keep it!" A wise man was Brother Franklin; knowing that there would be a price to pay for a young nation embarking on such a bold social experiment.

The price for good government in a republic is the active participation and total involvement (and oversight) of good people. Just as a healthy and happy Masonic Lodge requires the active participation of EVERY member -- from the "newest Entered Apprentice in the North-East Corner of the Lodge to the Worshipful Master in the East," so do our Nation's affairs require the active and informed participation of ALL its citizens; if it is to function as our founding fathers intended!

It was Plato, I believe who said that "the price good men pay, who fail to participate in their government, is to be ruled by inferior men" - We Masons must be in the forefront when it comes to participating in our various political processes -- from the Lodge management to our Federal government -- demanding that our political and social leadership act with morality, honesty and openly espouse those virtues every Mason (if he is a true Mason) holds sacred -- Brotherly Love, Relief and most of all, TRUST! Failing to do so, we will likely find ourselves in the same position as those present citizens of Iran -- fighting in the streets for honest elections and an ethical and responsible government of the people, by the people and for the people!

God bless these United States of America and may God help the good people of Iran to someday enjoy similar freedoms as we now have in this country."

Thank Worshipful Brother Pierce, for this "Good and Timely" message.

God Bless Us All

Fraternally,
David Francis Philips, Master



FROM THE WEST

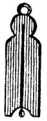
My Trestleboard article will be short and sweet this month as my desire is to praise our candidates and our officers for the great work that has been done as we have labored in the great cause of initiating new brethren into the fraternity. Worshipful Philips said it best in his comments at our last degree night when he complemented the line and the candidates as he observed that our side-liners were a majority of CANDIDATES! On that night, we had two second degree initiations and we had several candidates on the sideline in an effort to not only support the new Fellowcrafts, but also to receive further light and reinforce their obligations and see the degree work as performed by our officer line, which is a great testimony of the quality of the degree work being done.

We have truly become a harmonious team of officers working together in a way that inspires members and candidates to desire to attend and see the work as it is performed over and over again as we have new candidates moving forward in their proficiency and degrees. This is the message that I wish to get across to the Lodge this month! If you have not seen

the degree work recently performed by our current officer line, please come and add to the side-liners. It will be well worth your time and will give you a great sense of pride as you sit and view the work being done by not only my lodge and not only our lodge, but most importantly, YOUR LODGE!

Fraternally,

Jonathan P. Dilley
Senior Warden



FROM THE SOUTH

Greetings brethren, this is my first column as Junior Warden. In future entries, I plan to write a series about the seven arts and sciences of the staircase and what they mean to Masons, something I hope you will find interesting and not overly academic. However, for my first column, I feel it is appropriate to share with you some of the things I learned at the recent Junior Warden's Retreat.

This conference was exceptional in the enthusiasm of the speakers and the value and relevance of the information provided. The sessions provided a clear overview of the state of California lodges today, as well as their challenges, opportunities, and problems. Here are a few facts and ideas that our lodge should take notice of and consider:

California has about 58,000 active Masons. We expect to bring in about 1600 new members next year, but will suffer a net loss of over 2300 to death of older members--we're losing far more members than we're adding. Our lodge is doing a great job of bringing in new, promising Masons, but we need to keep in mind that failure to grow means that our organization will continue to dwindle.

Due to these numbers and adverse economic factors, our per capita contribution to Grand Lodge will increase from \$31 to \$33 in the next budget. Next year's Grand Master suggests that we go over the reasons for this within our lodge as soon so our membership recognizes the need to support this increase. It's important to note that Grand Lodge made significant budget cuts so that the increases were not even higher.

One speaker suggested that if we have members who are currently living too far away to attend many meetings, but who want to maintain their connection to the lodge, we should consider ways to let them participate through new communication technologies--contributing to our website and other Internet activities, or giving them tasks that could be done by phone--keeping in touch with our widows, for example.

Grand Lodge officials have noted that thousands of older Masons have been suspended because of nonpayment of dues, despite having been active members for decades. One reason for this may be that sick or infirm members have turned over household bill management to their wives or relatives who may have declined to pay dues because the members are no longer able to attend lodge. The recommendation is that we make sure all wives of older masons fully understand the valuable benefits to widows of Masons who die in active status. I learned a lot about the Grand Lodge's widow's outreach program that I never knew. We should make sure all members and their wives are fully informed on these points.

Finally and most importantly, one exercise poised this situation: Assume a young man interested in our lodge says to you, "I hear Masons make good men better. What specifically does your lodge do to make this happen? What programs do you have in place for this purpose? What specifically do you expect of me?"

Up until a year or so ago, I'm not sure I could have given a completely satisfactory answer for how Culver City-Foshay provides this guidance. However, since then, I believe that we have, as individuals and collectively, improved our ability to fulfill these needs in our incoming members. Certainly, the fact that so many first and second degree members are turning up at lodge functions suggests that they feel we are providing something of value. Still, I ask that each one of you think seriously about how you would answer the above questions, and if you feel that any of your answers are inadequate, please come up with suggestions for how the lodge could improve its offerings to our future and current members. It's food for thought.

Fraternally,

Curtis S Shumaker
Junior Warden

Prayer For Peace and Harmony

Grand designer of the cosmos. Help us to keep our lives in check, and this lodge from future harm. Let peace and harmony prevail. May the reformations made by the Masters and Brethern of this lodge be everlasting. And may we never waiver from our duties. We humbly ask this in your namesake. Amen.

Ed C., Chaplain

July 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Stated Meeting 7:30 (Dinner 6:30) Semi-Annual Secretary & Treasurer Reports & Installation	2	3	4 Candidate Education 6:30pm to 9pm Jonathan Dilley, SW <i>U.S. Independence Day</i>
5 10am to 12 noon Candidate Coaching	6	7	8 Degree Or Practice 7:30pm	9	10	11
12 10am to 12 noon Candidate Coaching	13	14	15 Degree Or Practice 7:30pm	16	17	18 (-Tent- BBQ or District Chill Cook-off)
19 10am to 12 noon Candidate Coaching	20	21	22 Degree Or Practice 7:30pm	23	24	25
26 10am to 12 noon Candidate Coaching	27	28	29 Degree Or Practice 7:30pm	30 OSI @ Southern California: 3 rd Degree 1 st Section 7:15pm	31	

August 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August Will Be Dark Except For: 1. The Stated Meeting 2. A Requested Degree 3. Extra Candidate Coaching						1 Candidate Education 6:30pm to 9pm Jonathan Dilley, SW
2 10am to 12 noon Candidate Coaching	3	4	5 Stated Meeting 7:30 (Dinner 6:30) (Casual Dress)	6	7	8
9 10am to 12 noon Candidate Coaching	10	11	12 Degree Or Practice 7:30pm	13	14	15
16 10am to 12 noon Candidate Coaching	17	18	19 Degree Or Practice 7:30pm	20	21	22
23 10am to 12 noon Candidate Coaching	24	25	26 Degree Or Practice 7:30pm	27	28	29
30 10am to 12 noon Candidate Coaching	31					

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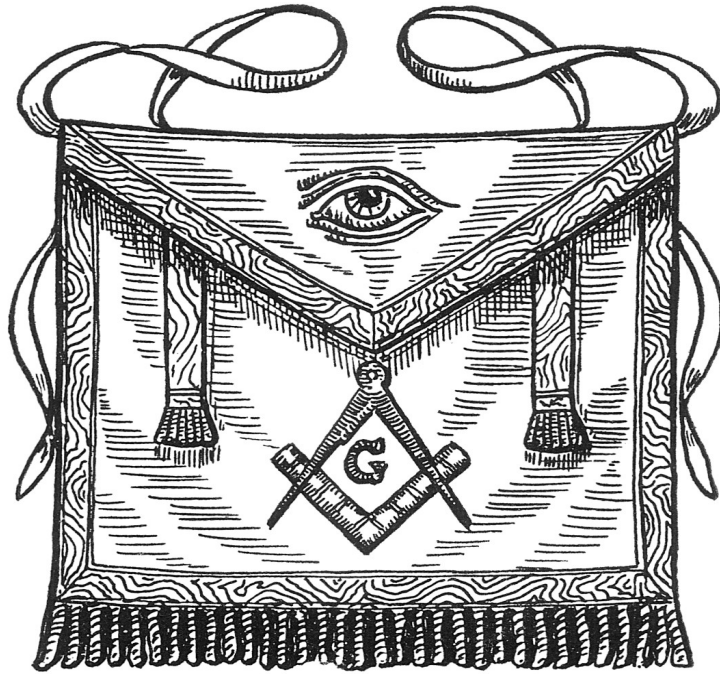
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