

Trestleboard

September 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

Since our July Stated Meeting, several positive events have taken place in Lodge. We have read 5 new applications for membership in Culver City Foshay Lodge #467, elected 2 to receive the Degrees of Masonry, and will vote on the 3 remaining at our September Stated Meeting. We have raised one candidate to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, two others have given their Second Degree Proficiencies, with at least one more to be given at our September Meeting. And if everything goes as is being planned, we will have 4 newly raised Master Masons with at least 5 more to follow before the end of the year. All the credit for this good news regarding our membership goes to the hard work and due diligence of the Officers of the Lodge.

As I had mentioned in my previous trestleboard article, 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. The event will start at 7pm with a Reception, with dinner at 7:30pm, followed by the program and presentation in the Lodge Room at 8:30pm. The program and presentation at 8:30pm will be open to everyone, but the dinner at 7:30pm will be served to the first 100 reservations received.

Please see the attached flier for more information, or you can call (213) 389-4567 or email me at dfpdfp@sbcglobal.net to make a reservation for dinner (as mentioned, we can only serve 100 maximum, so a reservation for dinner is important).

I have become acutely aware (and have been for some time) on the negative impact the downturn in the economy has had on many people, especially our Brethren and their families in Freemasonry, and in our Lodge in particular. Many of our Brethren are struggling just keep their heads above water.

I don't have an answer to solve or even to help correct this chain of events that is causing so much pain to so many people. We are all caught in what seems like an inescapable web of financial chaos. However, I do have hope, hope that things will turn around and begin to improve. That hope is born of my faith in the Divine. Not a blind faith, but a trusting faith, that by putting my trust in God, God will see me through this rough period, as He has done before.

I'd like to share with you a bit of that trusting faith I hold in our Great Architect of the Universe. It's in the form of what some would call a poem. I like to call it a message of hope. I didn't know its origins until recently, but it spoke to my faith and trust in God, is especially appropriate in these difficult times and I would like to share it with you. It is titled:

Desiderata

By Max Ehrmann, 1927

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love, for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

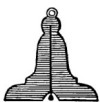
Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful.

Strive to be happy.

God Bless Us All,
Fraternally,
David Francis Philips, Master



FROM THE WEST

In my thoughts for what I should write this month, my mind returns to a conversation recently with a Candidate for the Degrees of Freemasonry. This Candidate had thoughts and concerns about what Freemasonry really is and what it can accomplish not just in his life but also in the lives of others.

I think this is a fair question since we ask much of a Candidate as far as preparation goes such as time, memory, in addition to financial commitments. So, with what is required, what is offered and what is given?

It is easy to say to a Candidate, what you put into Freemasonry is what you get out of Freemasonry! Have we not all heard this before? It is also easy to tell the sick and/or the afflicted that they are indeed sick and/or afflicted? However, what good is it to tell a man that he cannot see if you do not then offer the same man a pair of glasses!

The average response to the above dilemma is to claim that we offer the tools necessary for a Candidate to build his life on the principles given in the degrees, however, what good is a tool if we do not remain to mentor and guide the workman in his labor.

So if we look at the original question, what can Freemasonry do for me. I would almost have to reply, nothing! It seems that so many people in the world today expect life to be handed to them on a silver platter with no effort at all in the seeking of it. One of the greatest blessings we have in mortality is the Journey of Life! Well, this is also an easy escape to a very important question. Yes, life is about the journey, however, what should one do when lost along the pathways of life? Who can we turn to in times of need.

The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man!

We see this statement on applications and we hear this claim in interviews and lectures about our Fraternity, however, what are we doing to connect to what this really means?

I have said it in many of my past articles and while all of the above seems to be one thought mixed with another, it represents the collective confusion of an average Candidate in his quest to understand what he is getting himself into.

Is there a solution? Is there an answer? Maybe there is not, maybe Freemasonry has so much to offer that it is easy to get lost, so what can we do to survive. I feel the key to survival is love! Love of the work, love of the Lodge and most important of all, love shared one brother to another!

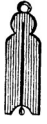
There is a great difference between and friend and a brother. Friends can come and go, however, a brother is family, and family, at least at some level, remains a permanent figure in our lives. As we seek to find and initiate Candidates, let us be sure to keep love in mind. Let us not give false promises of change and enlightenment if we are not willing to aid and assist the Candidate in times of need! Let us not offer the Mysteries when we ourselves are selfish to share with a Candidate what we ourselves have found and seen! Becoming a mentor to a Candidate is not the responsibility of one officer chosen by the Master or by the Brotherhood within the Lodge as a job to be executed with repetition and precisions each and every time a Candidate is Raised, rather, it is a privileged and a responsibility that we all share and must be proactive in the execution in order to claim the greatest result or reward.

We declare that we make great men better! Well, keep in mind, if the Lodge sits idle while a Candidate struggles to grow and understand the lessons being taught, what good man have we really made better? If we do not reach out and offer the hand of friendship and brotherly love, what exactly are we doing? What exactly has been accomplished? If we are not careful to whom we open the doors of Freemasonry, is it not possible that we might allow darkness to choke out the light?

Let's take this month to try and reach out to those with whom we are less acquainted. Let us change tables from time to time at the Stated Meeting Dinners. Let us try to open up to Candidates and reveal who we really are, inside and in our daily lives outside the Lodge and share what Masonry truly means to you. Also, as we focus on others, try to be considerate of feelings of frustration that might be felt or encountered. Let us be patient and let us be fair and share what we love with such strength that we knelt at an altar and swore to uphold! The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man is right here in the Culver City Foshay Lodge. All we need to do is turn the key and open the door and let the light of Love and Fraternal Fellowship flood in!

God Bless you all!

Fraternaly,
Jonathan Dilley
Senior Warden



FROM THE SOUTH

The Light on The Staircase

*Gram loquitur, Dia ver docet, Rhe verba colorat,
Mus canit, ar numerat Geo ponderat As colit astra.*

As you ascend the stairs of our Lodge building, you see a large banner hanging above the mezzanine that depicts, among other symbols, a winding staircase. The top seven steps are labeled with the academic subjects of grammar, logic, rhetoric, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy. Those of you who are Entered Apprentices will find out more about this staircase in a future degree, but this article and future Junior Warden postings will focus for now on those seven subjects and what they mean to Masons.

The history of these seven subjects as a core set of educational requirements stretches back at least to the ancient Greece of 2500 years ago. Although there was no organized, systematic plan for what we now call higher education, a person was generally considered to have a well-rounded education when he (rarely she) had mastered these seven subjects. This tradition continued into the Roman Empire and survived its destruction, lasting into the Middle Ages. In this era, a man named Anicius Manlius Severinus Boethius, who lived from about 480 to 524, formally systemized the seven subjects in the Trivium (meaning the three roads—grammar, logic, rhetoric) and Quadrivium (four roads—arithmetic, geometry, music, astronomy). They also became known as the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences. In Latin, liber can mean both “book” and “free.” Therefore, in the case of these seven subjects, “liberal” can mean both the “book subjects” and the subjects of study that lead to a free intellect. Near the end of the Middle Ages, the first universities, as we understand the term, were created, and although subjects have been added and names changed, these seven subjects are still more or less the core of all Western educational systems.

What then do these seven subjects mean to Masons? Well, on one level, Masons are taught to have great respect for education and to pursue it as much as possible. This value is based on the belief that knowledge and learning are needed to allow a man to lead a truly ethical life. For Masons, education is not just a means to learn a trade or get a job; it also gives a man the tools necessary to examine his own thoughts and actions and decide for himself what choices in life are truly right and honorable. Consider what is said and done in our degrees and you will begin to notice ways in which this view of education is expressed.

However, each of the seven can reveal specific Masonic truths, values, and concepts that go beyond the general use of the subjects. Future articles will look at each of the seven in more detail, but here are some brief points to think about in the meantime.

Grammar—give some thought to the elaborate and highly structured language of our rituals. Could there be a specific purpose for this, and what do you think it might be?

Logic—this subject concerns the methods of revealing truth when simple facts, common sense, and direct observation are not enough. It reveals to us unseen truths. How could this be a valuable tool for Masons?

Rhetoric—the art of arranging (the root word means “twisting”) language into a form that best convinces your audience of what you say. How is the ability to express yourself important to a moral life and social harmony?

Arithmetic—obviously good for accounting and architecture, but can it reveal anything to us about the nature of the universe?

Geometry—we call it the “sacred science,” but why? We are taught what they symbolize, but beyond that, why are the square and compass so revered by Masons that we place them on our altar?

Music—a strange entry to this list on first glance, as it is considered these days to be a leisure activity, not a required subject of study. Read a little about the science of musical scale, and think about how that connects

music to the two preceding subjects.

Astronomy—when Masonry began, the positions of celestial bodies were still generally considered to determine our fate, and astrology was seen as an exact science. Fewer people literally believe this these days, and our knowledge of the universe reveals a radically different place than that which was assumed during Masonry’s formative era. Is this subject therefore obsolete, or does it still have a place for Masons? Reflect on the phrase, “As above, so below.”

Over the next few months, I will give my answers to these subjects, but don’t wait for me. Find your own answers and we can compare notes later.

Fraternally,
Curtis Shumaker, Junior Warden

2009 Prestonian Lecture at Santa Monica – Palisades Lodge

Worshipful and Dr. John S. Wade, the 2009 Prestonian Lecturer for the United Grand Lodge of England, will deliver his paper entitled “*Go and do thou likewise: English Masonic processions from the 18th to the 20th Centuries,*” the Prestonian Lecture for 2009, at Santa Monica – Palisades Lodge No. 307 on Wednesday, September 9, 2009. The lodge is located at 926 Santa Monica Boulevard in Santa Monica. Friends in England who have heard this paper report that it and Dr. Wade’s delivery are excellent. It is believed that this visit will be the first time that a Prestonian lecturer has come to California to deliver his lecture during the year of his appointment.

A Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons will be opened at 7:00 p.m. on September 9th with Dr. Wade delivering his paper immediately following opening. A time will be allotted for questions to Dr. Wade after his presentation. As the paper will be delivered in a Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons, attendance is limited to Masons.

After lodge is closed, the brethren will adjourn to the dining hall for dinner and appropriate toasts in the English fashion. While there will be no charge for attending the tiled meeting where the paper is delivered, the charge for the dinner will be \$15 per person. Reservations are required for dinner with payment in advance. Checks for the dinner made payable to Santa Monica – Palisades Lodge No. 307 should be sent to Steve Doan, 6411 Seabryn Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-4755, with the names and e-mail addresses of those attending. Seating will be limited. Make your reservation early to ensure that you can attend this important event.

<p style="text-align: center;">Chaplains Prayer Father of Heaven. We thank you for divine wisdom and guidance, in the election and appointment of the new line of officers. May your blessings keep us on the square, and enable us to be on the level. May our lives overflow in gratitude to you . Amen Ed C., Chaplain</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">What Makes a Lodge Grow?</p> <p>If you asked fifty masons that very question, you would get fifty different answers. But how many of those answers would be viable solutions? To make a lodge grow you must do more than excel in the conferral of degrees. Activities must be organized to include, the membership, their families, and the public. The people involved in getting these activities in motion must be able to motivate and organize everyone. Without motivation and organization nothing will get done to build on what has already been established. Fresh ideas are essential. With the current line of officers in place new ideas have come forth. Ed C., Chaplain</p>
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Culver City-Foshay Lodge, No. 467,
Free & Accepted Masons



Presents the Hiram Award to
Richard Keith Pierce, PM
A Man for All Seasons



Wednesday Evening, 23 September, 2009

Reception - Seven o' clock

Dinner - Seven-thirty o' clock (\$15.00, RSVP Required)

Programme - Eight-thirty o' clock

Culver City Masonic Temple

9635 Venice Boulevard, Culver City, California 90232

RSVP: David Francis Philips, (213) 389-4567, dfpdfp@sbcglobal.net

