



Culver City-Foshay # 467 F. & A. M.

TRESTLEBOARD

FEBRUARY 2011



FROM THE EAST

What Goals Should Our Lodge Aspire to Achieve?

When beginning a new year and a new officer line, it is always worthwhile to ask questions such as: “What are the strengths of our lodge? Have we achieved the highest level of excellence of which we are capable? Are we fulfilling the needs and wants of our membership and community? What should our lodge be most known for? What should be its long term aims?”

Over the last couple of months, I have laid out some short term goals for the coming year, but a lodge should also have long term plans that define and enhance its permanent character beyond the year-to-year interests of its successive masters. No one member or master can determine or create a lodge’s permanent character; it must flow organically from the *gestalt* of the entire membership—past, present, and future.

In considering one’s own lodge, it might be useful to study famous and outstanding lodges of the past to serve as models, or at least as points of reference. Here are three:

The Lodge of Perfect Union in Austria, mid to late 1700s. This lodge exemplifies the best of almost all Masonic virtues and ideals. Its brethren included great scholars, university professors, artists, writers, scientists, government officials, priests, Knights of prominent orders, and regular citizens. It published not one but three journals which communicated Masonic concepts throughout Europe. Its members created great botanical and zoological centers of study and a massive Masonic library. They sponsored lecture series that featured the greatest scholars, scientists, and thinkers of the day. The lodge and its activities also inspired great Masonic-influenced works of music by Mozart, Haydn, and other composers. Although its membership and influence declined as a result of the Napoleonic wars and upheavals, it remains one of the brightest lights of Masonry.

La Loge des Neufs Soeurs in Paris, mid 1700s. Literally translated as the Lodge of the Nine Sisters, but allusively as the Lodge of the Nine Muses, its first master was Joseph Jerome De Lalande, the greatest French astronomer of his age and one of its finest mathematicians, as well as an important Masonic historian. Its second master was Benjamin Franklin, who was in France at the time to secure the country’s support for America’s Revolutionary War. Franklin was perhaps the world’s most well known living scientist—his discoveries in the electrical sciences were comparable to Newton’s work on gravity and light. Franklin’s many other accomplishments, of course, should be known by heart by every American Mason. Under this illustrious leadership, the lodge influenced many advancements in the sciences, mainly through its creation of the Apollonian Society, which established some of the best-equipped laboratories and science libraries in Europe. Its bi-continental membership included an amazingly long list of seminal figures, such as John Paul Jones, founder of the U.S. navy, and Voltaire, a leading philosopher of both the American and French revolutions.

Amalia Lodge in Germany, 1700s. Just as the lodges above were centers of scientific and civic development, Amalia Lodge was an inspirational center of literature and music. One of its members, Gotthold

Ephraim Lessing, was a playwright and poet who produced many works influenced by Masonic thought and was a leading light in the promotion of democratic thought throughout the world, as well as a proponent of world peace. In a time when German Masonry did not allow Jewish membership, Lessing played a crucial role in forcing the fraternity to fully embrace its ideal of universal brotherhood by allowing men of all religions to join as equals. Here is a sample of his writing:

So, free from prejudice, let each one aim
To emulate his Brethren in the strife
To prove the virtues of his several ring,
By offices of kindness and of love,
And trust in God. And if, in years to come,
The virtues of the ring shall reappear
Amongst your children's children, then, once more
Come to this judgment-seat. A greater far
Than I shall sit upon it, and decide.
So spake the modest judge.

Other members of Amalia Lodge included Johann Wolfgang Goethe, generally regarded in the Western canon of literature as second in greatness and excellence only to Shakespeare, and Friedrich von Schiller, after Goethe, Germany's greatest poet. Schiller's heavily Masonic poem "Ode to Joy" was used by Beethoven (who may also have been associated with Amalia Lodge) as the centerpiece of his iconic *Ninth Symphony*. Goethe's writings also addressed Mason themes on many occasions. "The Mason House" goes to the heart of what a Masonic lodge is all about. After describing the fear men have of "the Dark Portal" of death and the silence of the grave, the poem concludes with these lines:

But heard are the Voices-
Heard are the Sages,
The Worlds and the Ages;
"Choose well; your choice is
"Brief and yet endless;

"Here eyes do regard you
"In Eternity's stillness;
"Here is all fullness,
"Ye have, to reward you.
"Work, and despair not."

The Masonic Lodge is a fortress against death, where one's actions become a part of the eternal progress of humanity and, therefore, do not die with the individual, and are not forgotten when history itself dies.

Can our lodge aspire to the levels of achievement and greatness of the lodges discussed above? Not likely, but to fulfill our true potential, we need only measure ourselves against our own ambitions. This brings me to the point of this essay. I put the challenge before you: What should our lodge be when it reaches its fullest potential, and what specific actions can we take to reach that potential? Discuss this among the brethren over the next few weeks, develop your own plans and ideas, and bring them before the lodge—I will support them.

Merrick Hamer to Give Speech at Ionic Composite Speaker Series

Merrick Hamer, PM will be the inaugural speaker for Ionic Composite's Speaker Series on Wednesday, February 16, 7:15 p.m. at the Ionic Composite Lodge. Culver City-Foshay will be dark that night and all brethren are encouraged to attend the speech in support of Brother Hamer. His lecture is titled "The Mysteries

of the First Degree.” He will discuss aspects of the degree that are not usually explained in detail. The lecture will take place under a tiled lodge, open to all degrees. Entered Apprentices are especially encouraged to attend. Dress is business casual. Bring your dues card.

Fraternally,

Curtis Scott Shumaker, Master



FROM THE WEST

Greetings, Brethren!

Since being installed as Senior Warden of Culver City-Foshay Lodge, I would first congratulate the newly installed Master, Worshipful Brother Curtis Scott Shumaker on the outstanding event, the Public Installation of Officers which was held on January 9th. The ceremony was impressive, including ceremony and poetry, and the members involved did an exceptional job.

I sincerely thank the Brethren for choosing me as their Senior Warden. I promise a faithful commitment to my duties. As Senior Warden, I pledge to meet the following responsibilities: The coaching of all Candidates; the selection of qualified Brothers to coach candidates; providing Candidates Coaches Handbooks to all Candidate Coaches; verifying that candidates are progressing at a reasonable rate and that the Candidates Record Book is updated; preparing the Senior Warden's Trestle board articles, when required; service as a member of the Temple Association; preparing the calendar for the next year; preparing an estimated budget for the next calendar year; Consulting with the Master to develop a line of officer for the next year; attend the District Officers' Association Meetings; learning the work and lectures of the Third Degree and other required ritual by October; qualification in delivering the work of the Senior Warden in the three degrees; and attending all degree practices designated by the Master.

I furthermore pledge to attend to any other challenge requiring my attention in the ensuing year. Next month I shall focus on the following subjects:

The coaching of all Candidates;
The selection of qualified Brothers to coach candidates;
Providing Candidates Coaches Handbooks to all Candidate Coaches;
Verifying that candidates are progressing at a reasonable rate;
Verifying that the Candidates Record Book is updated;

Fraternally,

Masato Francis Taguchi
Senior Warden



FROM THE SOUTH

As it I take my seat in the South for a second time, and this time to follow the footsteps of yet another mason, dear brother, friend and future Master, Brother Francis Taguchi, I can't help but to ponder over how orderly a change in position happens in a Masonic lodge. This lesson, the transfer of power, along side the first lesson we are taught in masonry, to be good and true, are the hallmarks in what masonry teaches us. That anything and everything in life are but for only a period in time, and that change is the inevitable part of man's time on earth, we are reminded that while moving through our stations in life, we leave behind the legacy of our actions and the things that will be remembered. Masonry teaches us to contemplate and regard our actions as permanent and eternal. Our bodies and souls may move on, but what we say and do will remain forever, especially in the hearts and minds of our brothers. So, as I take my station in the South, I am mindful that to provide service to my brothers is my first and foremost priority, that I should also not forget service to my family, county, neighbor and myself as tantamount. We need to leave this world a much better place than that in which we entered it. If masons live up to this mantra and endeavor to make themselves better at every station in life, then they will have accomplished what they came to this world to do.

We Masons in particular have a profound responsibility to help people at "their" stations in life as well. It has been our indispensable duty to come to the aid of any distressed person. We Masons should use our station's power and prestige, whether it is money or vocation, to better the next person's life. As we do this, we shall have completed our mission in life as well as the "Masonic mission."

In closing, I want to remind every brother, that there will be times when we will have moments of weakness and tire of what life has to offer us. All we have to do is to look at the good the craft has done and try to follow the examples of the many good masons who have preceded us and the many good ones, examples of which we see in the young future leaders in our lodges. I, for one, am proud that the esteemed Culver City-Foshay lodge has an abundance of good Masons for all of us to follow..

Fraternally,

Mahmoud Ghaffari, P.M.,
Junior Warden



CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

God is in his heaven, and the lodge has started a New Year.

May the blessings of his love be forever with us.

May he help us be strong and wise.

And able to respond to the many wants and needs of this lodge.

May we, his humble servants be forever in his care.

May the officers, who have been lately installed, be guided by your wisdom and grace.

Amen

Ed Calzaretto
Chaplain

FEBRUARY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Dinner 6:30 pm Stated Meeting 7:30pm	3	4	5
6 Meet the Masters 10am-12pm Candidates School 9am-2pm	7	8	9 7:30 pm Degree/ Practice	10	11	12
13 Meet the Masters 10am-12pm Candidates School 9am-2pm	14	15	16 ° Lodge dark, Merrick Hamer Lecture at Ionic Composite 7:00pm	17	18	19
20 Meet the Masters 10am-12pm Candidates School 9am-2pm	21	22	23 ° 7:30 pm Degree/ Practice	24	25	26
27 Meet the Masters 10am-12pm Candidates School 9am-2pm	28					



Chef's MENU:
Stated Meeting Dinner

Chicken Champignon
Wild Salmon
Steamed Vegetables
Potatoes Au Gratin
Salad
Dessert

George Wollin
Chef