

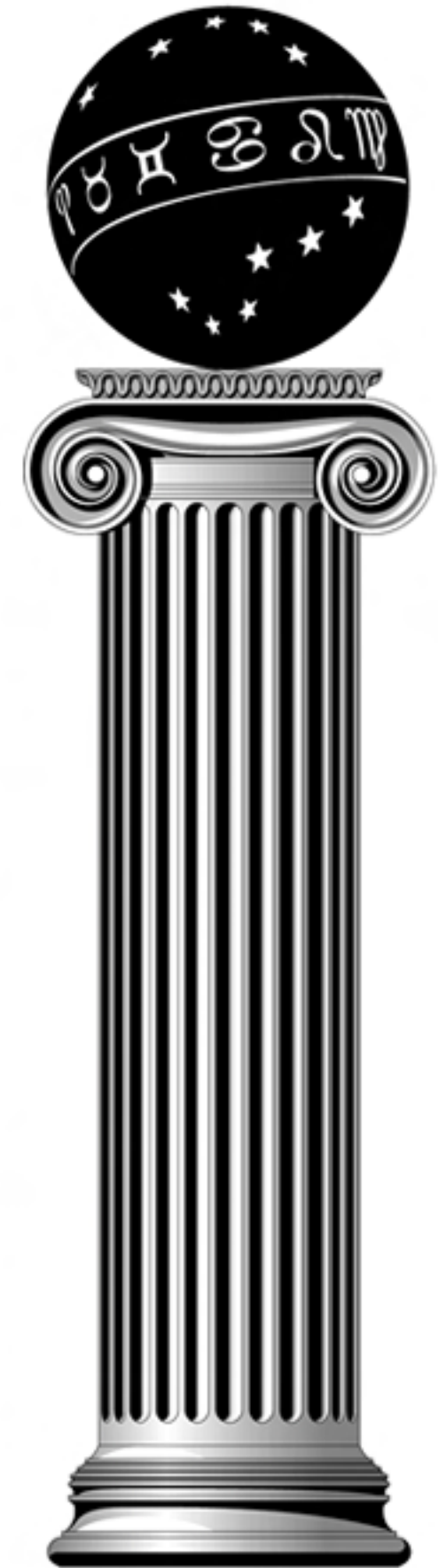
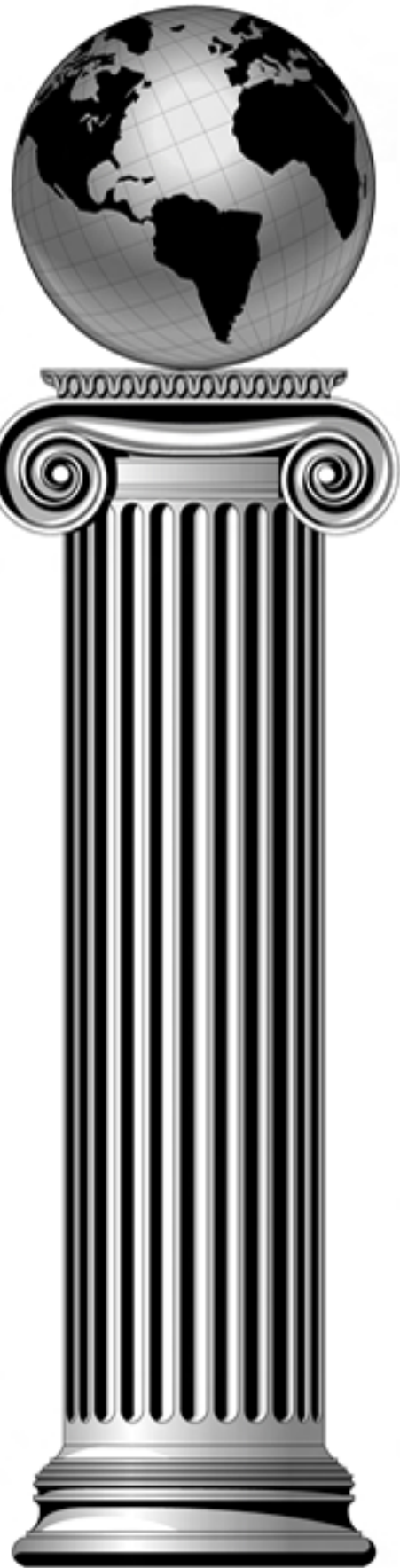
Culver City-Hoshay Lodge, No. 467
Free & Accepted Masons



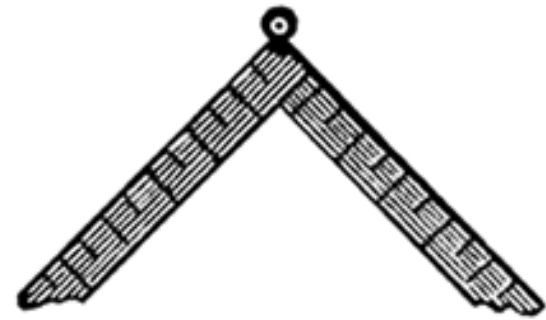
May 2012

AL 6012 Officers AD 2012

Masato Francis Taguchi (310) 562-8399	mft218@msn.com	Master
Mahmoud Ghaffari, PM (310) 800-4182	jon@ghaffaris.com	Senior Warden
Kenneth Leonell Burgess, II (323) 527-7147	cryo.hsien@gmail.com	Junior Warden
Douglas Scott Warner (310) 202-6747	Dougie03@SBCGLOBAL.net	Treasurer
Clarence David Kussner, PM (310) 398-7683	clarencek@ca.rr.com	Secretary
Edward Calzaretto (310) 398-4507	calzaret@ca.rr.com	Chaplain
Adam William Wolf (310) 927-8776	tikinoise@yahoo.com	Senior Deacon
Sam House (310) 948-2999	samhouse@mac.com	Junior Deacon
Luis Ernesto Menjivar (310) 621-7868	Lmenjedi@yahoo.com	Marshal
Brian M. Engelman (419) 575-0121	fuzzinstallment@yahoo.com	Senior Steward
James Keith Taylor (310) 990-8356	jamest@4over.com	Junior Steward
George Joseph Wollin (310) 694-4886	LDSWollin@msn.com	Tyler
Merrick Rees Hamer, PM (310) 480-0478	mrhamer@yahoo.com	Officers' Coach Organist
Michael Bear, PM (310) 962-4346	michael.bear@mac.com	Inspector of the 709th Masonic District



From the East



WHO BEST WORK AND BEST AGREE

Greetings brethren! I hope that by now you have received the newly formatted Trestleboard and have enjoyed appreciated its new appearance and organization. These improvements will continue to enhance future issues of our lodge's bulletins to the brethren. Part of the improvement is due to cooperation between our Trestleboard and Website committees. The Trestleboard can be accessed both by mail and via the Website and there have been sincere efforts to deliver timely and accurate information to the membership. We very much appreciate the sponsorships of those who have place business cards in the issues to help defray the costs of the improvements.

I had previously announced my intention to evaluate the financial condition of the lodge and to explore the possibility of a dues increase and a life membership program. These, of course, are subject matters that are complex and difficult to pursue, but I feel blessed by a committee that has worked very hard to achieve results that appear to have much promise. Obstacles that often confront financial committees considering such challenging question have typically resulted in delays or postponements. I am confident that this year we will reach resolution. Our future is, of course, in our hands.

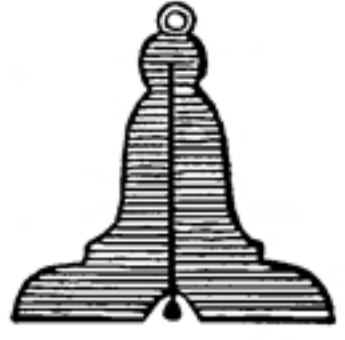
Last month, we experienced the first raising of the year. Congratulations to Brother Michael Ulmer who, after steadfastness and diligence with his previous work as an Apprentice and Fellowcraft, was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on March 11th! Congratulations are also extended to Brothers Brian Guillian and Cary B. Stratton who became our newest Apprentices as a result of their recent initiations. To them, I say, "Your Masonic journey has just begun and a great future awaits you." Finally, the progress made in initiating and raising our brothers was clearly attributable to the hard work and achievement of our officers. I am so appreciative and proud of our team. Let's do it! Let's work our best work! And Let us applaud those brethren who best work and best agree!

Fraternally,
Masato Francis Taguchi
Worshipful Master





From the West



Idols, to Have or Not to Have

Last week, I had the good fortune to be given a gift by my lovely wife, to go skiing with a childhood idol, for my 50th. I took this trip with my boys and along the way told them of stories about the idol and the inspiration he had on my life, (well at least on my skiing life). How I had seen him many decades ago, and yearned to see him again. That inspiration, I told them, kept me going until I had told myself, one day I will get to meet him again, and sure enough I did. “Boys” I said, “if you want something long and hard enough, and work towards that goal, and with a bit of luck and time on your side, you can achieve it. It can be anything, a small goal to get a better grade in a subject in school, or to exercise a bit more than the rest of your teammates to achieve a goal in a particular sport. Anything to make you look to the future to make one thing better in life than you have today.” So one of them then asked me: “How come you worship this idol?” This made me seriously think and pressed me to find a proper answer to his question. “Son,” I said, “I do not worship him. It is true that we have used such terms in masonry or DeMolay, but they are not the true intent of the usage of the words. They are terms of endearment and respect and no more.” Man should revere no other man. Perhaps the creator and Grand Architect should be revered, but not man himself. Indeed, we respect one another for accomplishing what seems unattainable at times in life and when we reach that plateau, then others of the same like and mind may indeed look well upon us. So the terms idol or worship are actually misnomers. We should not make empty heroes out of anyone, but rather to look at their good qualities and then emulate them ourselves; and when we reach that status we should always remember to pass along the same attributes to others. Look at me, therefore, and emulate the good you think I have, but go no further than that, and place me on no level higher than that of your equals. Is he an Idol? Perhaps! But when I step of the ski slopes he is to me Billy Kidd, the Olympian and I will shake his hand and thank him for his inspiration and will see myself as one very equal in his qualities as a man. I hope that I got through to them. Time will tell.

Fraternally,
Mahmoud Ghaffari, PM, Senior Warden ♦♦



From the South



Geometry: Natural & Sacred

A friend recently commented to me that she intends to deepen her pursuit of knowledge in her spiritual development. She said that she will be absorbing all the wisdom that she can through a closer observation of Nature. I told her that Masons are also taught to do just that, and I encouraged her to do so.

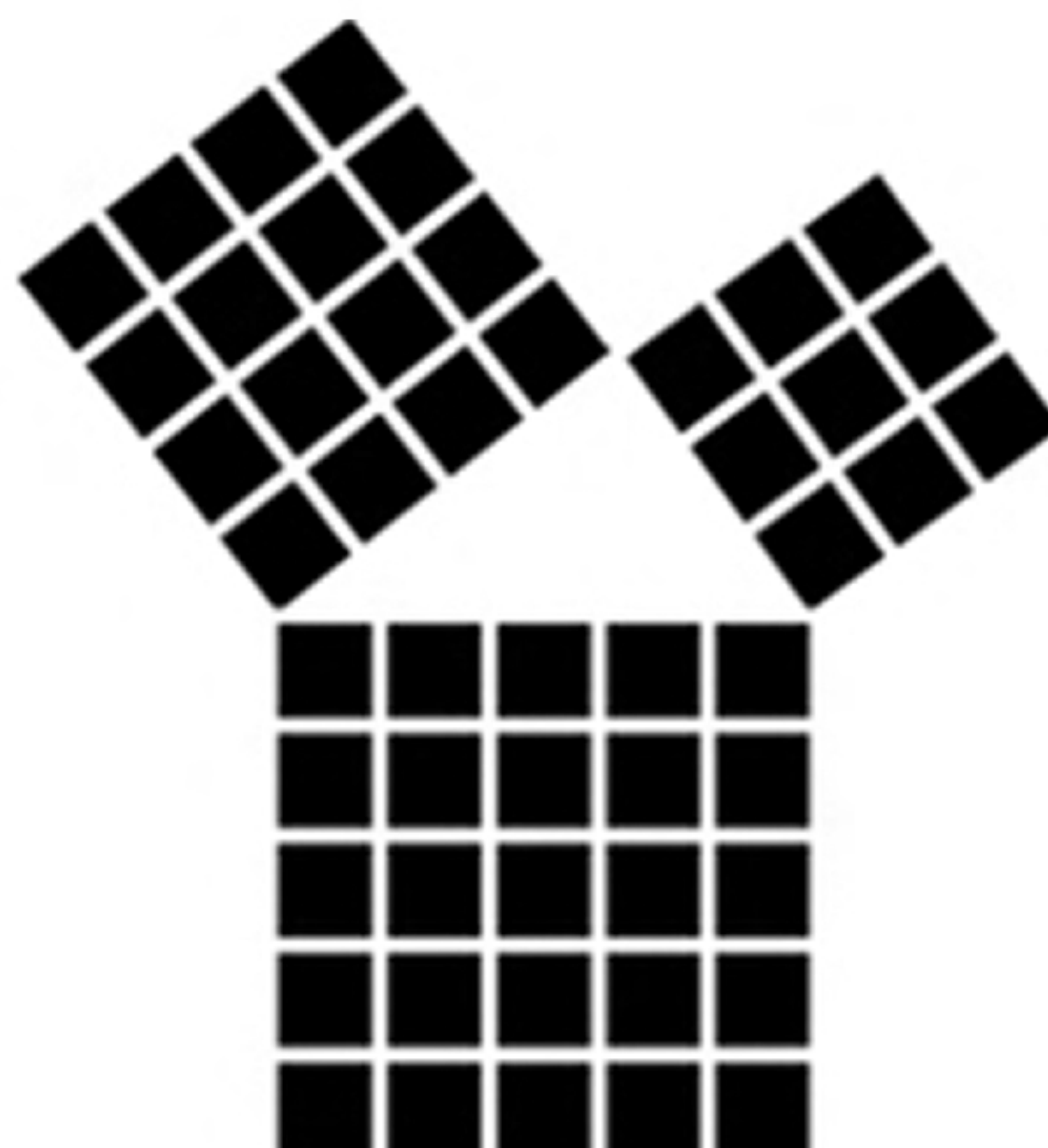
So how do Masons gain wisdom through observing Nature? Our Degrees suggest many directions to explore this question over the course of an entire lifetime. But one prominent theme along this line is the emphasis upon Geometry. While this noble science is expounded on at length in the Fellowcraft Degree, consider the fact that all of our physical experiences have geometrical shapes as the basic building-blocks for their design. Now realize that, either through meditation or focused intention, geometry is foundational to the mental process of goal-setting and creation.

By a closer observation of the very building-blocks of experience, deeper implication of “the powers and properties of magnitudes in general” can be utilized to enhance our creative processes. Sacred Geometry, therefore, manifests as we seek to emulate Divinity within this creative process; and through it The Great Architect of the Universe has designed the entire Cosmos.

May Blessings be upon all your worthy Creations, my Brothers!

Observe!...Learn!...then Design!

Fraternally,
Kenneth L. Burgess II





From the Secretary



The Grand Master has issued the following Proclamation to be promulgated during the Month of May, 2012:

PROCLAMATION

YOUTH ORDERS MONTH

Connect – Communicate – Commit

This year, the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of California resolves to *connect, communicate, and commit* to the communities outside our lodge buildings.

We make that same vow to the young men and women of DeMolay International, Job's Daughters International, and the International Order of Rainbow for Girls.

In recognition of the important role of DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Rainbow for Girls in the lives of California youth as well as the long-term goals of our fraternity, we have declared it a 2010-15 strategic priority to strengthen our Masonic youth orders.

I therefore PROCLAIM the month of MAY 2012 to be **YOUTH ORDERS MONTH**

and I direct that this Proclamation be read by the master at the May stated meeting and included in the lodge Trestleboard. During the month of May, I urge every lodge to plan a special meeting or program to demonstrate their support of Masonic youth.

Dated this 30th day of March, 2012.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Frank Loui
Grand Master

Attest:

Allan L. Casalou
Grand Secretary

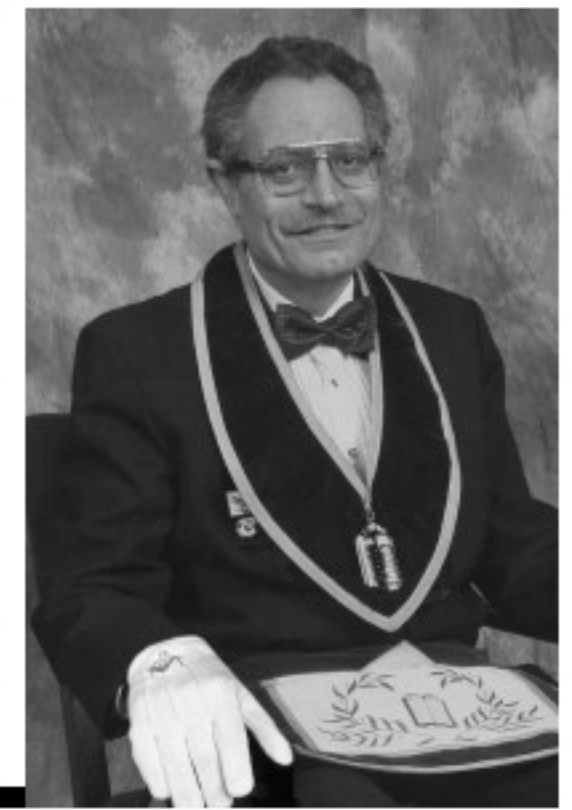
Please remember the admonition of every freemason to support the Public Schools.

Fraternally,

Clarence D. Kussner, PM, Secretary



From the Chaplain



To God in his Heaven;
April showers bring May flowers.
The earth renews itself under God's watchful eye.
At this time we pray for those in need.
We ask that your mercy follow them wherever they go.
May the world keep turning and life go on as it has.
And may our faith in your word be forever in our hearts.
Amen

Ed Calzaretto
Chaplain



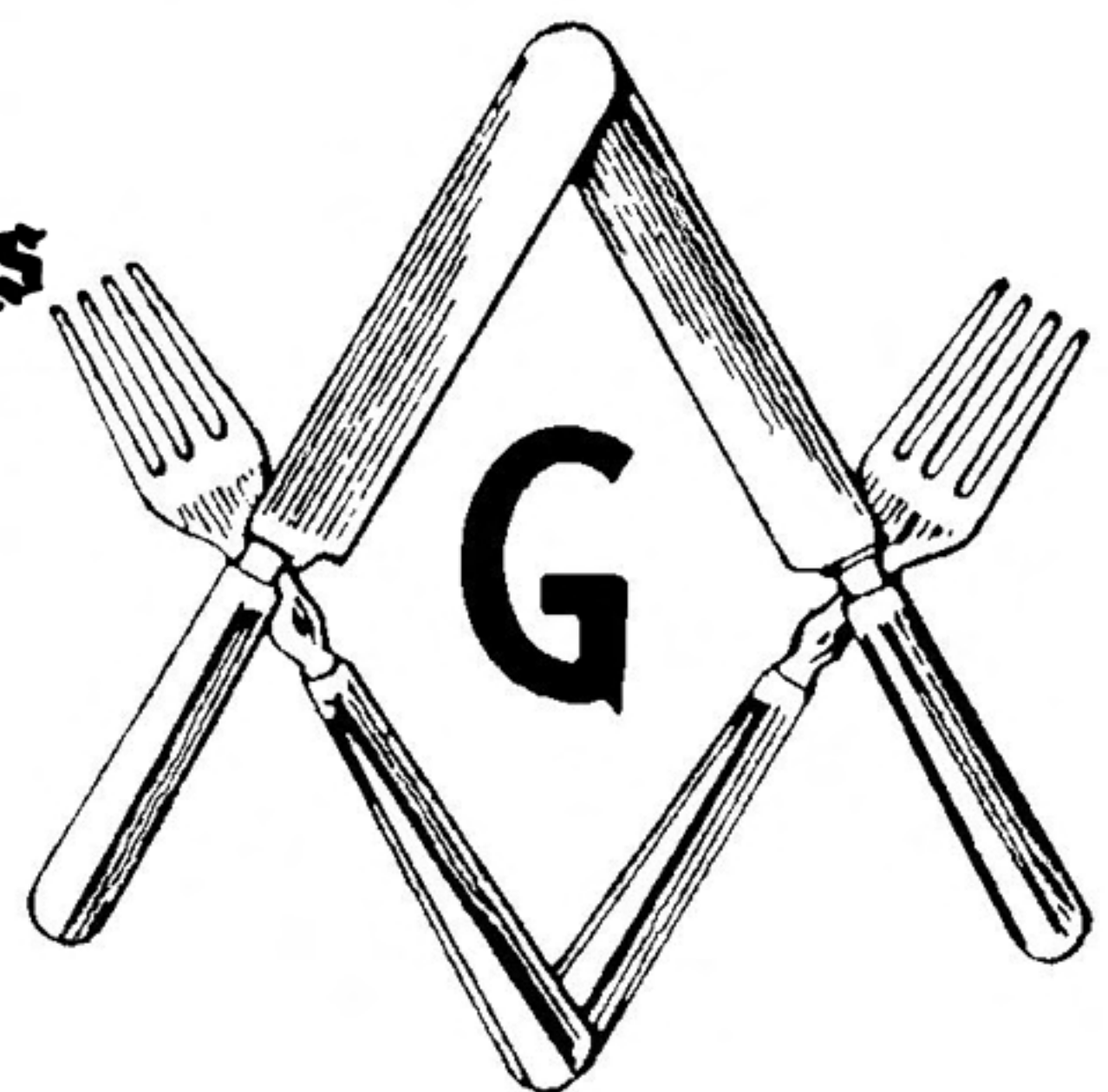
From the Chef

Stated Meeting Dinner Menu

~ Buffet \$15.00 ~

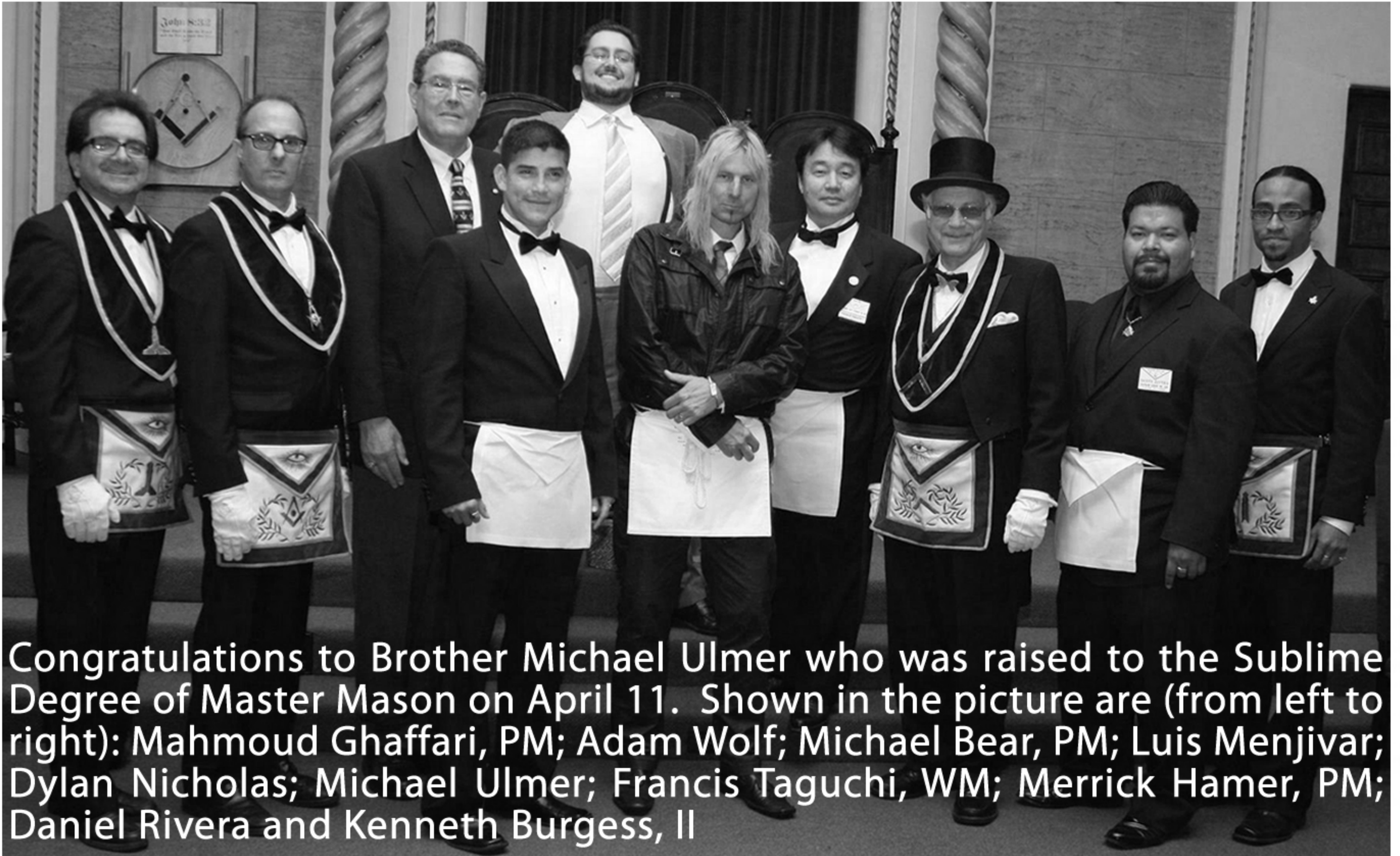
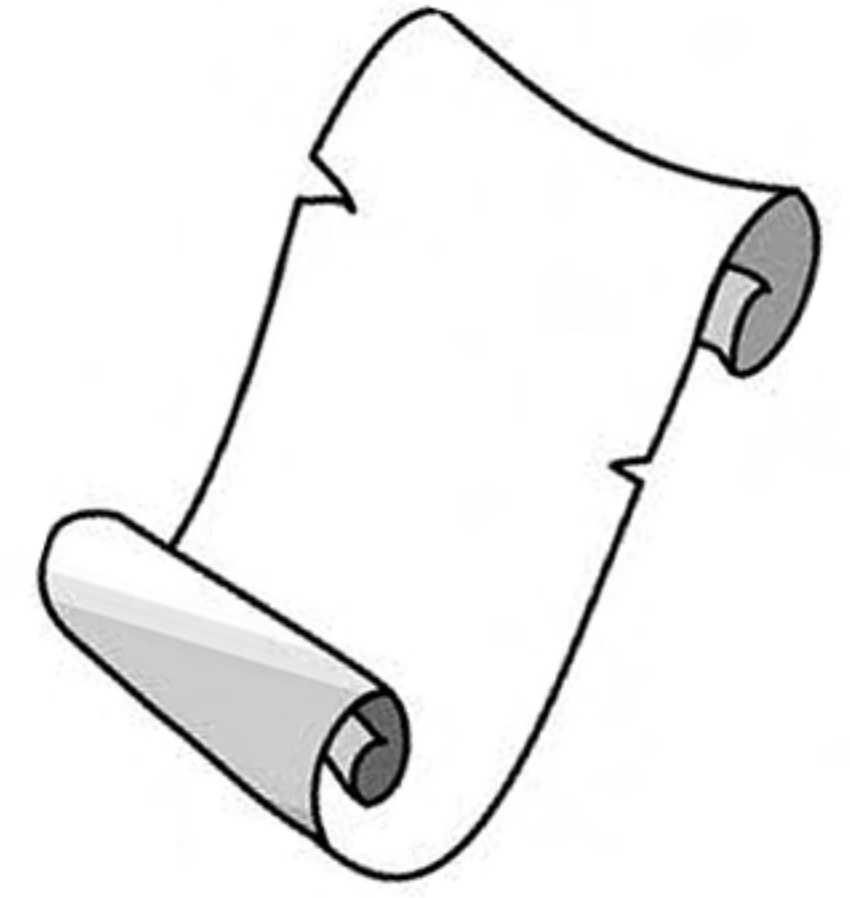
Chicken with Peach Chutney
Wild Salmon
Spring Vegetables
Spinich Salad
Scalloped Potatos
Chocolate Cake

The Stated Meeting Dinner is always at 6:30,PM,
one hour before the Stated Meeting of the Lodge,
which is the First Wednesday of each Month.



George J. Wollin, Tyler

Reports & Announcements



Congratulations to Brother Michael Ulmer who was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on April 11. Shown in the picture are (from left to right): Mahmoud Ghaffari, PM; Adam Wolf; Michael Bear, PM; Luis Menjivar; Dylan Nicholas; Michael Ulmer; Francis Taguchi, WM; Merrick Hamer, PM; Daniel Rivera and Kenneth Burgess, II

Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 28, 2012

10:30 a.m. to noon

**LOS ANGELES NATIONAL
CEMETERY**

950 S. Sepulveda Blvd.

(1 block north of Wilshire Blvd. at Constitution Ave.)

(Free parking at VA Medical Center, Park & Ride across the street)

Annual Table Lodge

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

\$35.00

RSVP with Ricky Sullivan

562 347 9914 or

Rwsullivan1973@gmail.com

Calendar

Meet the Masters & Candidate Education: Every Sunday, from 9:00AM to 2:00PM, the lodge hosts an Open House for guests and men inquiring about freemasonry. Also, candidates may receive assistance with their coaching and learning.

May

2nd	Dinner/Stated Meeting	6:30 PM
3rd	Temple Board Meeting	7:30 PM
9th	2nd Degree Conferral	7:00 PM
16th	Practice for Table Lodge	7:00 PM
23rd	Table Lodge	5:30 PM
24th	Social Night	7:00 PM
30th	OSI Oasis Lodge	7:30 PM at Oasis

June

6th	Dinner & Stated Meeting	6:30 PM
7th	Temple Board Meeting	7:30 PM
7th	Conspiracy Theories and Masonry	7:30 PM at Ionic
13th	Degree/Practice	7:00 PM
18th	OSI - 1st Degree	7:30 PM at Ionic
20th	Degree or Practice	7:00 PM
27th	Degree or Practice	7:00 PM
28th	Social Night	7:00 PM

May 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

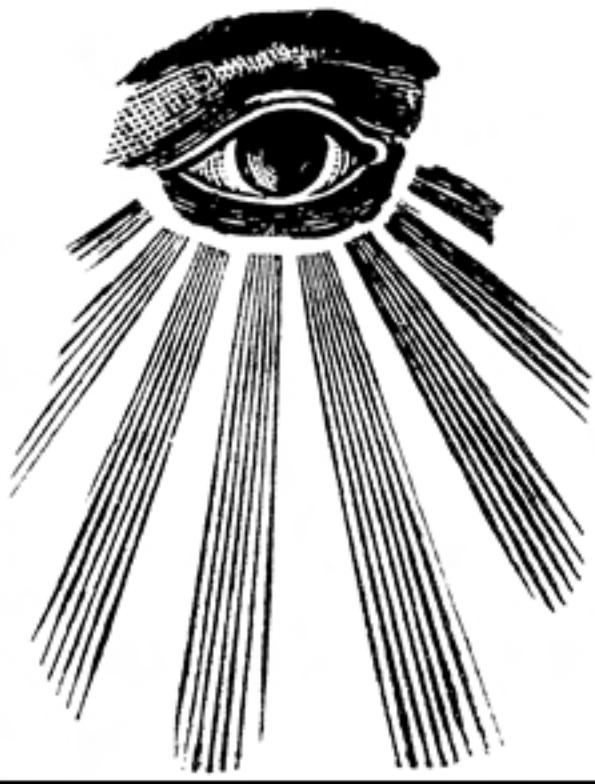
June 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Notice:
Occasionally, information on the calendar changes after the trestleboard is printed.
Make sure to check the website www.CulverCityMasons.org for any changes.

Birthdays in May



<i>May 1</i>	<i>Timothy R. Hagan</i>
<i>May 1</i>	<i>Walter D. Lavash</i>
<i>May 4</i>	<i>Vartan N. Nazarian</i>
<i>May 5</i>	<i>Bruce B. Ferrier</i>
<i>May 7</i>	<i>Clifford E. Monti</i>
<i>May 7</i>	<i>Jonathan P. Dilley</i>
<i>May 10</i>	<i>Brian M Engelman</i>
<i>May 18</i>	<i>Randall E. Ehler</i>
<i>May 23</i>	<i>David F. Philips</i>
<i>May 24</i>	<i>Russell R. Hughes</i>
<i>May 27</i>	<i>Marcus E. Williams</i>
<i>May 28</i>	<i>Christopher R. Sanders</i>
<i>May 28</i>	<i>Brad A. Davis</i>



Committees

Audit:

Sam House (310) 948-2999
Edward Calzaretto (310) 398-4507
Kenneth L. Burgess II (323) 527-7147

Charity:

Masato F. Taguchi (310) 562-8399
Mahmoud Ghaffari (310) 800-4182
Kenneth L. Burgess II (323) 527-7147

Child I.D.:

Clive S. Revill-PM (818) 995-8320
Douglas S. Warner (213) 999-7475

Community Outreach:

Robert Leggio (310) 245-2566

Finance:

Clarence D. Kussner, PM (310) 398-7683
Douglas S. Warner (213) 999-7475
Thomas O. Fleming, Jr. (310) 337-7601
Michael Spreier (626) 799-6304
Michael P. Hartman (917) 207-8003
Adrian Beckmann (310) 904-9463
Bobby Arnold (323) 574-5741

Funeral:

Merrick R. Hamer, PM (310) 480-0478

Library:

Merrick R. Hamer, PM (310) 480-0478
Todd Jeffrey (310) 948-5465

Masonic Outreach:

Luis E. Menjivar (310) 621-7868
Christopher Coppola (213) 712-3017

Masonic Service Bureau:

Sam House (310) 948-2999
Adrian Beckmann (310) 904-9463
Robert Leggio (310) 245-2566

Membership Retention:

Clarence D. Kussner-PM (310) 398-7683

Refreshments (Dinner & JW Acct.)

Kenneth L. Burgess II (323) 527-7147
George J. Wollin (310) 694-4886

Saints John Feast:

Curtis S. Shumaker, PM (626) 388-6563
Carroll R. Runyon (714) 649-0651

Sickness & Visitation:

Mahmoud Ghaffari (310) 800-4182
Clarence D. Kussner, PM (310) 398-7683

Social Nights:

Sam House (310) 948-2999

Strategic Planning:

Michael P. Hartman (917) 207-8003
Jason L. Berry (323) 418-0758

Table Lodge:

Richard Pierce, PM (310) 839-8853
Ricky Sullivan (562) 347-9914

Trestle Board:

Curtis S. Shumaker, PM (626) 388-6563
Merrick R. Hamer, PM (310) 480-0478

Communications:

Sean Fernald (213) 280-4223

Website:

Sam House (310) 948-2999

Youth Orders:

Merrick R. Hamer, PM (310) 480-0478
Clarence D. Kussner, PM (310) 398-7683
Roderick Wollin (310) 930-2565
Michael P. Hartman (917) 207-8003

The Order of DeMolay



Support the Masonic Youth Groups!

To our Friends, Masons, Eastern Stars, Senior DeMolays and Majority Job's Daughters:

Grand Bethel (June 21-23) and Conclave (September 1-3) are coming. Some of our kids cannot afford the experience. I am asking if you could fully or partially sponsor a youth to go to one of these events. the cost is approximately \$250.00.

Please send checks to the Clarence Kussner, the lodge Secretary.

Checks should be payable to:

"Theodore Roosevelt Chapter, DeMolay" or

"Bethel No. 2, Job's Daughters".

Thank you,

Renee Kussner, Fund Raising Advisor

Theodore Roosevelt Chapter

The International



Order of Job's Daughters

Dear Culver City Masons,

Thank you so much for the donation to help get our girls to Grand Bethel! We really really appreciate it and we can't wait to make you proud by bringing back even more trophies! We appreciate donations of any and all sizes. Donations of \$50 or more will earn you a dozen home made cookies and sponsoring a girl with a donation of \$250 will also earn you cookies and a special recognition.

Upcoming events:

April 23rd Regular Meeting and possibly initiation 7pm

May 4th Grand Guardian's Official Visit at Bethel No. 50 Lomita

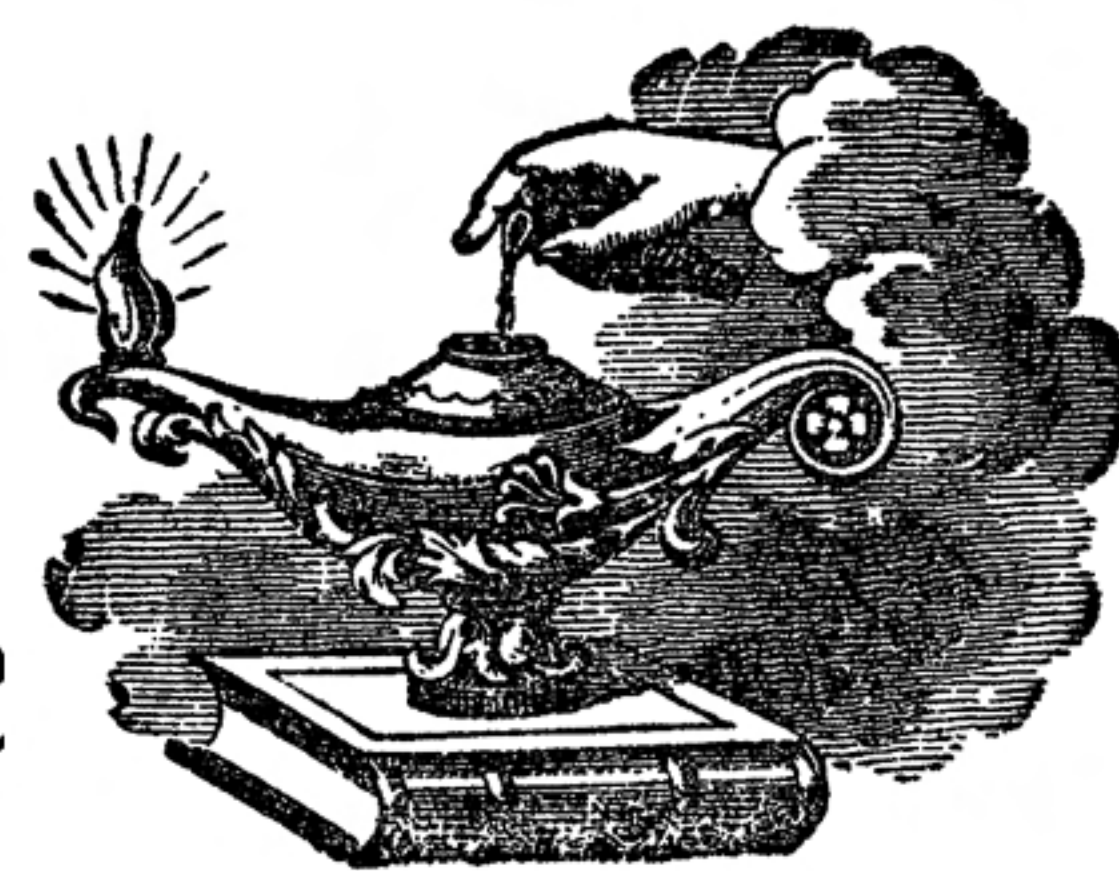
May 5th Trip to the Getty Museum

May 14th Regular Meeting 7pm

May 20th Trip to the Santa Monica Pier

May 28th Regular Meeting 7pm

From the Lamp of Knowledge

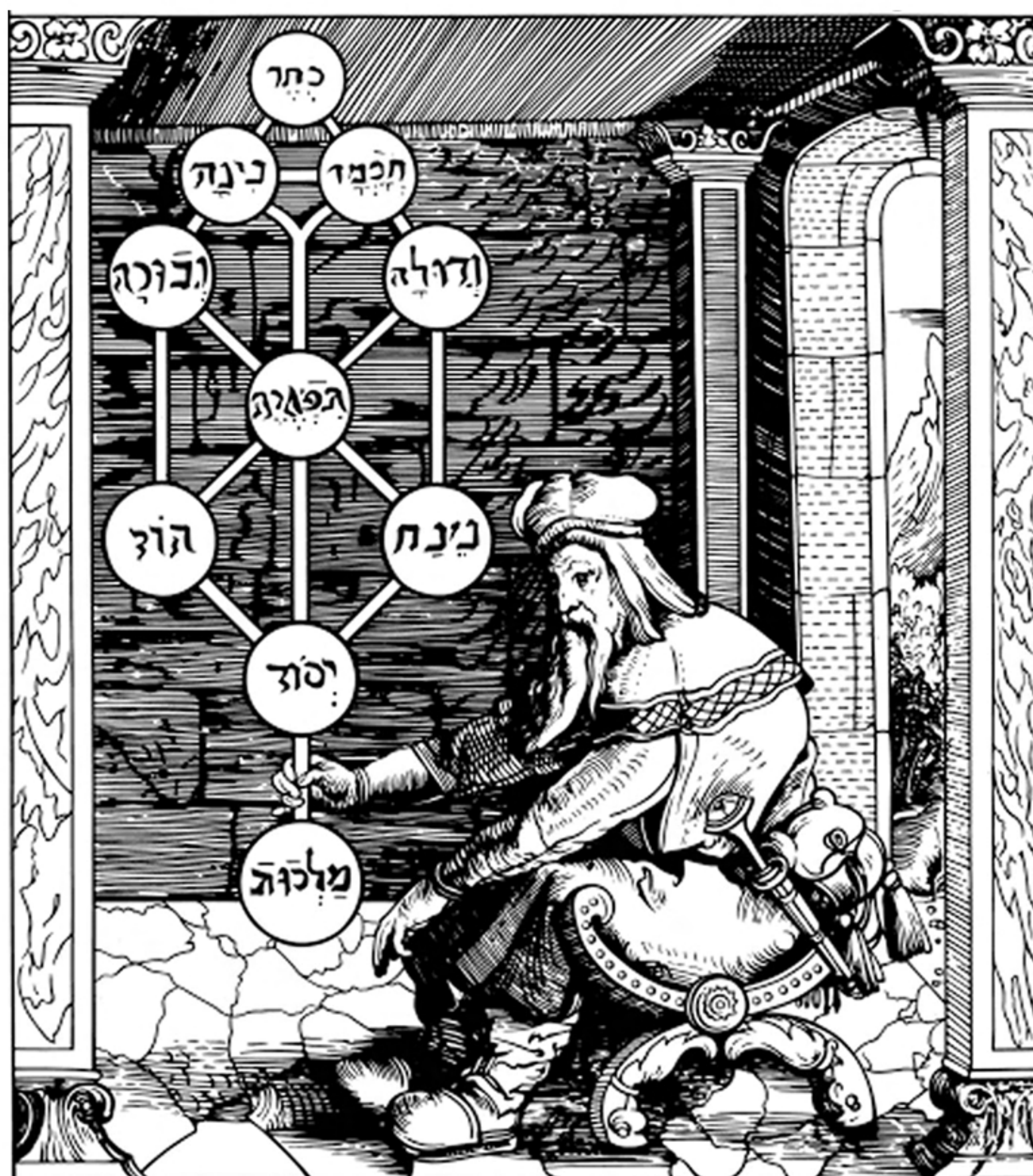


The Kabbalah, the Tree of Life, and the Masonic Lodge Room, Part I

On April 18th, Ionic Composite Lodge No. 520 hosted a panel of scholars from the Southern California Research Lodge who discussed the influence of Kabbalah on Freemasonry. For those who are not familiar with the subject, Kabbalism is an esoteric Hebrew spiritual system of philosophy, scriptural analysis, meditation, and moral practice. It includes a large variety of concepts and beliefs. As the scholars at this lecture pointed out, its roll in the shaping of Masonic tradition and ritual deserves a great deal of study; however, this brief article will be confined to a description of the Kabbalist Tree of Life and its relation to the floor plan of a lodge.

As seen in the diagram on the right and the next page, the Tree of Life is an arrangement of ten disks which represent the 10 emanations of God, know as the 10 Sephiroth (the unnumbered one, Daath, is a sort of phantom — it is not a formal part of the Tree, but is implied theoretically).

Together, they represent the totality of Creation, including both the Earthly and Supernal worlds. The bottom Sephira (singular spelling of Sephiroth) is Malkuth, which means Kingdom, the Earthly realm of existence.



At the Top is Kether, the Crown, the source of the divine powers which manifest all Creation. These powers flow down and are received in Malkuth through the sequence indicated by the numbers. Humans can also see the Tree as a sort of stairway or ladder, perhaps Jacob's Ladder, which one may "climb" by studying and embodying each Sephira from the bottom up, in the process becoming more divine, reaching closer to the Supernal world.

(Continued on next page)

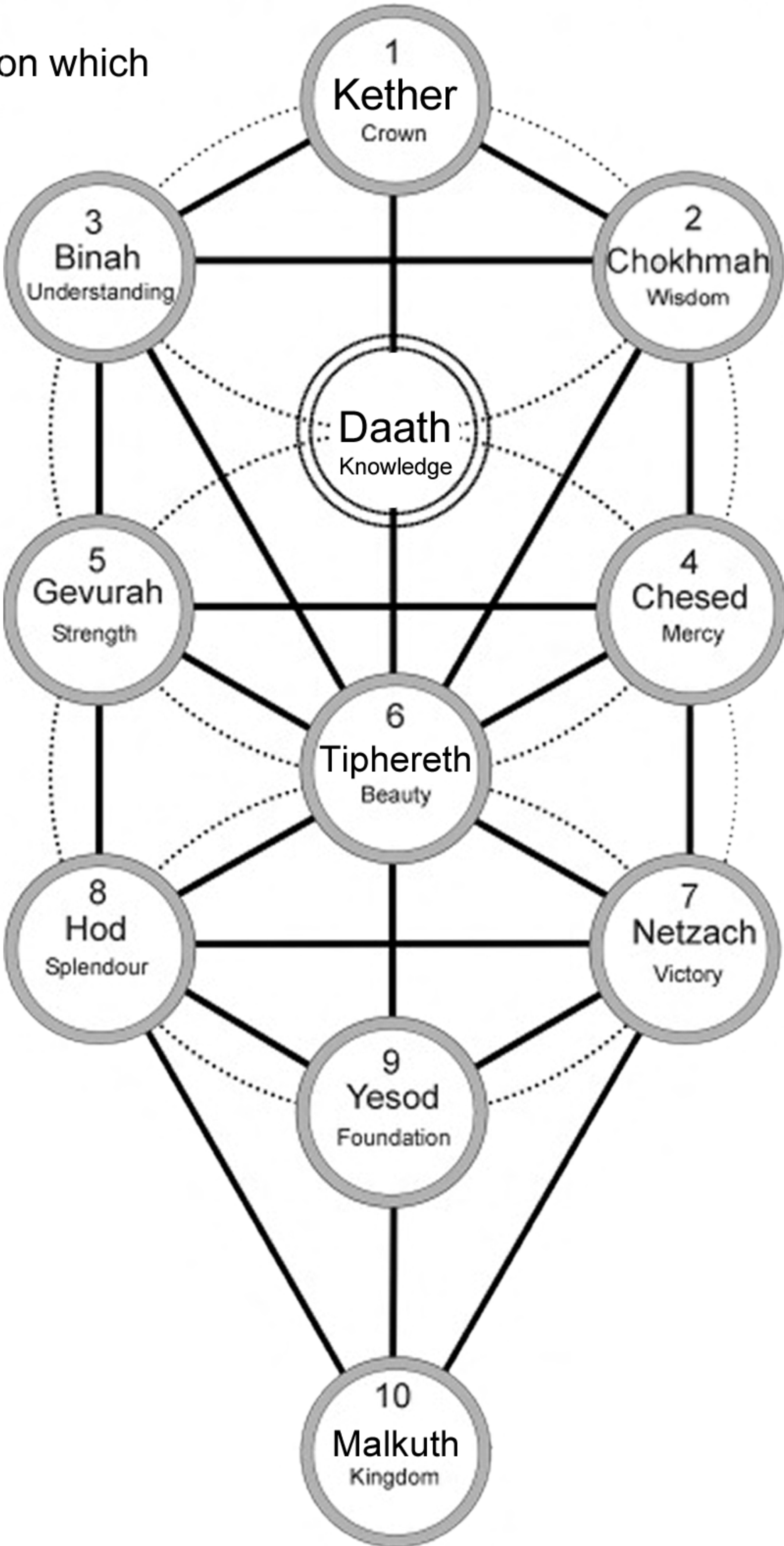
The complexities of the Tree are far beyond the scope of this brief essay, but I wish to draw attention to the central column of Sephiroth. It is often called the Pillar of Moderation, the balance between the Pillar of Strength on the left and the Pillar of Mercy on the right. Consider the floor plan of our lodge with the central column superimposed over it. Malkuth overlays the seat of the Senior Warden. Tiphereth, Beauty, is positioned over the altar. At the top, where the Master sits in the East, is Kether, the Crown. Remember, upon your first entry into the lodge as a candidate, you were placed in the position of Yesod, Foundation, You were asked to do something that was, in fact, the foundation of your Masonic life. In all of the degrees, you were placed in the position of Daath, Knowledge, whenever you received knowledge through the instructive lectures of the Master. I don't want to give too much away to the uninitiated, but consider the Third Degree especially:

Do you remember the Sephria on which you began your final journey to become a Master Mason?

The Sephria on which you became a Master Mason?

To understand Masonry, it is not necessary to understand Kabbalah, but study of this unique esoteric system can greatly enrich the experience and understanding of our rituals. In next month's essay, some further connections to the Kabbalah and the specific and unique design of Foshay's lodge will be explored.

Fraternally,
Curtis Scott Shumaker, PM



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