

## AU 6013 Officers AD 2013

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#### Brethren:

Trestleboards are one of the most valuable, yet expensive assets of the lodge. In order to control costs, we have limited the number of brothers receiving the lodge trestleboards via US Mail (Snail mail).

In order to continue to receive them by US Mail, you must contact the lodge Master, Mahmoud Ghaffari, at jon@ghaffaris.com or the lodge Secretary, Clarence Kussner, at clarencek@ca.rr.com or the lodge message centre at (310) 836-0467. Otherwise your future trestleboards will be e-mailed only.

- Sam House, Trestleboard Editor

(continued from page 13)

#### Steward

The word "steward" is much more mysterious (again, very fitting for a Masonic term) and apparently entirely of English origins. It is a combination of the Old English words "stig" and "weard." We simply do not know what the word stig meant to the Anglo/Saxon culture, although it seemed to have something to do with houses, or maybe a particular part of a house, perhaps upstairs because it appears to derive from the word stigan, which means "to climb." The second part of the word, weard, is much more meaningful to us. It means to guard something, which is where we get the word guard itself, as well as warden, the name another Masonic office. Also, through a series of changes in spelling and pronunciations, weard gives us the versatile word "lord," which in Old English was hlaf weard. Hlaf meant "loaf" which in turn meant "bread." The half weard (later lord) was the "keeper or guardian of the bread," referring to the tribal chieftain who, among his other duties, kept and distributed the tribe's supply of grain during the winter season. Thus, the word came to indicate leader, as in king or noble lord. Finally, when the translators of the English Bibles chose this word for both God and Christ. the word took on religious connotations.

Throughout history, the office of steward has gained more and more prominence and authority in general use. The first uses of the word in English were for the persons who managed the domestic affairs of a large household, such as preparing food. Apparently, stewards on this low level could be women as well as men, and indicated in this quote from 1679 that seems far ahead of its time in commenting on the poor status of women when it came to employment: "I cannot think that God Almighty ever made them so delicate, so glorious Creatures and all to be only Stewards of our Houses, Cooks, and Slaves."

Later, the office of steward was given a more special status, such as the member or servant of a university who had charge of the president's table, bringing it more in line with the modern Masonic Steward's relation to the Master. Still more prestigious was the office of steward in relation to the king, officially a nobleman assigned to be "Lord Steward of the King's Household," a manager of the palace "above the stairs," that is, outside the area where official state business was conducted. Later, this authority was extended into the political realm itself as the Great Steward or High Steward who took the place of the king in certain circumstances, but who could never aspire to kingship himself (of course, at this level, there were no women stewards). The most well know contemporary example of this type of steward is found in J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings: the character of Deneathor, last in the line of the Stewards of Gondor who, despite ruling the kingdom with full authority for centuries, could only sit in a chair at the foot of the throne of the apparently permanently absent king.

The Masonic office of Steward isn't quite so high, but notice that the original food connotation is still preserved in the duties of the Stewards and Junior Warden, who prepare the food for the lodge before or after meetings.

If the brethren find this line of exploration useful and interesting, future articles will address the remaining positions; please let me know what you think. Also, if those who serve in the offices yet to be covered have special questions, comments, or insights into their titles, pass them on and I will do my best to include them.

# From the Kast





Special Grand Session

T he Grand Lodge installation is almost upon us and we must embark on planning and organizing for it. An organized, well thought out plan is the hallmark of all of our Masonic endeavors. As the master of the lodge, it is one of my duties to ensure that events and strategic plans are carved out well ahead and that they keep in step with tactical plans well executed for the year. The tactical plans are usually those that are long term and have been handed down either through the California Masonic Code or Past Masters. Many of them will be carried out into subsequent years. A well run lodge is like a well-run business. All the moving parts must work in unison and the glue that holds them together is the planning. Of course each part of this machine, aka the officers, must also do its part to make sure the machine is working well. Showing up to practices, degrees and stated meetings on time, not being late to stations and taking over roles the master asks of one, is all part of this activity.

So, let's think a little ahead and start planning for our incoming Grand Master's Installation, to be held during the Grand Lodge Session in San Francisco, later this year. I would like many of the members of the lodge, in particular the officers to make a concerted effort and try to make this installation. Our Past Master and Secretary of this lodge will be assuming the mantle of the Grand Master and it would show a great spirit of support if we had the largest contingent of members show up to this event. To that end, I have asked Worshipful Brothers Kussner and Hamer to spearhead this committee and help me in organizing our trip. We will have vans and hotel rooms if enough brothers sign up to go. I had asked Worshipful Hamer to make this announcement in my absence at the May stated meeting, so we have enough lead time in making plans and organizing this auspicious trip.

So please mark your calendars and let's go to San Francisco together, to celebrate and have fun. See most of you there!

Fraternally, Mahmoud Ghaffari, Master





# From the Mest



### Solomon's Wheel Revisited

L ast month, our Junior Warden shared a bit of Wisdom that we received during the 2013 Master & Wardens Retreat. Brother Wolf spoke about a powerful tool called Solomon's Wheel that helps to calibrate and reinforce Masonic tenets into our decision-making processes, both within and without the Lodge. It is indeed a conceptual device and topic worthy of revisiting.

I want to dedicate a multi-part series of articles to speak about another bit of Wisdom that was shared at this year's Retreat. The lesson was on how to harmonize multiple personalities in a Lodge.

No, there's no need for the services of a trained psychiatrist for this version of "multiple personalities". The personas that we speak of here are representative of diverse perspectives of the individual Brothers and each of the personalities can be made into a harmonious order (as opposed to a disorder). The practical usefulness of Solomon's Wheel returns here, as these are the very principles that get the personalities to stay on course and committed to common goals even in the midst of diverse and, at first, seemingly exclusive styles of approach.

Next month, in Part 2, we'll take a glimpse into three distinct styles of personality within the Lodge: The Leapers; The Tradition Holders; and The Bridge Builders.

Fraternally,

K.L. Burgess II Senior Warden



# From the Lamp of Knowledge

The Naming of The Officers by Curtis Scott Shumaker

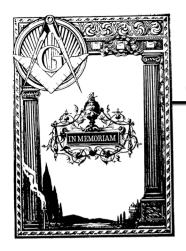
One of the most familiar features of a Masonic lodge is its officer line. Through all three of our initiations, we see and interact with the brethren who fill these positions, and in the First Degree opening, we hear seven of them recite short speeches describing their duties within the lodge. During the course of our Masonic formation, we learn about the symbols of their office, but we don't hear much about when, how, and why most of these particular positions became a part of our ritual. I will leave it for another time to explore the Masonic history of these positions (perhaps another brother may choose to take up that challenge) but this article will focus on what the names actually mean in the hope that understanding the names will give insight into the nature and essence of each office. For this month, we will start with the offices of the Tyler and Steward.

#### Tyler

Fittingly for an organization that, at least in its speculative form, developed in England, the word "tyler" comes down to us from the group of Germanic languages to which English belongs. We first see it in Old English as tigule, entering our language from the West Germanic tegala, which in turn goes back to the Latin word tegere, which means "to cover." Although today we think of tiles as floor ornaments, the word in early English most commonly referred to roofing tiles or shingles, thin slabs of wood, cut stone, or fired ceramic. However, just as for Masons today, tile generally connotes the idea of protection. Interestingly, some uses of the word seem to communicate ethical value, just as our symbolic tools do. For example, here is a quote from 1340 (with the spelling changed to modern standards): "Tribulation makes patience just as fire makes tiles hard." Also, English makes use of the word in phrases that indicate a failure of proper behavior or discretion, such as in this 1871 quote, "He's not right in the head, you know. A tile loose." On the other hand, a tile on the head could indicate a mark of accomplishment; note the similarity to another Masonic term in this sentence from 1813: "A number of Fellows and scholars with black tiles upon their heads."

We see the verb form of the word (to tile) come in to English in the 1400s, usually meaning to cover up or cover over. In the 1700s, the century in which Masonry takes on a more public role, the Masonic use of the word starts to enter the language, as in these two quotes: "The doors of those mysterious meeting-places are 'tiled' as securely as Freemasons' lodges" and "A Parliament chamber is close tiled." We can see how the role of the Masonic Tyler reflects the nature of the tile itself: something that is positioned in a building for the purpose of protecting the interior.

(continued on next page)



# In Memoriam

Freemasons mourn the death of a Brother

## **Philip Lewis Clarke**

Born September 8, 1938

Initiated April 19, 1984

Passed September 4, 1984

Raised October 30, 1984

Entered into Rest April 23, 2013



Almighty Father, into Thine hands we commend the spirits of our beloved Brother.





## Charity

A recent radio broadcast on the topic of Primatology addressed how it is thought that humans are the only primates that do good things for others. This led me to think about charity. As we say in the lecture the Entered Apprentice Mason, "to relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent upon all men."

The Buddha said: "The Charitable man is loved by all; his friendship is prized highly; in death his heart is at rest and full of joy, for he suffers not from repentance; he receives the opening flower of his reward and the fruit that ripens from it. The charitable man has found the path of salvation. He is like the man who plants a sapling, securing thereby the shade, the flowers and the fruit in future years. Even so is the result of charity; even so is the joy of him who helps those who are in need of assistance."

Charity is an act done freely, spontaneously and out of friendship, not as a civic duty performed grudgingly, as is sometimes the case with public charity outside the fraternity. Our definition is nearer to its pure, original sense, for a Mason extends relief to a needy brother not as a duty, but out of sincere friendship and affection.

Masons are taught to meet upon the level, regardless of wealth or station. We aim to not only to relieve a brother's material wants, hunger, shelter, etc., but also to recognize his spiritual needs on an equal level with ourselves. We find that "indispensable duty" not improves the lives of others, but ourselves and the entire community. As Masons we join in doing so much for education, children's, hospitals, eye care, the homeless, and performing numerous other charitable contributions. As we say about relief, "it is a duty incumbent to all men, but particularly Masons.

Fraternally, Adam Wolf, Junior Warden





#### PROCLAMATION

#### YOUTH ORDERS MONTH

Beyond the Lodge

This year, the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of California is making a special effort to go beyond the lodge, making a profound difference in our communities and in our worldwide fraternity.

DeMolay International, Job's Daughters International, and the International Order of Rainbow for Girls provide a structure and community for young people. Within their framework, young men and women are inspired to make good choices and live by Masonic values.

These youth orders need our support. By getting involved, as individuals and as lodges, as adult leaders and as fraternal family, we continue to rebuild DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Rainbow for Girls. We make it possible for their legacy in Masonry to live on.

I therefore PROCLAIM the month of MAY 2013 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 29th day of March, 2013.

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Sincerely and Fraternally,

John F. Lowe

Grand Master

Attest:

Allan L. Casalou Grand Secretary



## Anmnitteez

THE THREE		_	
<u>Audit:</u>		Membership Retention:	
Sam House	(310) 948-2999	Clarence D. Kussner-PM	(310) 398-7683
Edward Calzaretto Kenneth L. Burgess II	(310) 398-4507 (323) 527-7147	Refreshments (Dinner & JW Acct.)	
<u>Charity:</u>		Kenneth L. Burgess II George J. Wollin	(323) 527-7147 (310) 694-4886
Masato F. Taguchi Mahmoud Ghaffari Kenneth L. Burgess II	(310) 562-8399 (310) 800-4182 (323) 527-7147	Saints John Feast:	
Child I.D.:	(323) 327 7147	Curtis S. Shumaker, PM Carroll R. Runyon	(626) 388-6563 (714) 649-0651
Edward Calzaretto	(310) 398-4507	Sickness & Visitation:	
Clive S. Revill-PM Douglas S. Warner		Mahmoud Ghaffari Clarence D. Kussner, PM	(310) 800-4182 (310) 398-7683
Community Outreach:		Strategic Planning:	<b>(</b> , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Robert Leggio	(310) 245-2566	Michael P. Hartman	(917) 207-8003
Finance:		Jason L. Berry	(323) 418-0758
Clarence D. Kussner, PM Douglas S. Warner	1 (310) 398-7683 (213) 999-7475	Table Lodge:	
Thomas O. Fleming, Jr. Michael Spreier	(310) 337-7601 (626) 799-6304	Richard Pierce, PM Ricky Sullivan	(310) 839-8853 (562) 347-9914
Michael P. Hartman Adrian Beckmann Bobby Arnold	(917) 207-8003 (310) 904-9463 (323) 574-5741	Trestle Board:	
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Merrick R. Hamer, PM	(310) 480-0478	Social Nights:	(,
<u>Library:</u>		Sam House	(310) 948-2999
Merrick R. Hamer, PM Todd Jeffrey	(310) 480-0478 (310) 948-5465	Communications:	(310) 310 2333
Masonic Outreach:		Sam House	(310) 948-2999
Luis E. Menjivar Christopher Coppola	(310) 621-7868 (213) 712-3017	Website:	
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Adrian Beckmann Robert Leggio	(310) 904-9463 (310) 245-2566	Merrick R. Hamer, PM Clarence D. Kussner, PM Roderick Wollin	(310) 480-0478 (310) 398-7683 (310) 930-2565

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# May Birthdays



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

# Sarinday,

## If you would like to contact one of these Brothers to wish them a Happy Birthday, you may retrieve their contact information from www.freemason.org

# Chaplain's Prayer



A Prayer of Brotherly Thoughts

Almighty Lord and God:

We study ritual, We make better men of good men.
We pursue a way of life and work for a greater purpose!
May you guide us on the road to a common good!
May we keep you in our thoughts, and always in our hearts!
May our struggles be few and our successes many!
May we as Brothers help each other throughout our lives!
And may you be there in the good times and in the bad!

Amen.

Ed Calzaretto, Chaplain



# Chef's Menu



## Stated Meeting Dinner Menu

Tri-Tip of Beef

Spring Salad

Baked Wild Salmon

Scalloped Potatoes

Steamed Vegetables

Assorted Cheese Cake

-Buffet  $\$15^{.00}$  -

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.

# Reports & Announcements









# Calendar

Meet the Masters & Candidate Education every Sunday 9AM - 2PM The lodge is open to guests and men inquiring about Freemasonry. Candidates may receive assistance with their Masonic Education.

1st	Dinner & Stated meeting	6:30 PM
2nd	Temple Board meeting	7:30 PM
8th	1st Degree (Swedish Brothers visiting)	9:00 AM
15th	3rd Degree	7:00 PM
22nd	3rd Degree	7:00 PM
29th	OSI, 3rd Degree	7:00 PM @ Ionic
30th	Social night	7:00 PM

#### June

5th	Dinner & Stated meeting	6:30 PM
6th	Temple Board meeting	7:30 PM
12th	Degree / Practice	7:00 PM
19th	Degree / Practice	7:00 PM
26th	OSI, 1st Degree	7:00 PM @ Foshay
27th	Social Night	7:00 PM

## May

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#### **June**

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