



TRESTLEBOARD

CULVER CITY FOSHAY LODGE

NO.467

AL 2015 OFFICERS AD 2015



Adam W. Wolf (310) 927-8776	tikinoise@yahoo.com	Master
Sam House (310) 948-2999	samhouse@mac.com	Senior Warden
Michael Miller (310) 204-4403	mmiller921@gmail.com	Junior Warden
Douglas S. Warner (310) 202-6747	dougie03@sbcglobal.net	Treasurer
Clarence D. Kussner, PM (310) 398-7683	clarencekussner@gmail.com	Secretary
Edward Calzaretto (310) 895-1972	calzaret@ca.rr.com	Chaplain
Curtis S. Shumaker, PM (626) 388-6563	curtis_998@hotmail.com	Senior Deacon
Benjamin Villanueva (323) 571-2171	benjvillanueva@aol.com	Junior Deacon
Angel Salazar (323) 590-9826	asalazar93@ucla.edu	Marshall
Sean Fernald (213) 280-4223	oranj23@gmail.com	Senior Steward
Michael Sprier (323) 799-6304	mspreier@geocities.com	Junior Steward
Bryan Godwin (917) 520-3823	bryangodwin@gmail.com	Tiler
Merrick R. Hamer, PM (310) 480-0478	mrhamer@yahoo.com	Organist
Douglas K. Calhoun, PM (310) 866-3934	dougcalhoun@earthlink.net	Officers' Coach
Justin Daza-Ritchie, PM (310) 985-0230	709inspector@gmail.com	Inspector of the 709th Masonic District



FROM THE EAST



"Eight Steps to Excellence": The Observant Lodge W.: B.: Andrew Hammer, PM Alexandria-Washington Lodge No 22

We will not be conferring degrees on March 18th in lieu of a very special presentation by the Most Worshipful John Cooper, Past Grand Master, who will speak to us about traditional observance lodges and how they differ from the lodges with which most contemporary masons are familiar. I have attached a great article written by Andrew Hammer, Past Master of Alexandria-Washington Lodge, No. 22, giving an excellent overview of the ideology of the traditional observance movement. It also can be viewed at the following website:

<http://masonicrestorationfoundation.org/documents/Eight%20Steps.pdf>

1 Guarding the West Gate This point is first among these, because we are nothing more or less than who we let in to our fraternity. Not every man should be a Mason, and not every man who should be a Mason belongs in just any Lodge. The brethren have a right and responsibility to determine the standards for their own Lodge, and to ask incisive questions of those men who knock on their door. Lodges should take time to first get to know the men who knock at their doors, and not simply sign any petition just because a man has an interest. Brothers who sign a petition for a man need to know who they are signing for, and more important, need to be willing to serve as his mentor. This is a fundamental point of responsibility for all brethren. Do not ask a brother in your Lodge to do the job of mentoring for you. If you are not willing to give that petitioner your time, how can you ask your Lodge to give theirs?

2 Being Proficient in Masonic Ritual and Law Proficiency is an essential function of any observant Lodge, because we must know both what we are doing, and why, if we seek to uphold the highest standards of our respective Grand Lodges. It does no good to claim the mantle of excellence if your Lodge is not wellversed in the ritual and the Masonic law of your jurisdiction. Masonry is a thing of order, not anarchy. If you wish to keep that order, as well as harmony between your Lodge and the Grand Lodge, you must learn and follow the rules that each brother has obligated himself to observe. An observant Lodge is not a renegade Lodge. It seeks to be an exemplary one. 3 A Commitment to Advance Brethren Through the Degrees by Mutual and Genuine Effort Progress in the degrees requires a mutual commitment of time and effort from candidate and mentor alike. Some form of proficiency, be it the catechisms, or papers delivered before the Lodge, should be required before allowing any brother to advance. Otherwise the brother learns that his advancement has no measurable value, other than his mere presence. Certainly not every man can do memory work, and not every man is a writer. But if he is not willing to even attempt to do either, then perhaps he should simply not be a Mason to begin with. The same goes for the mentor, who, though he may be experienced, must not take the easy way out when it comes to the knowledge he has pledged to impart to his apprentice. 4 The Selection and Advancement of Officers Should be by Merit Alone This step, while admittedly difficult for some, is firmly grounded in the Book of Constitutions, without question. Masonry has never intended the adoption of a progressive line. A progressive line should only function when the next man down has the full faith and trust of his fellows that he will rule and govern his Lodge properly, because he has properly learned the requirements of his office. Of course, human nature is what it is, and mistakes can always happen, but they can be mitigated if such a standard is put in place, because no one advances until and unless they are ready to do so. The only way to justify a progressive line is if every officer is carrying his weight to the extent of his office, while at the same time preparing himself diligently to advance to the next one. Lodges ignore this step at their own risk.

5 Dressing Your Best for Lodge How one appears before the Lodge is a sign of how much you value both the brethren and the Craft. In most lodges in the world, a dark suit and tie is the minimum required to gain admittance. It's what the brethren expect from each other in an observant Lodge, and it certainly adds to the notion that a Masonic meeting is not just another night out, but a special event, worthy of being considered as special as each of us should believe Masonry to be. Additionally, dignity expressed outwardly through dress, serves as a superstructure, helping to enhance that dignity that can only be created from



within. 6 A Lodge Must Offer Quality Assemblies and Be Willing to Pay For Them The dues of a Lodge should be set at a level which allows the Lodge to not only support and sustain itself, but enjoy a quality of experience which tells the brethren that their assemblies are opportunities to rise above the ordinary. Good meals, served at proper festive boards, are essential. The festive board conveys the sense of conviviality that helps build true brotherhood, and it is historically established in the Craft as not merely a simple dinner, but quite honestly the second half of a Lodge meeting. An observant Lodge cannot forego it. A Lodge must decide that Masonry is a thing of value, and properly determine that value in such a way that it allows the Lodge to work and assemble in a manner that clearly establishes that value. Our dining and social events should reflect the worth we place on ourselves. Excess is not the objective; quality is. The problem is that so many of us have forgotten what quality is to the extent that we consider any expenditure on ourselves to be pretentious. But if Masons are to be men of inner distinction, then we are fully justified in treating ourselves to the best we can afford in life. We cannot expect less from the Craft or ourselves. 7 The Return of a Sense of Awe to Our Ceremonies We should bring back those things that once were found in our lodges, and which helped create a very unique, contemplative atmosphere for both the candidate and the Lodge. Among these are the use of music, the manipulation of light and darkness, the Chamber of Reflection, and the closing charge which forms what is known as the Chain of Union. Consider that the candidate preparation room is not and was never meant to be a mere dressing room. Consider that the notion of a 'sacred band of brothers' might allude to a physical manifestation of that sacredness. Consider that music has always been a part of our ceremonies, and that the Book of Constitutions ends with a collection of songs. All these things are part of who we are; they are not innovations from later jurisdictions or borrowings from European Masonry. Even the use of incense is ritually alluded to in early exposures of the Craft. The idea is to stimulate and manage the sensory experience of the brethren, in the endeavour to create the sense of uniqueness one expects from a Masonic experience. Here again, there is nothing strange about employing the senses in a Masonic meeting. Our rituals teach the importance of each of those senses extensively; to not employ them in our meetings is the greater neglect and error. To refuse the restoration of awe to our rituals is to refuse to acknowledge our own heritage and history, and to deny the proper place and application of the pillar of Beauty to the Lodge.

8 Masonic Education at Every Meeting The very origin of Freemasonry itself is in education. Whether it be the practical education in stone-cutting found in the operative craft of masonry, or the search for inner knowledge and science presented to us by the speculative Craft, the foundation of the art is inexorably based in teaching and learning. Without it, there is simply no Freemasonry taking place in a Lodge. Therefore, every meeting of the Lodge should offer some amount of Masonic education, be it through the degrees, or through presentations on the various lessons of the Craft. Even a ten-minute talk focused on the symbolic meaning of a single working tool is far better than a meeting where nothing but donations, dinners, and dues are on the agenda. An observant Lodge values the educational function of Freemasonry in its full bloom; the observant Mason holds the fraternity accountable to its promise to him to bestow light, and he means to receive it from the Craft in every sense: spiritual, literal, and intellectual. Numerous monitors and manuals from our Grand Lodges, spanning over at least the last two centuries, make plain the injunction to all Masons to seek knowledge. That same injunction extends by natural progression to each Lodge, and as a result, a Lodge without Masonic education cannot be an observant Lodge, and is arguably not any kind of Lodge at all. The search for more light is at the heart of Masonry. Observance is impossible without it."

© 2011 - Andrew Hammer This document may be freely distributed, with proper attribution. Observing the Craft: The Pursuit of Excellence in Masonic Labour and Observance is available from observingthecraft.com, and amazon.com

The article posted above will help us to prepare for an interesting presentation by Most Worshipful Cooper on March 18th. Let us enjoy the evening together!

Fraternally,
Adam Wolf,
Master

FROM THE WEST



"Changing Of The Guard"

My Brothers, I am pleased to introduce our new Webmaster and Trestleboard Designer, Brother Alfonso Mujica! Alfonso who, like myself, is a highly capable graphic designer and web guru. I have taken the extra time and care needed for vetting my replacement. It is my expectation that his contribution will help our lodge maintain the growth it has seen in recent years.

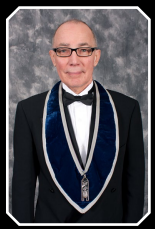
I have enjoyed providing a digital landscape where our brothers can come together and share ideas. In my time at Culver City-Foshay lodge, I feel I have helped to raise the bar in regard to our website and Trestleboard. The following are some of the things that were accomplished:

Website (www.culvercitymasons.org or ccmasons.org);
Facebook Group ([Facebook.com/groups/ccmasons](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ccmasons));
Twitter (twitter.com/ccmasons);
Soundcloud (soundcloud.com/ccmasons);
YouTube ([YouTube.com/ccmasons](https://www.youtube.com/ccmasons));
Instagram ([Instagram.com/ccmasons](https://www.instagram.com/ccmasons))
The Trestleboard with color added.

It is my intention, as I make my way to the Oriental Chair, to foster continued growth in all of these areas. While it is difficult letting go of these cherished responsibilities, I understand it is necessary to do so. By doing so, I will free myself to take on new responsibilities. I have many great things planned for the future of the lodge and this is an important step in making all of it possible.

Now I will have more time to focus on planning 2016 and beyond. I look forward to sharing some of these plans soon. For now, it would be appropriate to say, the future looks BRIGHT!

Sincerely,
Sam House,
Senior Warden



FROM THE SOUTH



"The Stated Meeting"

Recently, I had an interesting discussion with one of our visiting brothers from an eastern state about the necessity and timing of meetings. He explained that his lodge did not hold meetings in certain months and that there was no requirement to do so. Lodges in his state did not specifically have a "stated meeting" and typically combined business and degree conferrals at the same gathering.

This discussion brought to mind how the California Masonic Code may differ from the codes of other jurisdictions and also some of the unusual exceptions pertaining to meetings in California. CMC, Section 807.000, requires a lodge to hold a Stated Meeting for the transaction of business once in each calendar month. Please note that even a lodge that typically "goes dark" for a month, say in August, is required to hold a Stated Meeting with the following interesting exceptions: There are five "gold rush lodges" located in remote mountain areas, which are allowed to continue their tradition of meeting in only ten of the calendar months. There is also an exception for "lunar lodges" which are allowed to hold Stated Meetings once each lunar month.

The business of a lodge may be conducted only during a Stated Meeting and at a date (not a Sunday) and time established in its Bylaws. All business must be conducted in a Lodge of Entered Apprentice Masons. A quorum for the transaction of business is five members, including the Master or ranking Warden, or a Grand Master's Representative who must direct the meeting. The required order of business at Stated Meetings is: A) Reading of the minutes, B) Reports of investigating committees, C) Balloting, D) Reception of Applications, E) Miscellaneous and unfinished business F) Conferring of Degrees.

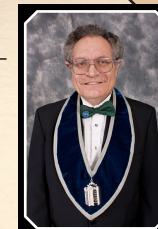
At our Culver City-Foshay Lodge we do not confer degrees at Stated Meetings, as that would make for a very long evening and we are required to adjourn before midnight. Therefore, we have many Special Meetings. Special Meetings, in addition to the Stated Meeting, may be called by the master at his direction. Special Meetings are limited to conferring degrees, examining candidates, funeral service and a few other unusual circumstances.

My brethren take due notice of the above, so that we may all conduct ourselves accordingly!

Fraternally,
Mike Miller,
Junior Warden



FROM THE CHAPLAIN



"Choices"

Great Architect of the Universe,
We know that life is full of angels and demons.
Yet, wise men know who they are.
Our eyes must always be open,
And our minds kept sharp.
May we be guided by knowledge and truth!
May we attain that which we seek!
May we live each day to its fullest!
And may truth and morality reside in our hearts forever!
Amen.

--Edward Calzaretto,
Chaplain





FROM A BROTHER

"The Ides Have It"

Who keeps Atlantis off the maps? Who keeps the Martians under wraps? Who rigs every Oscar night? We don't! At least, collectively we don't. To help dispel these and other myths, journalist Mo Rocca interviewed a sampling of modern Freemasons in the United States during a segment of CBS This Morning. What he discovered may surprise you: Apparently, we are not a religious sect. We did not orchestrate the American Revolution, and we do not discuss religious or political matters in an open lodge. Who knew?

Of course, I am being facetious. These and other urban legends, which, with the aid of our Brethren and UCLA professor Dr. Margaret C. Jacob, Mo Rocca candidly debunked, play into "Homer the Great," a sixth-season episode of the animated television show The Simpsons. Incidentally, Dr. Jacob will be one of several speakers at the 4th Annual International Conference on Freemasonry, held March 21 at the UCLA Faculty Center.

Spoilers for this episode follow. Protagonist Homer Simpson stumbles his way into an ancient organization called "the Stonecutters," whose shadowy agenda becomes revealed to the viewer in a song nominated in real life for a Primetime Emmy Award. Typical caricatures of drinking, hazing, and bizarre rituals culminate with Homer becoming the "Grand Leader." This exalted status soon gives way to "omnipotence ennui." In an effort to make a positive change, Homer issues a top-down directive to refocus the group on community service. Fuming bitterly about the change, the Stonecutters eventually form a splinter faction with a different name, similar mission, and no Homer Simpson.

In this humble television program I find at least one honest reflection of our institution. We span multiple cultures, generations, and faiths. New technologies create loopholes that we address. Shifts in culture lead us to revisit admission qualifications. Wider diversity yields additional sacred texts. Through all this we strive to avoid "pulling a Homer" and instead promote the unity of our Brotherhood by acknowledging differences of opinion with tact and courtesy.

Contemplating an evolving world remains as critical as ever to our survival. In the face of rapid change we also balance the adaptation to contemporary norms with the preservation of our own traditions, history, and—perhaps hardest for the uninitiated to understand—unity. Our venerable fraternity thrives best when we approach issues with forethought and care, ever with an eye open to harmony, for who makes the world a better place, one man at a time? We do. We do!

— Brother Andrew Merenbach



FROM THE ESOTHERICA GROUP



"Parallel Lines"

Parallel lines are a common visual theme throughout Freemasonry. Whether they are represented by two pillars, our patron Saints John standing side by side, or a portion of one of the first symbols introduced to new Masons; there are many overt, exoteric references to this geometric ideal.

Mathematically, parallel lines are two vectors traveling on the same plane that never intersect. In many ways, this construct esoterically alludes to something deeper; a concept of perfection that cannot actually exist in this world. It is impossible for man to create two actual parallel lines, yet the concept somehow can exist in our minds or in the elegance of an equation. Lines that are truly parallel are not only an impossible pursuit of man, but they do not even occur in nature itself.

Personally, I identified with the concept of parallel lines long before became a Mason. I considered parallel lines as evidence of how two people can travel together in life, providing others with strength and support, moving towards the same goal and destination without colliding or becoming hopelessly intertwined. I felt this was the ultimate expression of a successful relationship.

Esoterically speaking, these impossible occurrences of parallels have a profoundly deeper meaning, reminding us that the perfection of the universe cannot be obtained by mankind, only pursued. Notwithstanding, I feel that there is still something missing from this explanation. I propose that the real underlying meaning of the nature of parallel lines is not only its reference to the perfection of a geometric and mathematical ideal but, symbolically, parallel lines also represent the only true parallel in nature that surrounds us all, Time. Time is the only constant that progresses forward, unwavering, without change of speed, angle or persistence. To paraphrase Shakespeare's Hamlet; "we are all traveling on the level of time, towards that 'undiscovered country, from whose bourn no traveler returns.'" Indeed, mankind is traveling on a constant course in parallel, towards the same inevitable end. Time and its relation to humanity is the fourth dimensional expression of second and third dimensional concepts.

In Masonry, we have a concept of "meeting on the level" or "meeting as equals." The parallel course of time and its inevitable conclusion is the hidden message secreted between parallel lines that should inspire us to pursue the perfection of their ideal.

Fraternally,
Bryan Godwin



COMMITTEES

Audit:

Michael L. Miller (310) 204-4403
Michael Spreier (626) 799-6304
Douglas K. Calhoun, PM (310) 866-3934
Thomas O. Fleming, Jr. (310) 337-7601
Edward Calzaretto (310) 398-4507

Charity:

Adam Wolf (310) 927-8776
Sam House (310) 948-2999
Michael L. Miller (310) 204-4403

Child I.D.:

Edward Calzaretto (310) 398-4507
Clive S. Revill, PM (818) 995-8320
Douglas S. Warner (213) 999-7475

Esoterica & Traditional Observance:

Jeriel Smith (818) 468-0432
Bryan J. Godwin (917) 520-3823
K.L. Burgess II, PM (323) 527-7147
Steven Soto (323) 715-4361
Merrick R. Hamer, PM (310) 480-0478
Curtis S. Shumaker, PM (626) 388-6563
Andrew Merenbach (707) 292-9374

Funeral:

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

Lodge Investment:

Francis Taguchi, PM. (310) 562-8399
Michael L. Miller (310) 204-4403
Michael Spreier (626) 799-6304

Library:

Merrick R. Hamer, PM (310) 480-0478
Andrew Merenbach (707) 292-9374

Masonic Outreach & Membership Retention:

Clarence D. Kussner, PM (310) 398-7683
Douglas Calhoun, PM (310) 866-3934
Merrick R. Hamer, PM (310) 480-0478

L.A. Masonic Service Bureau:

Sam House (310) 948-2999
Michael Spreier (626) 799-6304
Steven Soto (323) 715-4361

Multi-Media Production:

Adam Wolf (310) 927-8776
Sean C. Fernald (213) 280-4223
Jon B. Zeiderman (310) 278-4566
Sam House (310) 948-2999
Curtis S. Shumaker, PM (626) 388-6563
Bryan J. Godwin (917) 520-3823
Jesse L. Sugarman (415) 336-6174

K.L. Burgess II, PM (323) 527-7147
Andreas Farmakalidis (818) 450-6014
Jason L. Berry (323) 418-0758

Prince Hall Day of Honor:

K.L. Burgess II, PM (323) 527-7147
Sam House (310) 948-2999
Jason L. Berry (323) 418-0758
Angel B. Salazar (323) 590-8826

Refreshment:

Michael L. Miller (310) 204-4403
Clarence D. Kussner, PM (310) 398-7683
Sean C. Fernald (213) 280-4223
Michael Spreier (626) 799-6304

Saint John's Day Feast:

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

Sickness & Visitation:

Sam House (310) 948-2999
Clarence D. Kussner, PM (310) 398-7683
Merrick R. Hamer, PM (310) 480-0478

Social Nights:

Sam House (310) 948-2999
Andrew Merenbach (707) 292-9374

Table Lodge:

Cameron T. Striewski (310) 989-1798
Richard Pierce, PM (310) 839-8853
Merrick R. Hamer, PM (310) 480-0478
Andrew Merenbach (707) 292-9374

Trestleboard & E-List:

Alfonso Mujica (612) 888-3369
Sam House (310) 948-2999
Adam Wolf (310) 927-8776
Merrick R. Hamer (310) 480-0478

UGLE Tricentennial Visitation 2017:

Curtis S. Shumaker, PM (626) 388-6563
K.L. Burgess II, PM (323) 527-7147
Michael L. Miller (310) 204-4403

Website & Social Media:

Sam House (310) 948-2999
Alfonso Mujica (612) 888-3369
Andrew Merenbach (707) 292-9374

Youth Orders:

Roderick G. Wollin (310) 391-4523
Benjamin A. Villanueva (310) 654-4038
Simbawani Anad (818) 439-4509

MARCH 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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				

Sunday, March 1:
Meet The Masters 9am

Wednesday, March 4:
Dinner & Stated Meeting 6pm

Thursday, March 5:
Temple Board 7pm

Sunday, March 8:
Grand Master Breakfast 7am
Meet The Masters 9am
Esoterica Group 1pm

Wednesday, March 11:
Degree Practice 7pm

Sunday, March 15:
Meet The Masters 9am

Wednesday, March 18:
Degree Practice 7pm
PGM John Cooper II Lecture 7pm

Sunday, March 22:
Meet The Masters 9am

Wednesday, March 25:
OSI 2nd Degree In Full 7pm

Thursday, March 26:
Social Night 7pm

Sunday, March 29:
Meet The Masters



Friday, April 10th, 2015
at 9635 Venice Blvd., Culver City 90232



starting at 7:00 PM
You are invited to a Magical Table Lodge featuring entertainment by Rob Zabrecky 2011 & 2012 Stage Magician of the Year

****A Special Ceremony with ritual incorporating terminology from centuries ago. Celebrate with toasts, Masonic songs and a great evening of fellowship and revelry!****

Open to Non-Masons (men only),
as a festive introduction to Freemasonry.

Magic Performance by Rob Zabrecky
"Rob Zabrecky - the name means 'Abracadabra,'
sideways" - LA Weekly

In 2011 and 2012 he was voted
"Stage Magician of the Year" at the Magic Castle.
www.robzabrecky.com

~ \$40 Prepaid ~

Includes Personal Souvenir "Firing Glass"
used in the Toasting Ritual.

To prepay online, go to: <http://culvercitymasons.org/table-lodge-2015/>
-Limited Seating - RSVP via Prepayment is Required-

Craft Beer for toasting will be donated in strict accordance with the California Masonic Code



Culver City Foshay Lodge no. 467
Free & Accepted Masons
9635 Venice Boulevard
Culver City, CA 90232

