



# TRESTLEBOARD

CULVER CITY FOSHAY LODGE

NO.467

JUNE 2015

## AL 2015 OFFICERS AD 2015



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FROM THE EAST  
WORSHIPFUL MASTER  
ADAM WOLF

### The Traveling Trowel

Brotherly Love a tenet that is an essential building block in the foundation of our fraternity. As much as this key component is cemented to our organization we often take for granted what we have. We are so fortunate to have the bond with our fraternal brothers that doesn't normally exist in relationships outside of immediate family.



Culver City / Foshay Lodge was presented with the Traveling Trowel at our Worshipful Timothy Hogan lecture in March by Worshipful Milla of Santa Monica Palisades Lodge, No. 307.

The custom of the Traveling Trowel follows a British tradition of making a presentation to encourage inter-lodge visitations. There is a Twitter account associated with our traveling trowel which is simply TravelingTrowel. Each lodge that is in possession or captures the trowel will tweet where it is. I am not personally a user of Twitter, but logged in under the account and tweeted a snapshot of the trowel being passed on. The trowel is now out of our hands and with Elysian Lodge, No. 418. It will soon make its way somewhere else with a new, unique story to accompany it.

My initial reason to visit Elysian Lodge was to transfer the trowel into their hands. What came out of the visit was something more enlightening and completely coincided with purpose of the Traveling Trowel. I really saw how accommodating and welcoming a lodge could be to visiting brothers. We were welcomed by the entire lodge forming a reception line and introducing themselves, greeting us and shaking our hands. It was a custom that I felt made us as visitors feel right at home. After the degree we were invited to a sumptuous dinner with the brothers. Several of them shared with us some very nice bottles of single malt Scotch. I think we should all take a night that we don't normally go to lodge and visit our brothers in another lodge for an evening of fraternal exchange. You never know what you might learn.

Fraternally,  
Adam Wolf, Master



## FROM THE WEST

SENIOR WARDEN  
SAM HOUSE



### “Look to the East”

My Brothers,

As we approach Summer Solstice, I am reminded of the fleeting nature of time. It was nearly five years ago, but it seems more like just yesterday, that I was taking the same obligations I now regularly confer. The words have been imprinted on my mind, while my understanding of their full meaning continues to expand. The path to East for me has been enlightening and has had a lasting effect on how I conduct myself in the world at large.

The year 6016 A.L. is persistently on my mind. By properly planning the year, I can relive the anxiety of soon taking the Oriental Chair. With your assistance, I will to begin the planning. While I am making my plans for 2016, I am also entertaining suggestions. Please feel free to inform me about any ideas you wish to have included. My contact information can be found in the directory section of this trestleboard issue. Naturally, we will form committees to assist with our social events and objectives. Let us look forward to a great year of fellowship!

Fraternally,  
Sam House, Senior Warden



## FROM THE SOUTH

JUNIOR WARDEN  
MICHAEL MILLER



### “The Value of Civil Discussion”

FROM THE SOUTH

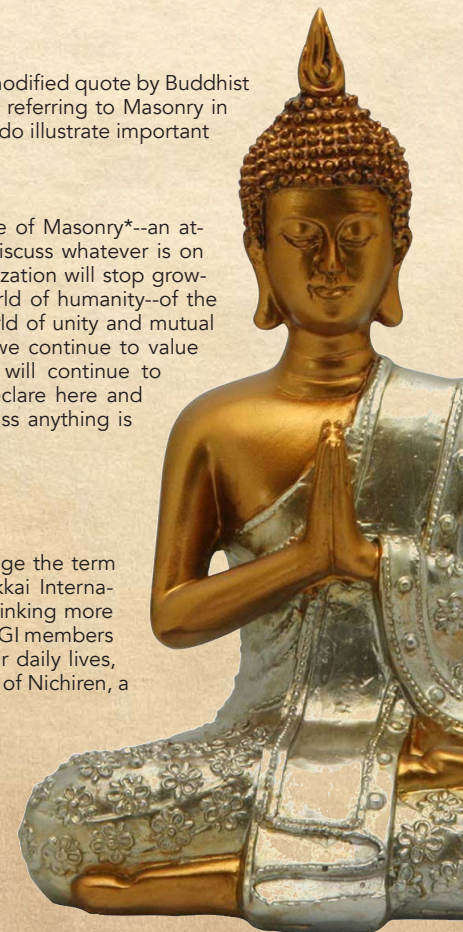
The Value of Civil Discussion

This month I wish share an appropriately modified quote by Buddhist thinker, Daisaku Ikeda. While he was not referring to Masonry in his original advice, I feel that these words do illustrate important aspects of our Masonic philosophy.

“LET US DO OUR UTMOST TO sustain the wonderfully warm atmosphere of Masonry\*--an atmosphere where members feel free to discuss whatever is on their minds. Unless we do so, our organization will stop growing, stop developing. Masonry\* is a world of humanity--of the heart, of faith, of compassion. It is a world of unity and mutual inspiration. That is why it is strong. If we continue to value and promote these qualities, Masonry\* will continue to grow and develop forever. I want to declare here and now the atmosphere where we can discuss anything is fundamental to Masonry\*.”

Fraternally,  
Mike Miller, Junior Warden

\*In the context of Ikeda's original message the term Maonsry was rendered as SGI (Soka Gakkai International). SGI is a lay Buddhist movement linking more than 12 million people around the world. SGI members integrate their Buddhist practice into their daily lives, following the Lotus Sutra based teachings of Nichiren, a 13th-century Japanese Buddhist priest.





## FROM A BROTHER

### “The Better Part of Valour is Discretion”

Dear Brethren,

With May flowers in bloom comes our yearly June Gloom. With the threat of much-needed rain outdoors, let us take some time to introspect the craft.

The United Grand Lodge of England was incorporated on the Feast Day of St. John the Evangelist in 1813. In turn, this month we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Saints John, where we honor the patron saints of our Fraternity with merriment and a play about the founding of the Premier Grand Lodge of England in 1717, nearly 100 years before.

What does it take to be a saint? Sidestepping the technical qualifications of sainthood, I'd say that integrity probably describes most candidates who have attained it. The ideal of truth and fortitude in the face of peril should resonate with all regular Masons.

In an earlier column, I discussed “Where to Draw the Line” in a commitment to brotherly love, relief, and truth when carrying out April Fools’ Day pranks. In line with that, I’ll invoke the phrase “the better part of valour is discretion” from Shakespeare’s *Henry the Fourth*, in which the character Falstaff justifies the sacrifice of honor in playing dead to avoid being killed. Out of context of the play, I support that decision.

Our families and communities rely upon our presence and contributions. Should an authority figure threaten me with execution unless I renounced deeply-held beliefs in front of them, I’d probably do just that in their presence—and continue holding those beliefs, supporting my family, and serving the community. That doesn’t sound to me like maintaining my integrity in the same way that St. John the Baptist, among other well-known figures both inside and outside Freemasonry, did—and yet, if I were to stand upright and become a martyr, especially about something that a small lie could avert, my own family would likely consider me a traitor and lacking in integrity. I’d probably agree with them, even faced with a long list of 20th-century martyrs.

Herein lies another paradox: Just as none of us will ever attain the status of perfect ashlar during our lifetimes, our ideals and role models in turn embody a form of virtue that cannot be fully embraced in this modern world. Someone I consider to be “standing up for what’s right” is simply “making waves” to someone else. Someone who sacrifices their life for a philosophy has missed out on the opportunity to contribute physical effort to a better and brighter world.

We needn’t fear this conflict of opinion. As Freemasons, we embrace duality and understand that real life gets in the way sometimes—and that decisions that look good on paper often have unforeseen ramifications when put into practice. We are human, after all.

Would I die for that opinion, though? I can’t say.

Faternally,  
Brother Andrew Merenbach



## FROM THE ESOTHERICA GROUP

### “Psalm 133”

Every Master Mason and many Christians, are familiar with Psalm 133. It is one of the fifteen “songs of degrees” (Psalms 120-134) attributed to Kings David and Solomon. 133 in particular is said to be written by King David. The opening stanza of this Psalm speaks of brethren and unity, making it immediately relevant within our fraternity. It is because this Psalm is so important to Freemasons, that the Bible displayed on the altar is often open to it in many jurisdictions throughout the world.

“Behold! How good and pleasant it is for brethren dwell in unity!  
It is like the precious ointment upon the head,

That ran down upon the beard,  
Even Aaron’s beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion:  
for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life forevermore.”

Somewhat more interestingly, the Knights Templar adopted Psalm 133 in their initiations in 1128. A section of the “Canons of the Ritual of the Reception in the Order of the Temple” found “...Et le frere chapelain dait le saume dire que l’on dit, Ecce quam bonum et quam incubum, habitare frates in unum...” Which translates to “...And the brother chaplain should recite the psalm that says: Here is, how it is good, how it is delicious, to live the brothers in good unity...”

We find some further intrigue relating to “the Templar Psalm” and the Grail quest. In the “*Queste de saint graal*,” the Aunt of Perceval alludes to the psalm while describing three great historical fellowships. The story alludes that King David was speaking of Jesus’ table where he broke bread with the apostles, alongside the very Grail of this quest, when describing brethren dwelling in unity.

Indeed, Psalm 133 is even explained in detail in the Zohar, the foundational work of Qaballah, describing a connection between the flow of ointment on the head and the dew that runs from Mount Hermon to Zion, with the flow of wisdom down through the crown of the sephiroth.

The depth of symbolism and lessons in these three simple stanzas, exceeds the scope of this article. But, hopefully these few insights will inspire us to dig deeper into the context and esoteric meaning of scripture in Freemasonry, often overlooked as merely an Abrahamic addition to our mysteries. Even further, these insights may open some to the idea that the Abrahamic traditions may in fact contain more mysteries than are revealed on their surface alone.

Faternally,  
Bryan Godwin



## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

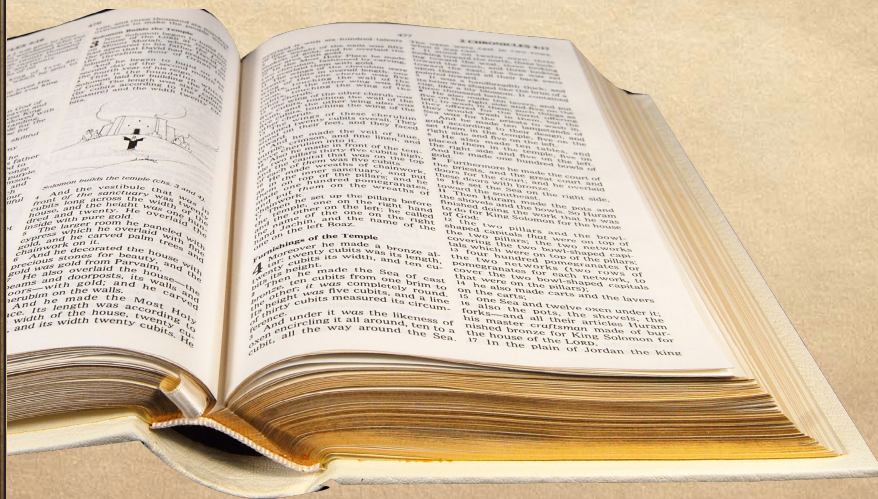
CHAPLAIN  
EDWARD CALZARETTO



### “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.

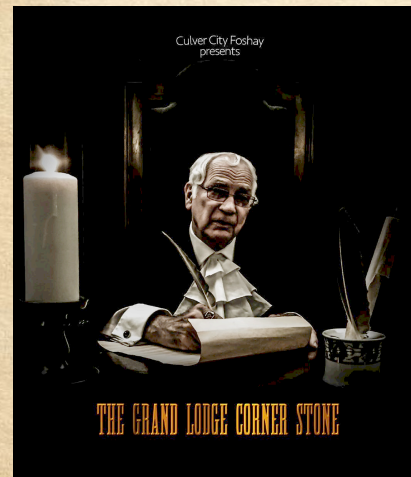
Edward Calzaretto,  
Chaplain



## “A SPECIAL CELEBRATION”

### A Feast of the Holy Saints John

Culver City-Foshay will celebrate the Feast of Sts. John Day on Friday, June 19 at 7:30 pm. Although for practical reasons, the feast won't take place on the exact holiday, it traditionally falls on the Summer Solstice, the day in 1717 on which the first Masonic Grand Lodge was formed.



We will commemorate this epic moment in the history of Freemasonry by holding a feast, by discussing the historical events and their influences on Masonry, and by performing a play, “The Grand Lodge Cornerstone,” which dramatizes some of the issues the Masons of 1717 London faced in completing their task.

The history of this period in Great Britain was one of conflict, change, and great progress. The country was still recovering from a violent conflict between two royal houses. The city of London had mostly burned to the ground in 1666, and was only just now completing the rebuilding process. Although the Industrial Revolution was still a few decades in the future, new discoveries, such as Isaac Newton's theories and discoveries related to gravity, light, and mechanical forces, and new technologies such as the printing press, the seed drill, and the steam engine had,

or had begun to have, a profound and irreversible effect on all aspects of social and economic life. English colonies and trade routes in Africa, Asia, and the Americas were becoming well established and profitable, planting the seeds that over the next two centuries would grow into the largest and most influential empire the world had yet seen.

Great changes were also taking place in Freemasonry. The old operative guilds were dying out; the future of the craft was in the hands of speculative lodges, which at the time were diverse, uncoordinated, and not entirely certain of their place in this new world. Against this backdrop, four lodges in the London area got together and publically announced they were forming a Grand Lodge as a sort of oversight and standardization body. Since until this time, Masonic lodges had been mostly secretive and strongly independent, this move was viewed warily by many Masons.

The play we will present is not so much an accurate historical record of what happened in 1717 because the actual formation of the Grand Lodge stretched over nearly a decade. Our play condenses these events and some of the debate accompanying them into a single meeting on a single day. Nevertheless, we offer this drama as a short introduction, not only into the motivations of the Masons of the time, but also as a reflection of what Masonry was to become.

Watch our Facebook page and other social media for updates and teasers for the feast, and mark it on your calendars. The cost for the feast is \$25.

Curtis S. Shumaker, PM

## COMMITTEES

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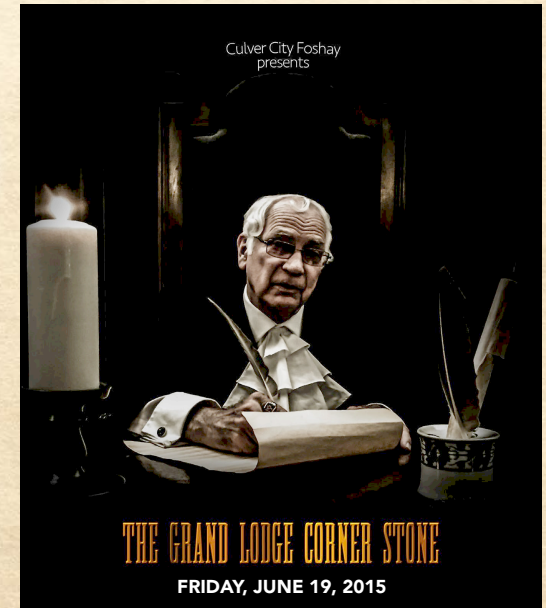
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### HIRAM AWARD PRESENTATION

EDWARD CALZARETTO

Sunday, July 19, 2015  
Foshay Masonic Lodge  
4:00pm



**Dinner & Stated Meeting**  
Wednesday, June 3, 2015  
Foshay Masonic Lodge  
6:30pm - 11:30pm



**Saint John's Day Feast**  
Friday, June 19, 2015  
Foshay Masonic Lodge  
7:00pm - 11:30pm



**Social Night**  
Wednesday, June 25, 2015  
Foshay Masonic Lodge  
7:00pm - 11:30pm



**Esoterica Group**  
Sunday, June 14, 2015  
Foshay Masonic Lodge  
1:00pm - 2:00pm

### Wednesday, June 3:

Degree Practice  
Foshay Masonic Lodge  
7pm - 11:30pm

### Wednesday, June 10:

Degree Practice  
Foshay Masonic Lodge  
7:00pm - 11:30pm

### Wednesday, June 17:

Degree Practice  
Foshay Masonic Lodge  
7:00pm - 11:30pm

### Wednesday, June 24:

Degree Practice  
Foshay Masonic Lodge  
7pm - 11:30pm

### Thursday, June 4:

Temple Board  
Foshay Masonic Lodge  
7:30pm - 9:30pm

### Sunday, June 14:

Meet The Masters  
Foshay Masonic Lodge  
9:00am - 12:00pm

### Friday, June 19:

Saint Johns Day Feast  
Foshay Masonic Lodge  
7:30pm - 9:00pm

### Thursday, June 25:

Social Night  
Foshay Masonic Lodge  
7pm - 11:55pm

### Sunday, June 7:

Meet The Masters  
Foshay Masonic Lodge  
9:00am - 12:00pm

### Esoterica Group

Foshay Masonic Lodge  
1:00am - 3:00pm

### Sunday, June 21:

Meet The Masters  
Foshay Masonic Lodge  
9:00am - 12:00pm

### Sunday, June 28:

Meet The Masters  
Foshay Masonic Lodge  
9:00am - 12:00pm



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

