



TRESTLEBOARD

CULVER CITY FOSHAY LODGE

NO.467

JULY 2015

AL 2015 OFFICERS AD 2015



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Inspector of the 709th
Masonic District





FROM THE EAST
WORSHIPFUL MASTER
ADAM WOLF

Spreading Joy, One Mitt at a Time!



For the last several years our brothers in the San Francisco area have had a very successful program of raising funds to help the disadvantaged kids in conjunction with the San Francisco Giants. Starting this year, our Grand Lodge has partnered with the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Diego Padres in supporting their youth programs. Each spring and summer, thousands of California Masons pledge to help under-resourced children have a chance for a brighter future through one simple symbol: a baseball mitt. Give a mitt today!

"People ask us, 'Why baseball gloves?'" says Doug Ismail, executive vice president of the California Masonic Foundation. "But this is about much more than sporting equipment. These are kids who literally don't have much else. And we're not just giving them a mitt; we're also providing a chance to be part of a team, make friends, and life a healthy life."

A Statewide Effort

"Masons4Mitts" has been partnering with the San Francisco Giants Community Fund in Northern California since 2009. This year, the Foundation has extended its efforts to Southern California, establishing partnerships with the charitable foundations of both the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Diego Padres.

The charitable foundations of each Major League Baseball team support children in local communities.

- Northern California: The San Francisco Giants Community Fund uses baseball to connect with underserved youth and families, helping them live healthy, productive lives. Its flagship, "Junior Giants," a non-competitive summer baseball league, provides baseball, teamwork, and healthy living skills to at-risk youths, ages 5-18. California Masons compose the program's largest sponsor in Northern California.
- San Diego: The Padres Foundation for Children funds local children's outreach initiatives for health, education, fitness, and baseball/softball.
- Los Angeles: The Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation creates "Dodgers Dreamfields" – baseball and softball fields where children learn baseball, teamwork, sportsmanship, ethics, and fair play in a safe environment. They also produce Dodgers RBI, a baseball and softball program for underresourced urban children, ages 5-18, which emphasizes education and healthy habits.



Each baseball mitt that is donated through the Masons4Mitts program is embossed with the Masons of California logo, including the square and compass symbol. It's a sign to at-risk youth that California Masons care.

Give a mitt today!

Masons Night at Dodger Stadium

I invite you all to Masons Night at Dodger Stadium. This event is open to Masons, their families, and friends. Please note the details below:

Los Angeles Dodgers vs. San Francisco Giants
Dodger Stadium

Monday, August 31st

7:00PM

Tickets \$25.00 ticket deadline extended to July 13th

Pay via PayPal www.culvercitymasons.org

To Donate a Mitt

Donations for the mitts are only \$20.00 each. They can easily be purchased on line at the <https://www.masons4mitts.org> website. Make sure that the brothers, or anyone else who wants to donate a glove, goes through the Media Central Titans link. After all, we want to get the credit and show the other teams that even though we didn't start off fast we came though at the end. While glove donations can go through your lodge, they should be drafted on separate checks (not the same checks used for ticket orders). Be sure to include a list with the names of the donating brothers and the lodge name, so that donation credits will be properly placed! Again, ANYONE can donate a glove! Get your family, friends and co-workers to donate a couple of gloves! Did I mention that there will be prizes? More on that at another time!

Spreading Joy, One Mitt at a Time!

Fraternally,
Adam Wolf, Master



“INSPECTOR’S MESSAGE”



2015 Ritual Competition

Dear Brethren,

I hope the summer finds you all well. It pleases me that your Lodge has decided to enter into the 2015 ritual competition. As the 709th District's only entry, you are the winners of the District's competition by default. That notwithstanding, had other Lodges in the District decided to compete, I assure you that the competition with you would have been fierce. In your ritual practices and rehearsals which I have visited, and in the Degrees which I have witnessed conferred in your hall, there is great enjoyment and competence displayed in the performance of our 3rd Degree.

Your Master will no doubt have informed you of the July 23 date, where your Lodge will compete against and with Atwater Larchmont Tila Pass Lodge #614; a Lodge not unfamiliar with the processes of Masonic Ritual Competition. A team of Inspectors and very likely the Assistant Grand Lecturer of Division VII will be on hand to judge both you and ALTP on that night to see who will be the Division VII champion.

Whatever the outcome of the competition, be it win or place second, the obvious and happiest outcome is that your Lodge's proficiency in the conferral of the Second Section of the Third Degree has been much improved, and the various players will emerge with a greater technical understanding of the minutest movements and floorwork of the Degree. The very purpose of the competition is not to create winners and losers, but rather to give Lodges extra cause to refine their ritual presentation, which is a key component of our Grand Lodge's Strategic Plan; particularly in improving the member experience and conferring meaningful Degrees.

I wish you the best of luck in the competition. Whether you win or not, your candidates will be the beneficiaries of the efforts of your Lodge officers, coaches, and cast players, and your membership can feel proud that you fielded a team that dedicated itself to present well when so many other fine Lodges across the Division did not.

Fraternally,

Justin J. Daza-Ritchie, P.M.
Inspector, 709th Masonic District



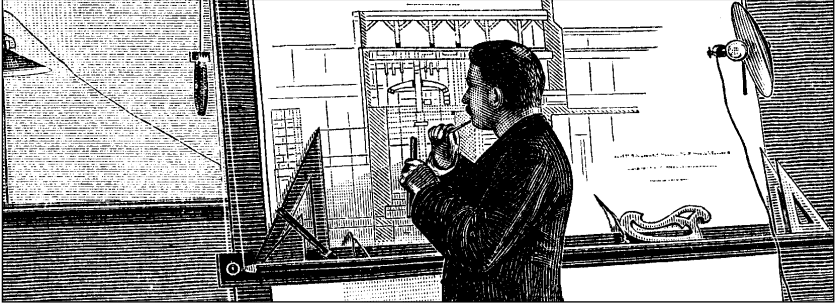


FROM THE WEST

SENIOR WARDEN
SAM HOUSE



“Projects for 2016“



As a Senior Warden must plan well ahead for the next year to come, I would like to share a few thoughts on special projects and changes I would like to see accomplished for 2016. Presently, I will share two of my ideas.

Firstly, the Trestleboard in its current form is costly and wasteful. Month after month, old trestleboards begin to collect in the lodge room and become outdated faster than they can be circulated. The Trestleboard is an important part of our lodge and it is necessary to adopt the use of technology to facilitate better lodge communication. I propose the mailing recipient list be reduced to only the brothers without access to email or to our website. Our trestleboard will continue to provide insightful articles into our craft as always, but now in a blog format. In this way, the articles and special announcements can be easily added to the website. To further enhance our trestleboard, I suggest we make full use of technology and the assistance of our brothers in the film industry, by creating corresponding videos for each article and announcement. This task would require the commitment of the officers and a select group of committee members to see that the content is made in a timely manner. Growing our lodge web presence by adding articles directly to the site and creating video content Growing our lodge web presence by adding articles directly to the site, creating video contents and changing the way we develop our trestleboard, will make our lodge shine!

Secondly, I would like to create an annual magazine to be released at our annual officer installation. It will include a selection of past trestleboard articles and the calendar of events for the year and will be kept at lodge to be given to prospective candidates. By switching to this method we will reduce waste considerably. I also feel if brothers are aware of all special events as early as possible, then our events will be well attended.

In fine, these are but two of my thoughts and plans for 2016. Feel free to contact me to share your thoughts and feelings. I look forward to a prosperous year.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Sam House,
Senior Warden





FROM THE SOUTH

JUNIOR WARDEN
MICHAEL MILLER



“Early California Masonry”



Brethren: Permit me to share with you, some interesting facts about our early Masonic history in California.

The first documented Masonic Lodge organized in California was Western Star Lodge, No. 98, authorized by the Grand Lodge of Missouri with a charter dated May 10, 1848, and formed in Benton City, Upper California on October 30, 1849.

Several traveling lodges, authorized under dispensations issued by eastern Grand Lodges, were also known to have existed in the Far West but, their records have been lost. Peter Lassen, an early pioneer and owner of a large Mexican land grant ranch, traveled east to Missouri in 1848 on a mission to bring new settlers to Benton City (now Vina), a town he had organized in Northern California.

Lassen returned with a small group of emigrants from Missouri over the Lassen Trail; also bringing with him the first Masonic charter into California. This charter named Saschel Woods as Master, L.E. Stewart as Senior Warden and Peter Lassen as Junior Warden. The lodge met at Lassen's Trading Post in Benton City and no temple building was ever constructed at that location.

On April 5, 1850, Worshipful (and also Reverend) Wood placed a notice in the Placer Times calling for a convention to organize a Grand Lodge. Twelve days later, a convention was held in the attic of the Red House, a hardware store in Sacramento. After two days of deliberations, “The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of California” was formed. At inception, the Grand Lodge consisted of California Lodge of San Francisco, Western Star Lodge, Connecticut Lodge (later renamed Tehama) of Sacramento, New Jersey Lodge of Sacramento (charter surrendered May 1853), and Pacific Lodge (later Benicia) of Benicia.

Western Star Lodge was relocated from Benton City to Shasta in 1851. After the entire town of Shasta was destroyed in a fire, the temple hall was rebuilt and has been in continuous use since 1854. It is now preserved as part of Shasta State Historic Park.

An increased knowledge of our history will lead to greater understanding of our culture. Sharing has been a pleasure.

Fraternally,
Michael Miller,
Junior Warden





FROM A BROTHER

“Respect over Fear”

Dear Brethren,

The Second Continental Congress voted July 2, 1776 to declare America's independence from Great Britain. Two days later, a formal announcement went out. The rest is a very important part of history, including that of our Fraternity.

We as Freemasons were not responsible as an organization for the schism betwixt the American Colonies and Great Britain. We were not responsible for the escalation of the conflict. This very non-involvement as an organization reflects our teachings on harmony and tolerance.

For those involved in the fight for independence, one might argue that Masonic values did play a role: whereas we promote equality, America of the time lacked political clout; whereas we value justice, greed begat spontaneous taxation; whereas we elevate integrity, a culture of hypocrisy left the Colonies restless.

A revolution—the Revolution—brought us independence and shaped the country of today. With sadness we must also realize what else war brings about: brother fighting brother, and Brother fighting Brother. We have of course seen this elsewhere, the Civil War being another notable example. Can we criticize Brethren for violating the principal of brotherly love if they did so out of loyalty to their nation or state, regardless of who seems today on the right side of history?

Not every Freemason would respond the same way today, and, presumably, not back then, either. One could well argue that the very existence of these differences of opinion contributed heavily to the suppression of our Fraternity throughout the centuries—a negative public perception, stoked through political manipulation, in an effort to maintain order and avoid a perceived conflict of interest.

Freemasons today collectively work to counter this trend by educating the public on our values. Instead of simply parrying conspiracy theories by explaining what we don't stand for, by stating what we do—even with simple words and phrases like “brotherly love, relief, and truth”—we shape the hearts and minds that detractors might otherwise sway. Let's also not waste our time with those who have immutably made up their mind, for our time on this earth is precious and irreplaceable.

Some non-Masons would respond with a question: Shouldn't all people treat each other thusly? To them we might respond: Of course! That is why we as Freemasons are here, as ever sturdy bulwarks against tyranny and the depletion of civility.

A discussion of our independence and our values would be incomplete without a warning against nationalism and a comparison to patriotism, as the two are oft confused or even equated. As Freemasons of the United States, we proudly demonstrate our devotion to the Land of the Free with volunteer work, service to our country, or even simply when we





speaking the Pledge of Allegiance. We may not always agree with the powers that be, meaning only that we're thinking critically and that we care about the issues! This is patriotism. This is important.

Nationalism occurs when we apply hubris and vanity atop patriotism, asserting a collective superiority over other nations or peoples. Differentiate this from evidence-based assertions like standard-of-living comparisons or secondary school graduation rates. Differentiate this even from assertions that our country is the greatest in every way! These are positive statements and absolutely relevant as our collective birthday approaches.

Two microcosmic analogies may prove helpful before I proceed. An effective Worshipful Master, I will argue, leads his lodge by inspiring a profound respect, not by instilling a primal fear. As Masons, meanwhile, one way we address anti-Masonic sentiment is making an example of ourselves, as described above—earning respect from those who care to learn, rather than becoming defensive when we hear a disrespectful comment.

What I'm talking about when I say nationalism, then, is not positivity, but an outward negativity—looking down collectively on other nations or peoples instead of looking back on our amazing accomplishments as a nation, and looking forward to future ones. We are all of us "on the level," not just the lucky few who can live in a country of freedom and dignity! If we're not trying to work our way into the hearts and minds of the world, why speak of it at all?

Love of country need not entail arrogance! As Independence Day approaches (or passes, or has passed, depending on this essay's publication date), let us remember what Thomas Jefferson (not a Freemason, incidentally), with a little help from our Brother Benjamin Franklin, decreed to the world:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

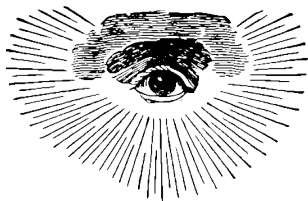
I couldn't have said it better myself.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Brother Andrew Merenbach



FROM THE CHAPLAIN

CHAPLAIN
EDWARD CALZARETTO



“A World without You”

How do we honor those who deserve it?
Whose decision is it that makes them special?

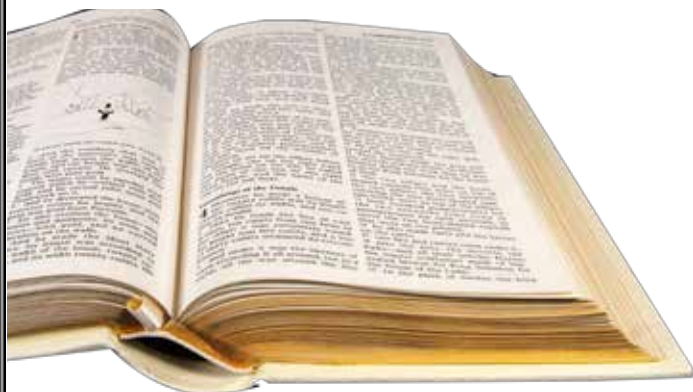
Such people are rare,
Serving without want.
Committing without selfishness.

Who are they?
And why are there not more of them?
Let us salute them!

May the good lord watch over and protect you!
May you find peace and a blessing in the good deeds you do!
And may the world shine brighter for your part in it!

Amen.

Edward Calzaretto,
Chaplain



FROM THE ESOTHERICA GROUP

“Birth and Initiation”



Initiatic traditions throughout the ages find many similarities in their content and themes. We see throughout initiatic systems and ancient Mystery Schools themes of birth, life, death and rebirth; often in that order. Initium, the Latin root of “initiation” means “beginning”. Initiatus, the participle from the verb initiare, refers to any act at the beginning or introduction of a thing. Freemasonry is widely known as an initiatic tradition of three stages, and as such we can draw many comparisons from our particular method of initiation and that of birth, a man’s entrance into the world, and one’s birth into the world of Freemasonry.

In life, we enter this world blind. We are transported from the small dark chamber of the womb and led outward through a passage, from a place of darkness to a world of blinding light. We are for a brief moment bare, stripped of all material and mineral contrivances, unaware of our surroundings.

Once a child has passed through that portal into the world, he finds himself still dangerously tethered to the place whence he came by the umbilical cord. Even after entering the world, a child does not begin fully to survive on his own until he is loosed from that connection by the help of those around him, cutting the cord, thus enabling a new life to begin. Only then can the child be embraced by his family, both literally and figuratively as a unique and individual person.

In very much the same way, a candidate for Freemasonry who is initiated into our brotherhood is brought from the darkness of his old life into the light of a moral and upright existence within the fraternity and into the arms of his brothers. He takes an allegorical journey similar to a babe entering into this existence. Allegorically and symbolically, the candidate is freed from his past and brought to a new world, full of new ideas, images and wonder.

This progression is no random set of steps or an accidental occurrence. The process of birth and entering into our world and reality is a very systematic progression that starts a soul on its path, whatever that may be. The processes of initiatic traditions are modeled after this progression to help trigger something within us, causing a sense memory of sorts to help “reset” our minds and spirits into a state similar to that of birth. When done correctly it causes an individual to be as open as possible to absorb new ideas, symbols and allegorical lessons to great effect. In Freemasonry our first step is to be initiated as an “Entered Apprentice”, alluding to our entrance into this new world.

All of mankind has been initiated into this physical world and can relate to the stages and steps outlined here. As Freemasons of course, we can find deeper esoteric parallels to each of these moments of birth to our own initiatic experience. Any Freemason examining and reflecting upon his first degree will find profound connections and similarities to the amazing mechanics and process of birth. By examining and reflecting upon birth, we find the true fingerprints of the Architect of this world, created in his image, impossible to ignore, and worthy of all exploration and consideration.

Fraternally,
Bryan Godwin



SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

“The Saint’s Feast, Dining and Theatre to Remember”

On Friday, June 19, we held our St. John’s Day Feast. Despite a light turnout of our own membership, the event was well attended by visitors, all of whom seemed to enjoy the dinner and the play. Among those in attendance was Dr. Margaret Jacob, the UCLA history professor. Her gracious complements are reprinted below. After three performances of “The Grand Lodge Cornerstone,” it seems to be improving, and we look forward to producing an even better version of it next year, incorporating Dr. Jacob’s suggestions.

In order of appearance, the cast members were: Brothers Andrew Merenbach as Deeds; Jeison Azali as Roberts; Jorge Ramos as Younghouse; Merrick R. Hamer, PM, as Dr. Anderson; Jeriel Smith as Codgerstone; Colby Murray as Lord Kingston; and Nicholas Mitchell, PM, as Christopher Wren. Other acknowledgements would be thus noted: Our Worshipful Master, Adam Wolf, prepared the historic meal, while Phillip Castallanos assisted with meal preparation; Renee Kussner prepared fabrics for staging drops; the Pasadena Scottish Rite provided period costumes; and Sam House managed stage lighting.

We are very pleased that Dr. Jacob took time to write back to us with her encomia, insights and recommendations. Her remarks are shown below:

“Dear Curtis,

Please pass these comments along to the cast and Master. I cannot tell you how touching it is to see a performance in Culver City about events 298 years ago in London and one that is faithful to its spirit. I just loved it! Here are some suggestions that might help to make it even more exciting. I would introduce Dr. Desaguliers who was quite the character and have him explain the motion of the planets and his memories of Sir Isaac. Newton was godfather to one of his children. Tell the audience that in 1717, probably the majority of Europeans still thought that the earth was in the center of the universe and how dramatically Copernican astronomy altered human perception. I would make more of the Jacobite as there were bitter feelings about the 1715 rebellion. Sir Christopher was a great addition and I would keep him. Why not quote a few passages from the original 1723 Constitutions? In short you have a great project and perhaps you could think about a presentation in 2017 at the big Paris congress. Thank you so much for the opportunity to witness this event.

*With good wishes,
Peg Jacob”*

As you can see by the comments above, the event bode well for our lodge, and by developing the project further, we will enjoy a continued, admirable posture among California lodges.

Fraternally,
Curtis S. Shumaker, PM*



Culver City Foshay presents

THE GRAND LODGE CORNER STONE

JUNE 19TH, 2015

THE GRAND LODGE CORNER STONE is a play by the Culver City Foshay. It is a play about the founding of the Grand Lodge of the United States. The play is set in 1788, in the city of Philadelphia. The play is about the founding of the Grand Lodge of the United States. The play is set in 1788, in the city of Philadelphia. The play is about the founding of the Grand Lodge of the United States. The play is set in 1788, in the city of Philadelphia.







You are cordially invited to attend.

Culver City Foshay Lodge No.467 F&A.M.
is excited to announce the recipient of the 2015 Hiram
Award!

On Sunday July 19th We will be celebrating and presenting
this very prestigious award on our deserving brother,

Edward Calzaretto (Chaplain)

Location: 9635 Venice Blvd. Culver City, Ca. 90232

Date: July 19, 2015

Social hour: 4:00pm – 5:00pm

Ceremony & Dinner to follow: 5:00pm

Dress Attire: Suite and Tie

RSVP & Regrets

Clarence Kussner

Telephone: 310-482-1164

Email: clarencekussner@ccmasons.org

“Shriners, Please Wear your Fez”



“STATED MEETING DINNER MENU”

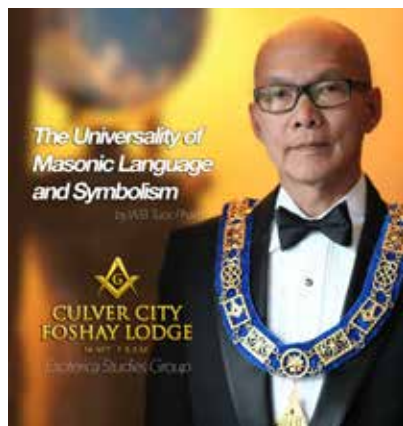


Main Dish Country Style Pork & Beef Ribs

Entree Baked beans, Cole slaw, Squash, Biscuits

Dessert Bread Pudding

ESOTERICA STUDIES GROUP



Sunday, July 14:

Esoterica Studies Group
Special Guest Speaker: W.B. Tuoc Pham
Foshay Masonic Lodge
1:00am - 3:00pm

In this iteration of our Esoteric Studies Group we will have a special guest, lite refreshments, it will take place on Sunday, 07/12/2015 at 1:00pm, at Culver City Foshay Lodge No. 467 in Culver City, California. Due to some details quoted from Masonic rituals, this presentation is open to Master Masons Only.

Topic:

The Universality of Masonic Language and Symbolism
Presented by: W.B. Tuoc Pham

“The audience will embark on a journey through Masonic symbolism in contrast to some well known systems of symbolism from various religious and scientific cultures dated back 2000 B.C. until the present time. The purpose of the talk is to illustrate a common thread in the use of physical language, be the symbols or intelligible letters and characters, which are embedded in Masonic symbolism and by which the spiritual realm can be described.”



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 	2	3	4
5 	6	7	8 	9	10	11
12 	13	14	15 	16	17	18
19 	20	21 OSI	22	23 	24	25
26 	27	28	29 	30 	31	



Dinner & Stated Meeting
Wednesday, July 1, 2015
Foshay Masonic Lodge
6:30pm - 11:30pm



Hiram Award Presentation
Sunday, June 19, 2015
Foshay Masonic Lodge
4:00pm - 8:00pm



Social Night
Wednesday, July 30, 2015
Foshay Masonic Lodge
7:00pm - 11:30pm



Esoterica Group
Sunday, July 12, 2015
Foshay Masonic Lodge
1:00pm - 2:00pm

Wednesday, July 1:
Degree Practice
Foshay Masonic Lodge
7pm - 11:30pm

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

Friday, July 19:
Meet The Masters
Foshay Masonic Lodge
9:00am - 12:00pm

Thursday, July 23:
Degree Competition
Foshay Masonic Lodge
7pm - 8:00pm

Thursday, July 2:
Temple Board
Foshay Masonic Lodge
7:30pm - 9:30pm

Esoterica Group
Special Guest Speaker
Foshay Masonic Lodge
1:00am - 3:00pm

Hiram Award
Foshay Masonic Lodge
4:00pm - 8:00pm

Sunday, July 26:
Meet The Masters
Foshay Masonic Lodge
9:00am - 12:00pm

Sunday, July 5:
Meet The Masters
Foshay Masonic Lodge
9:00am - 12:00pm

Wednesday, July 15:
Degree Practice
Foshay Masonic Lodge
7:00pm - 8:00pm

Tuesday, July 21:
OSI
Van Nuys Masonic
Building Association
7pm - 9:00pm

Wednesday, July 29:
Degree Practice
Foshay Masonic Lodge
7pm - 8:00pm

Wednesday, July 8:
Degree Practice
Foshay Masonic Lodge
7:00pm - 11:30pm



Thursday, July 30:
Social Night
Foshay Masonic Lodge
7pm - 11:55pm

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 Michael Spreier (626) 799-6304
 Douglas K. Calhoun, PM (310) 866-3934
 Thomas O. Fleming, Jr. (310) 337-7601
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 Douglas S. Warner (213) 999-7475

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 Steven Soto (323) 715-4361
 Merrick R. Hamer, PM (310) 480-0478
 Curtis S. Shumaker, PM (626) 388-6563
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 Michael Spreier (626) 799-6304

Library:

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 Andrew Merenbach (707) 292-9374

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 Andreas Farmakalidis (818) 450-6014
 Jason L. Berry (323) 418-0758

Prince Hall Day of Honor:

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 Sam House (310) 948-2999
 Jason L. Berry (323) 418-0758
 Angel B. Salazar (323) 590-8826

Refreshment:

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

Saint John's Day Feast:

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 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
 Alfonso A. Mujica Jr. (310) 853-2069
 Andrew Merenbach (707) 292-9374

Table Lodge:

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

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 Merrick R. Hamer (310) 480-0478

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 K.L. Burgess II, PM (323) 527-7147
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