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CULVER CITY FOSHAY LODGE NO.467

OCTOBER 2015

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LEADING THE WAY





CULVER CITY FOSHAY LODGE

№ 467 F & A.M.

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FROM THE EAST

WORSHIPFUL MASTER
ADAM WOLF

“Catching the Spirit”

As we approach Halloween or All Hallow's Eve, also known as All Saint's Eve, I feel it is appropriate to devote this month's article some interesting facts about Brother Harry Houdini. Harry Houdini (born Erik Weisz, later Ehrich Weiss or Harry Weiss; March 24, 1874 was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on July 17, 1923 in St. Cecile Lodge, No. 568, in New York City. He passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on July 31, 1923, and was raised to the Degree of Master Mason on August 21, 1923. In 1924 he entered the Consistory, in the Scottish Rite.

Houdini's Masonic activities included giving a benefit performance for the Valley of New York, which filled the 4,000 seat Scottish Rite Cathedral and raised thousands of dollars. In October 1926, just weeks prior to his death, he became a Shriner in Mecca Temple. His last rites, held November 4, 1926 at the Elks Clubhouse in New York, concluded with traditional Masonic Rites.

In the early part of the last century, 906 East 23rd Street was the site of the First Spiritualist Temple. The building still exists today, but is occupied by another church. In 1923 Mrs. Mary Fairfield McVicker was the Associate Pastor of First Spiritualist Temple and, at her seventy third birthday in front of two hundred of her friends, she made a rather strange pronouncement. She stated that she had seen herself passing out in a vision and requested that a photographer be present at her funeral. If a photograph were taken of her casket at five o'clock on the day of her funeral, she would be appear in the photograph, and this should be taken as evidence of her spirit returning. Two weeks before her passing, McVickers arranged for her funeral. She passed on March 23, 1923, and commercial photographer C.H. Monroe was engaged to photograph her spirit hovering over her coffin at exactly 5:00 PM. It appeared that three photo plates were made of her in her casket and one of the plates was ruined during developing. The pastor of the church Mary Vasek, claimed that she had seen McVickers' spirit hovering over the casket as the photos were being made. Several people, including C.H. Monroe who was puzzled by the “distinct impressions,” commented that they had seen McVickers' spirit in the photos.

Harry Houdini, who had previous experience in spirit investigations, and who was also President of the Society of American Magicians, was asked by Mr. Albert Hetzel to investigate the photos. On April 11th, 1923, Houdini, along with a photographer Nathan B. Moss, visited the First Spiritualist Temple in an attempt to capture the image of McVickers' spirit.

Houdini produced a very detailed report of the investigation, showing that he made every effort to achieve objective accurate results. Houdini refused to use photographer Moss' plates, but insisted upon buying new ones at a camera supply store that he stringently selected, even refusing a package due to the corners not being glued properly. Houdini followed Moss into the darkroom to watch him load the camera grip, which never left Houdini's side as they drove to the Temple. Here is a portion of Houdini's report.

"On arrival at the church we took ten exposures. The plate in which the light shows is the second one taken under the same exposure that Mr. Hetzel wanted, three minutes, F. 4. The faces that Mr. Hetzel pointed out to me as being spirit faces floating around, I discovered were faces, either through accident or design, could positively be recognized and seen on the wall, but only at a distance away from the wall and at certain angles. In order to show the accuracy of this I requested Mr. Moss to hold a pencil on the wall, I walked back until I could see the faces, then I requested him to move the pencil until it was right under the chin of the face which can be plainly seen, and I posed with pencil and the photo is a three-minute exposure. Mr. Hetzel was positive that the faces were spirit faces before I had shown to everyone in the room that the peculiar formation allowed your mind to see faces, in fact he had one photo of his own and traced a number of spirit faces, so he said.

The pictures were taken as follows:

April 11, 1923. 1st negative 3:30 P.M., 2nd negative 3:58 P.M. ("spirit" negative). When we returned to the Chamber of Commerce Building, we entered the dark room and in my presence the plates were developed immediately, and on one we beheld a peculiar streak. Mr. Moss became very much excited. He had a print made from this plate which caused a great deal of talk, not one photographer could explain how this could be tricked. Mr. Moss offered \$100 to anyone who could produce it under the same conditions, whereas no one could duplicate same. Were present: Mr. J. M. Hall, Mr. Albert H. Hetzel, Mr. Stanley Bruce, Reporter of the Examiner, Mr. Virgil Vlasak, Financial Secretary.



Let us remember that Harry Houdini was a brother of the craft and that his spirit is linked to us by an indissoluble chain. We'll catch you at our next meeting, brethren!
 Brother Ackereisen: Don't forget to bring your camera!

Faternally,
 Adam Wolf, Master My Brothers,

A recent encounter with a stranger has led me to contemplate my association with freeMy



FROM THE WEST

SENIOR WARDEN
SAM HOUSE



“Pride and Conscience”

Brothers,

A recent encounter with a stranger has led me to contemplate my association with freemasonry and my patriotism. This person was extremely proud of her national heritage, which I find acceptable to a point. It is the extent at which pride overshadows reason that I believe nationalism may become dangerous. History provides numerous examples where this is apparent. The German nationalistic fervor leading up to the Second World War is a prime example. I've always been proud to be an American. Despite our nation's decline and standing in the world, I feel that the ideals to which our forefathers aspired set us apart as a nation. Statistics will show that the U.S. continues to lead the world in two categories, the number of citizens incarcerated and military defense spending.

While our country has been a beacon of light and freedom throughout the world, we still have much to accomplish before we can declare ourselves “the greatest.” It is not what our country has done in the past, however, that makes me proud. It is what our country aspires to be that makes me proud to be an American. This is the same way I feel about Freemasonry. Our fraternity's checkered past has led to the growth of an anti-Masonic political party and numerous conspiracy theories. Again, it is not what we have accomplished, but what we intend on accomplishing that makes me proud to be a Mason. I'm not saying that intentions alone should define something. When good intentions fail, I've heard the phrase “Hitler had good intentions”. What I mean to say is that good intentions are the precursors to good deeds and our good deeds are what allow us to die with the hope of immortal salvation.

I suppose my point is this: We must never allow our pride to cloud our judgement. Let us practice humility and be ever mindful of our successes and failures, for by taking both into account, we may the better be enabled to achieve that to which we aspire.

Fraternally,
Sam House,
Senior Warden



FROM THE SOUTH

JUNIOR WARDEN
MICHAEL MILLER



“Warden’s Lament”

One of my brothers recently sent me this old bit of humor which I will now share with you. Masonic tradition is filled stories that teach a lesson and this one is no exception. We should pray that our years in Masonry are as blessed as below but on earth as well as the next world.

Bob and Bill were brother Masons and great friends for most of their lives. Each had agreed that when one of them passed on to that Grand Lodge above, he would attempt to make contact with the other and tell him all about what heaven was like. As so happened, Bill went to heaven, first. One night Bob was just drifting off to sleep when he heard Bill’s voice calling to him.

“Is that you, Bill?”

Yes, Bob. I am honoring our agreement.”

“Oh, MY,... what’s it like?” Bob asked with some anticipation.

“It’s like nothing you could ever imagine. The lodge here is fantastic,... better than any lodge we ever saw on Earth. The meetings are always well attended, the ritual is letter perfect, the friendship nights always have tons of new people just itching to join, and the spirit of fellowship blankets the entire place.”

Bob’s eyes teared up. “Oh, my, it’s just like we’d hoped. I’m so happy for you. But I have to ask,... that sounds really great, but you didn’t really seem all that excited. What’s wrong?”

“Well, I have some good news and some bad. The good news is that we’re raising a fellow to the third degree next Wednesday.”

“That’s fantastic. What’s the bad news?”

“Your name is on the list to be the Senior Warden.”

Fraternally,
Michael Miller,
Junior Warden





FROM THE ESOTERICA GROUP

TILOR
BRYAN GODWIN

“The Tiler’s Sword”

For 2015, I was granted the honor of the office of Tiler for our Lodge. The sword is both the emblem and implement of my office. Much like everything in Freemasonry, the sword has many layers of meaning, both exoteric and esoteric.

Much like a hat, the sword was once considered an essential part of a gentleman’s wardrobe and ensemble. Historically, Freemasons would have to leave their swords with the Tiler before entering lodge, as nothing offensive or defensive would be allowed within the temple. Today, the Tiler is to have his sword drawn at all times, never sheathed, ready to ward off “cowans and eavesdroppers” or, in my case, the occasional person that needs someone at lodge to move a car that is blocking another vehicle.

The sword will signify many things. Classically, it is an emblem of power, but within that power lies duality. Its ability to kill or destroy is balanced with its use to defend and protect those who are in need. Thusly, it is offered as a central icon of chivalry, and no knight was considered worthy of his station until presented with his sword.

The Japanese tradition of the Katana or Samurai sword takes this metaphor further. In crafting a Katana, a master craftsman stays awake for three days and three nights to tend the furnace that produces a very unique type of steel called tamahagane. Once produced, the tamahagane is covered with a precise mixture of clay and ash to prevent





its oxidation. The carbon undergoes a meticulous three month process of hammering and folding to drive out any impurities. Man must approach waging peace with the same persistence and concentration that the master craftsman applies to the Katana when he attempts to drive out the impurities of life. Those familiar with Alchemical traditions will immediately see additional similarities in this process.

The Knights Templars would swear never to draw their swords unless convinced of the justice of the cause in which they were engaged, nor sheathe it until their enemies were subdued. Many swords used in this tradition, especially those from Spain, often bore the following engraving: "No me saques sin razon. No me embaines sin honor," meaning "Do not draw me without justice, do not sheath me without honor."

Traditionally, the Tiler's sword should be a "Flamberge", or a sword with a wavy blade, and this is still often the case in lodges throughout Europe. This sheds a bit more light on the symbolism of the Tiler's sword. In the book of Genesis, 3:24, we read of Cherubim, or Seraphim stationed with a flaming sword to guard the East of Eden. "He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life." In some traditions the guardian at the eastern gate of Eden is attributed to be the Archangel Uriel. In Hebrew, Uriel translates to "Light of God".

Further in the Freemasonic tradition, we see the sword used in two other hieroglyphs; the "sword of justice pointing to the naked heart" and the "Tiler's sword guarding the book of constitutions." Once again, we see the concept of duality emerge in this symbolism: the sword of justice being forceful, wielding power against the unjust, and the Tiler's sword defending and protecting the Masonic book of constitutions.

As with most things in Masonry, the deeper we look, the more we will find. One will often see the concept of duality expressed through many different symbols. Even in the most mundane of seemingly simple tools, such as the sword, we can find ways to hone and sharpen our thoughts and minds.

Fraternally,
Bryan Godwin



FROM THE INSPECTOR

709TH MASONIC DISTRICT
JUSTIN J. DAZA-RITCHIE, P.M.

"Cause of Masonry"

Greetings Brethren,

It is always a pleasure to address you, my brethren, through your bulletin. It is a labor, to be sure, to produce it.

I was just recently at a Town Hall Meeting. Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Russell E. Charvonia, came to discuss with the brethren about what Freemasonry is in general, and what it is on the Westside in particular. He opened up the forum by asking questions, and recording answers. I will not go into all that was said because in truth, my short-term memory is not so great. But one thing that made me think was a remark made by a former member of our Lodge, that the purpose of Masonry is unclear. What I think he meant was that we have no identifiable cause, like so many other organizations which compete for the interest and loyalty of good men. I enjoyed hearing that our fraternity in California has a 97% member renewal rate. That means very few men relinquish their memberships after taking the degrees of Masonry. I don't know how the percentage was determined, but smarter men than me do that math. What I do extrapolate from this is that somehow, the experience of becoming a Mason stays with people, whether or not they remain active in their lodge. People hold on to something. If you are not a presently an active participative Mason, ask yourself why you joined, why you don't participate, and more importantly, why you still maintain your membership. There is obviously something valuable to you about your membership in our Craft that causes you maintain it, even in absentia.

Getting back to the "cause" of Masonry: Each of our several competing Masonic organizations have causes. Some groups fund language clinics. Others, sight and heart research. Shriners have their famed hospitals. But the Blue Lodge, not so much, and while on a large scale we are encouraged to philanthropy through the campaigns launched by several Grand Masters, it is not the end for which we labor. My take away from the evening was that we do have a cause, or a reason to exist. The DeMolay kids are explicitly told that their only purpose in joining their fraternity is "trying to make each other better and to do good." When Master Masons are likewise raised, they are told in plain English (see your cipher to make sure) by the Worshipful Master to "convince the world by your acts that on becoming a Master Mason, you have become a better man..." That is "the cause." It is the hardest of all of the causes of the Masonic family. No check you can write will make you better. The perfect knot of your tie, or the exquisite fit of your suit only points to self-respect or deference to our fraternity, but not innate goodness. Our cause is the hardest because it is advanced through chronic self-examination, and is rewarded more often than not with failure, because being good is difficult, and being better than you were on your as of yet best day is even tougher. Meanwhile, quitting takes no effort at all.

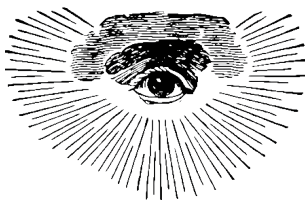
Fortunately, our fraternity does not require a leap to perfection from a weeknight of dense and highly meaningful rhetoric. Our cause takes years, consistent contemplation, and quite frankly is never finished, because every tomorrow offers the opportunity for each of us to be better men than we were when we woke up today. So to those men who labor on behalf of the Lodge, whether at the Secretary's desk, on the bulletin for the building which houses you, or in an officer chair, I say "thank you." Your labors advance the cause, create the environment where we can be, through recital of and reflection upon our ritual, reminded of where we are today and where we need to arrive when our last day comes. And when that day comes, maybe the small corner of the world in which we live will be the more enlightened, improved and repaired for our having lived and our cause never more clear.

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



FROM THE CHAPLAIN

CHAPLAIN
EDWARD CALZARETTO



“Changes”

When we face a near fatal ordeal, how shall we respond to it?

Shall we change our habits?

Or shall we return to normal patterns?

Will life be different?

Help, Almighty One, to navigate the ups and downs of life!

—May we enjoy our time on earth to the fullest!

—May we heed the warnings of those who know us better!
















—May family and friends be cherished even more!

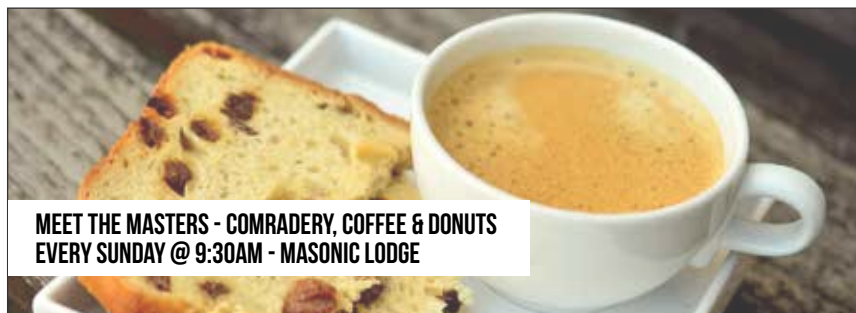
—And may what we seek in life have a greater meaning, till the end of time!

Amen.
Edward Calzaretto,
Chaplain



OCTOBER 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



**MEET THE MASTERS - COMRADERY, COFFEE & DONUTS
EVERY SUNDAY @ 9:30AM - MASONIC LODGE**

**SUNDAY, OCT. 4:
MEET THE MASTERS**
FOSHAY LODGE LIBRARY
9:30AM - 12:00PM

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 7:
DINNER**
FOSHAY LODGE CAFETERIA
6:30PM - 11:30PM

STATED MEETING
FOSHAY MASONIC LODGE
7:00AM - 11:30PM

**THURSDAY, OCT. 8:
TEMPLE BOARD**
FOSHAY MASONIC LODGE
7:30PM - 9:30PM

**OCT. 9 - 11:
166TH ANNUAL
COMMUNICATIONS**
SAN FRANCISCO

**SUNDAY, OCT. 11:
MEET THE MASTERS**
FOSHAY LODGE LIBRARY
9:00AM - 12:00PM

ESOTERICA STUDIES GROUP
FOSHAY LODGE LIBRARY
1:00AM - 3:00PM

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14:
PRACTICE / DEGREE**
FOSHAY MASONIC LODGE
7:00PM - 11:30PM

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 18:
MEET THE MASTERS**
FOSHAY LODGE LIBRARY
9:00AM - 12:00PM


**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 21:
DEGREE / PRACTICE**
FOSHAY MASONIC LODGE
7:00PM - 11:30PM

**SUNDAY, OCT. 25:
MEET THE MASTERS**
FOSHAY LODGE LIBRARY
9:00AM - 12:00PM

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28:
DEGREE/PRACTICE**
FOSHAY MASONIC LODGE
7:00PM - 11:30PM

**THURSDAY, OCT. 29:
SOCIAL NIGHT**
7:00PM - 11:30PM

**SATURDAY OCT. 31:
HALLOWEEN**



STATED DINNER
OCTOBER 7 @ 6:30PM - \$15 / PERSON - CAFETERIA

Main:
Sloppy Joe's

Sides:
Potato Salad
Cole Slaw

Dinner by
Mrs. Kussner

Dessert:
Baked Apples



STATED MEETING
OCTOBER 7 @ 7:00PM - MASONIC LODGE



TEMPLE BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 8 @ 7:30PM - MASONIC LODGE



ESOTERICA STUDIES - "THE KEY TO THE TRUE KABBALAH"
OCTOBER 11 @ 1:00PM - MASONS & APPLICANTS ONLY



SOCIAL NIGHT - "MOVIE SURPRISE"
OCTOBER 29 @ 7:00PM - MASONIC LODGE

NOTICE: OUR TRESTLEBOARD WILL NO LONGER BE MAILED OUT BEGINNING 2016 AS TO RELIEVE THE WASTE & EXPENSE OF PRINT OVER DIGITAL. OUR TRESTLEBOARD WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE ONLINE VIA OUR BLOG, PRINTABLE DOWNLOAD, EMAIL COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL MEDIA OUTLETS. A PRINTABLE BOOKLET FORMAT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR FREE (MINUS PROCESSING AND SHIPPING FEES). LINKS ARE ON OUR TRESTLEBOARD PAGE VIA OUR WEBSITE. [HTTP://WWW.CCMASONS.ORG](http://www.ccmasons.org)

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