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## "A Reflection upon Transformation"

As we see the year come to a close and officers step into their new capacities, I am proud of what we have accomplished this past year. Our Lodge was extremely busy at work within the craft. We initiated eight candidates as Entered Apprentices, passed six of them to the degree of Fellow Crafts, and raised nine brothers to the sublime degree of Master Mason. We all worked most diligently on improving our ritual, inspiring us to enter the district competition, performing the Third Degree.

Even though we did not win first place in the competition, we all did very well and were exemplary of our craft. This ritual and initiation process is one of the most compelling parts of freemasonry to me. Although, it is not prevalent in other aspects of modern society as it was in days past, initiation has remained at the core of man's unconscious and always will. Aristotle wrote that it is the experience and not the knowledge imparted that permits the initiate to understand the secret meanings of its mysteries.

Freemasonry is one of the few places in modern Western society where one can still experience ritual transformation in a way that was prevalent in ancient societies. Our Lodge is extremely focused on the deeper elements of Freemasonry and I feel the transformative process through our ritual is the most important aspect of this.

The brethren of Culver City-Foshsay Lodge deliver some of the finest ritual I have witnessed, and that this is a true gift to every candidate who knocks on our door and, through our degree system, receives a life altering transformation. I am proud to be part of that and to have led the Lodge this past year with such a distinguished group of men.

Fraternally, Adam Wolf, Master







## FROM THE WEST

SENIOR WARDEN SAM HOUSE

## "Great Expectations"



With 2016 less than a month away, there is still much to do. As you may know, I've been working tirelessly to perfect my performance of the Third Degree lecture. Aside from the obvious ritual proficiency requirements, much planning has also been underway. I've worked to have a 2016 lapel pin designed in time for installation as well put together a program and menu. Our lapel pin will be a coffin, an emblem of mortality, serving to remind us that life is fleeting and that we should make the best of the time we have left. The program for the installation will include representation from several faiths and cultures, since our lodge and I share such a diverse background. We will have sushi appetizers and listen to a traditional Japanese shamisen performance upstairs. Then downstairs, we will enjoy a Mediterranean feast provided by Gaby's.

I've planned several events for 2016, including a Table Lodge to be held April 20th, 2016 and a Saints John Feast to be held June 22nd, 2016. These events will be held on our usual lodge night at a cost of \$30 per attendee. By keeping the ticket price low and holding them on Wednesdays, I expect that the events will be well attended. RSVP information is forthcoming.

I've sat down with the leadership of the youth groups and put together a solid plan for their funding and involvement. We must do our part to ensure these lodge sponsored groups get our full support. We will have bake sales at all of our stated meetings and waffle breakfast fundraisers every 4th Sunday of the month. "Mmmm WAFFLES!"

One of the most important things we can do as a lodge is to contribute to charity and, therefore, I intend to organize charitable activities every month. I've reached out to Heather Foran, the Worthy Matron of Dr. Rob Morris Order of Eastern Star and we are planning to join their group of volunteers at the Midnight Mission to help feed the hungry. We will also conduct clothing and food drives throughout the year. More details on these activities will be announced soon.

Our first lodge yearbook (the first that I am aware of, at least) is in production and will serve as a less time sensitive publication compared with that of the monthly trestleboards. It will provide an introduction to our lodge, which can be shared with prospective candidates. It will include pictures of past events, a carefully selected collection of Masonic articles and a full calendar of 2016 events.

2016 is shaping up to be a fantastic year! With the support of the brethren, I am confident that we will accomplish great things. Together, let's manifest a lodge that we can all be proud of and serve as a shining example to which other lodges may aspire.

Sam House Master-Elect





## FROM THE SECRETARY

SECRETARY CLARENCE D. KUSSNER, PM

### "NOTICE: LIFE MEMBERSHIP PLAN"

### Brethren:

Please take note that the Master of Culver City-Foshay Lodge has entertained a written motion to resolve a change in our Life Membership plan. His request was formalized by a motion to resolve a change in our By-laws, accordingly. There was unanimous consent to present this a resolution for consideration by the entire lodge membership qualified to cast votes at its next Stated Meeting.

The current plan as adopted three years ago has resulted in no applications for life membership; hence, his recommendation. His recommendation involves a tier-based formula, based on the age of applicants, rather than a single, fixed amount for all ages, to pay for life memberships. It should be noted that the Master had previously introduced the concept of a tier-based schedule as early as the Stated Meeting of November, and this was enthusiastically received. This change will require your vote at the Stated Meeting of January, 2016, followed by approval of the Grand Master, if the Master's recommendation is to be adopted.

The resolution, for your perusal is on our website, http://www.ccmasons.org and on page 11 of this publication. You are hereby informed of this proposal and given opportunity to vote, as required by California Masonic law.

Fraternally, Clarence D. Kussner, PM Secretary





## FROM A BROTHER

AUTHOR ANDREW MERENBACH



## "On Holidays"

Dear Brethren,

My paternal grandfather, as a boy, emigrated from a village in the Crimea and eventually settled in San Francisco, where my own father grew up. When my father and aunt traveled as children for a visit to the Soviet Union with their family, on the deck of a boat sailing from the Bosphorus to the Black Sea, they (unaware of context) started making communism jokes. Their father, in his thick, Russian accent, would divert them to focus on those bodies of water by saying, "Talk about Bosphorus. Talk about the Black Sea!"

Happy December! This marks the twelfth column I've written for Culver City–Foshay Lodge No. 467. Shouldn't a December column be the tenth, given that the numeric prefixes in September, October, November, and December denote the seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth months, respectively?

This holdover from the ancient Roman calendar has ground my gears for many years now. If we're going to insist upon a twelve-month year, can't we have months of 30 days each with about a five-day (or six-day in leap years) interstitial period afterward?

Then again, maybe it bothers me simply because I haven't taken the time to understand the historical precedent. Maybe there's something special about a year conforming to the specifications laid out in the poem "Thirty Days Hath September." If I had the ability to grind an axe, maybe I'd put Standard Time on the chopping block instead and leave us permanently in Daylight Saving Time.

The above speaks to the need to understand something before we jump to conclusions about it. Whether it's the calendar or someone's choice of sweater, bearing context in mind provides us foundational support in keeping our passions within due bounds. If the holiday talk gets too aggressive, change the subject with something like, "Let's talk about the Bosphorus!"

Happy holidays!

Fraternally, Brother Andrew Merenbach







## FROM THE ESOTERICA GROUP

TILOR BRYAN GODWIN

## "Traveling"

The question that is often asked, "Are you a traveling man?" is a well-known Masonic inquiry. Unfortunately, the origin, meaning, and correct response to this question are not appropriate for this essay. I had intended this article to focus on the meaning of Travel within Freemasonry, but I soon realized that the best way to express the beauty of traveling would be to recount a personal experience.

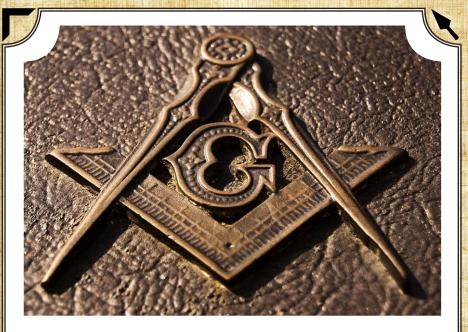
I recently visited a very unique lodge. I was acquainted with one brother there, but knew little else of their history or traditions. I think this lack of expectations added to the amazing experience I had that evening. The lodge met in a large Masonic center where nearly 80 individual lodges meet throughout the year. Upon my arrival at the lodge, I was invited for refreshment at the tavern next door. The bar was bustling with men who, having dressed in suits and tuxedos, were easily identified as Masons. After a quick beverage and many introductions, we traveled to the lodge room at 7:00 pm, making way through many dozens of men who were all attending various lodges or functions that evening.

I was greeted by the Tyler, a Jewish man in his 80s, wearing his kippah and telling amazingly bad jokes in a very thick NY accent. I immediately felt welcome. We swapped stories about ourselves, who we are and where we've been. As we spoke, men of many ethnicities, nationalities and socio-economic backgrounds flowed into the lodge. They greeted each other with sincere hugs, handshakes and the occasional brotherly jab. I also noticed several Prince Hall brothers joining the group, apparently old friends of many of the members of this lodge.

I was then warmly greeted and admitted to lodge. While the overall form and function of the lodge was very familiar, as I had expected, there were some jurisdictional differences in respect to how things worked. It became clear to me that this lodge had a unique maritime history, replete with tools of the lodge resembling tridents and seafaring equipment. I quickly noticed some additionally unique items that I had never before seen in an open lodge, including a table set with the objects often found in a "Chamber of Reflection" (previously discussed in the August installment of this column).

The brethren set to work. With clear and confident voices, the lodge was opened in full, long form. We were welcomed by the Master, who then read personal letters from each brother that could not attend that night, expressing their fraternal apologies and reasons for missing lodge. The lodge was then prepared to admit a brother to prove his proficiency in the work he learned in the second degree of Masonry. His work was delivered impeccably; in full, long form. There is no condensed version allowed in this lodge. The lodge was then arranged to admit all brethren of any degree, and the mysterious addition of those macabre symbols of the Chamber of Reflection became clear. A brother gave a 45 minute, detailed lecture about the Chamber and its uses, digging very deeply into its Masonic and alchemical symbols and history, and the specifics of how it is used in their own ritual.





Apprentices and Fellowcrafts were then excused and, once again, we prepared to work in the third degree. Business was handled swiftly, but effectively. Ballots were cast, reports and communications were given, and that night's minutes were read.

We then closed elegantly in full and proper form. The meeting had been so full of purpose and education that I hadn't even considered the time. It was only 9 pm. The entire meeting was accomplished under two hours. This was exceedingly efficient considering the content and amount of business conducted.

But, the night was not yet over! I was then invited to their "festive board" or traditional dinner. We adjourned the lodge to a room next door, set with china, silverware, and fine glassware set on beautifully covered tables set in the shape of a "U." Anyone who has visited Culver City Foshay's wonderful Table Lodge would recognize this format. The food was excellent and abundant: turkey, stuffing, gravy, cornbread, roasted corn, and... a rather strong "Mariners Punch." The night of "Agape" was off to a fine start. Dinner was similar to a table lodge, with its own ritual and toasts. I was completely taken by surprise, as I was told this was just their monthly dinner.

Because of its history as a lodge of seafaring men, this lodge had its own particular Maritime themed dinner ritual. The format resembled other table lodges, but incorporated naval terms such as the "port and starboard" sides, where as usual, canons were charged and good fire taken. Century old ships' oil lamps were lit and ceremonial toasts were made. Allusions to Noah, his sons, and his skills at building were present in their ritual. In some ways, this made the unique terminology of a table lodge make a bit more sense. It made me wonder whether there may be more to this maritime connection than just this lodge's history.

As I spoke to the brothers about their impeccable performance in lodge, their solemnity, efficiency, and dedication to education; even at a humble stated meeting, they revealed



## FROM THE ESOTERICA GROUP

TILOR BRYAN GODWIN

"Traveling" (cont.)

a few things about their lodge's structure and tradition. On average, a member spends a minimum of six months to a year attending dinners, helping in the kitchen, setting up meals, working with charities, before a petition will even be considered. Once initiated, the average time for advancement between degrees generally about a year. It's rare for someone to be raised in much less than three years. Apprentices were required to work in the kitchen, cooking, cleaning, and setting-up the festive board, allowing them to put on this fabulous event every month at little cost to the lodge.

As the rum punch flowed, and the toasts were made, the feeling of genuine brotherhood was palpable in the room. These men were more than friends. They were family. I was greeted with yet another surprise. The Senior Deacon of the lodge, I later learned, was a professional opera singer. Walking around the room, swinging a glass of rum in hand, he sang a traditional sea shanty, complete with a call and response for participation by the brethren, the sort of song that sailors would sing while laboring together. I later learned this song was written for this lodge well over a century ago and has always been a part of its tradition.

You may wonder, after reading this epic tale of unique ritual, dedication to traditional and esoteric practices, emphasis on attendance, structure, taking the time to understand and practice your craft; was I visiting a "Traditional Observance Lodge", or perhaps a "European Concept Lodge", or maybe a lodge of French origin? No! This was good ol' fashioned, pure and ancient Masonry, my dear readers. No labels, no class distinctions, no unique identifier or outlier status! These brothers managed to practice Masonry and all of its pure, noble and fraternal intentions without the need to align with some pre-specified list of rules or regulations. Their unique bond, through tradition and dedication, set them apart from many Masons that I have met in my short time as a member of this fraternity. I have never met a more diverse and dedicated group of brothers, and that is saying a lot hailing from what I would say is the most diverse and dedicated lodge in Los Angeles.

I believe that, while not all lodges are nearly 200 years old, or meet in big fancy buildings, or have a particular affinity; we can still strive to emulate these principles. I don't believe we need to form smaller, special lodges, with exorbitant fees, or dress in anachronistic costumes of white ties and tailcoats. I believe we can achieve this level of excellence in our craft, without having to resort to hanging a sign that labels us as anything other than Free and Accepted Masons.

Fraternally, Bryan Godwin





## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

CHAPLAIN EDWARD CALZARETTO





## "A Prayer for Peace"

Universal God:

Christmas, Chanukah, and New Year's Eve. These are approaching celebrations. To many, they mean great things and Bring light to our lives.

They are also moments in time, When people come together in unity and harmony. Along with brotherly love and relief, we celebrate with one another.

May those at war at war, know peace in the future!
May we learn to surrender violence for serenity!
May we turn to Thee for solace and divinity!
And may we hold on to the truth and the life of love we know!

Amen.

Edward Calzaretto, Chaplain



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### RESOLUTION TO AMEND A LIFE MEMBERSHIP PLAN CALIFORNIA MASONIC CODE § 809.320

Date:December 2, 2015

Culver City - Foshay Lodge No.467 F&AM of California

This is to certify that at a Stated Meeting of this Lodge held on the date of December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, the following Resolution was presented in writing and noted upon the minutes of the Lodge:

WHEREAS, California Masonic Code § 809.320 provides for a Lodge to amend their life membership plan, which shall forever exempt a member making the required payment into the plan from the payment of dues in the Lodge; and

WHEREAS, California Masonic Code § 809.150 provides for the creation of a permanent Life Membership Fund to forever keep and maintain the original amount paid for life memberships; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that this Lodge amends its life membership plan and create a Life Membership Fund as follows:

A sum of money equal to the Lodge's annual dues at the time of purchase of the life membership multiplied by the factor indicated opposite the member's age in the following schedule:

Under age 49, 21 times annual dues; 50 to 54 inclusive, 19 times annual dues; 55 to 59 inclusive, 17 times annual dues; 60 to 64 inclusive, 14 times annual dues; and 65 and over, 11 times annual dues.

 The Secretary issue a life membership card to a member upon the payment of such sum and shall maintain a life membership roll book as prescribed in California Masonic Code §§ 809.320 and 809.330;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the original amounts paid for life memberships shall be forever kept and maintained as and for a separate and permanent Life Membership Fund. A Lodge may invest its Life Membership Fund as provided in Section 809.130 of this Code, if such investments are kept separate and apart from all other Lodge assets. Only interest or dividends paid in cash on the Life Membership Fund shall be available for general Lodge use.

It is understood that life membership is an executed contract requiring the consent of the Lodge and the life member to rescind it; and that this Resolution shall take effect only upon its approval by the Grand Master.

#### CERTIFICATION

This is to further certify that the members of this Lodge were notified in writing that this Resolution would be voted upon at the Stated Meeting held on the 6th day of January 2016, and that said Resolution was adopted by the vote of a majority of the members present on that date. This Resolution shall have no effect until approved by the Grand Master.

Witness my hand and the seal of the Lodge on the date first above written.

Lodge Seal	Signature - Lodge Secretary
Satisfactory as to form:	Resolution approved by:
0.10	Grand Master
Grand Secretary	

## THE BULLETIN BOARD

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MASONIC SERVICE BUREAU OF LOS ANGELES + DECEMBER 2015



The Staff and Board of the Masonic Service Bureau of Los Angeles wish you and yours a joyous season.

# OUR NEXT BUREAU MEETING

\* \* \* \* \* Sunday, January 10, 2016

Pasadena Scottish Rite

150 North Madison Ave. Continental Breakfast at 9:15 AM Meeting Starts at 10:00 AM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING including Year End Reports, Officer Election/Installation

**Introduction of New Masters** 

Please Note:

Three Bureau Representatives should be selected by the 2016 Masters/Masters-Elect as soon as possible. They and our Bureau Past Presidents will be the voting members for the new Bureau Executive Committee at our January Meeting. We invite all the <a href="mailto:new Masters">new Masters</a> to attend and learn more about our Bureau. Also, group photos will be taken of the new Masters and posted on our website.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Plan to attend the two following special Masonic events in our area this month -- December 10<sup>th</sup>, witness a *Grand Lodge Opening and Cornerstone Ceremony* in Oxnard (see info in last month's Bulletin). Congratulate our new <u>Junior Grand Warden, RW Stu Wright, at a Reception for him at *Wisdom Lodge No. 202* on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Contact (818) 458-8888.</u>

## Grand Master Goals for 2016

We Masons have always been "builders"! Today, our fraternity builds primarily in more intangible ways. Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful David Perry, has emphasized in his Theme this year, "Rise and Build", a renewal of the symbolic rising (to the occasion) and building valuable and meaningful ways of living with and helping others, along with improving your own life. In these ways, we truly become "Builders of Men".

He combines these goals of personal improvement with the idea of forging strong relationships with each other to expand the ability to make a difference and improve the world. As he says, "Alone, we can do a little, but together we can accomplish so much."

His special project this year is to refocus on our existing charities and to expand this important area.

## **Decorators Needed!**



Following the theme of this year's event, "Find Your Adventure", our Shriners Hospitals for Children will again participate in the Tournament of Roses Parade January 1st, with a Float entitled, "Fezzy Races to Adventure". To help decorate, starting December 26th, contact by e-mail the Shrine Public Relations Office at shelavolunteers@shrinenet.org for further details. Signup deadline is Dec. 20th.

## Service Bureau Meeting Dates for 2016

January 10
Annual Meeting/Elections

February 7
DGM John Heisner- Speaker

Breakfast by Midnight Mission

March 6

GM Breakfast

May 15 Masonic Youth

September 25
Grand Lodge Resolutions

November 6
Clothing Drive



### XIV WORLD CONFERENCE OF REGULAR MASONIC LODGES

"The Chain of Union: Strengthening Fraternal Bonds in a Changing World"

Congratulations to all those Masons of California who organized and produced an extremely successful Masonic event just concluded in San Francisco, showing the Masonic world the vitality and progressive spirit of our fraternity in California! So say Ken, Linda and Bill!



Family Event; Free and Open To All Saturday, Dec. 12, Noon until 3 P.M.



Masonic Service Bureau of Los Angeles 16800 Devonshire St., Ste. 201, Granada Hills, CA 91344 Phone: (818) 366-3572 Fax: (818) 366-3569 E-mail: office@lamsb.org Visit us online at http://www.lamsb.org





December 2015

## Decorate our Rose Parade Float



If you plan to be in Pasadena, CA in Dec. 2015, you can sign up to help decorate our 2016 float titled Fezzy Races to Adventure. If you would like to help decorate before Dec. 26, please sign up directly with the float decorator's volunteer organization at: http://volunteer.petalpushers.org/. Be sure to indicate that you would like to decorate the Shriners Hospitals for Children's float.

If you would like to help us decorate on Dec. 26, 27, 28, 29, or 30, please read carefully the information below:

- · Email your information to shclavolunteers@shrinenet.org.
- · Note that all volunteers must be 13 years of age or older.
- Provide the complete name and contact of all decorators in your group and the exact shift you would like to take.
- · Deadline to sign up at shclavolunteers@shrinenet.org is Dec. 20, 2015.
- The float decorator has allowed a maximum of 40 volunteers per shift.

#### Shifts are:

December 26, 2015 - Saturday Shift 1; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Shift 2: 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

December 27, 2015 - Sunday Shift 1: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Shift 2: 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. December 28, 2015 - Monday Shift 1: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Shift 2: 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

December 29, 2015 - Tuesday Shift 1: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Shift 2: 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

December 30, 2015 - Wednesday Shift 1: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Shift 2: 4:00 p.m. to completion

### Decorating Location:

The Shriners Hospitals for Children float will be decorated at the Rose Palace located on 835 S. Raymond, Pasadena, CA, 91105

#### important Note:

- Volunteers are responsible for their own transportation, lodging and meals.
- The float decorator reserves the right to change schedules and locations without prior notice.
   Give and organic materials are used when decorating Rose Parade floats, please wear appropriate clothes.
- Stile and organic materials are used when decorating Rose Parade floats, please wear appropriate crothes.
   Shriners Hospitals for Children is a float participant and not an organizer; all questions pertaining to the Rose Parade or Rose

Bowl Game should be directed to the organizer Yournament of Roses at: http://www.tournamentofroses.com/General/contactus.aspx.





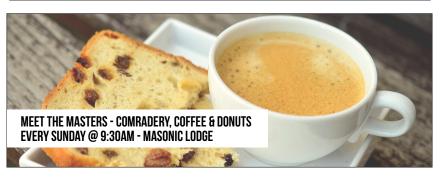


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## **DECEMBER 2015**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
¥ 27	28	29	30	31		



WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2: DINNER

FOSHAY LODGE CAFETERIA 6:30PM - 11:30PM

STATED MEETING

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

THURSDAY, DEC. 3: TEMPLE BOARD

FOSHAY MASONIC LODGE 7:30PM - 9:30PM

SUNDAY, DEC. 6: **MEET THE MASTERS** FOSHAY LODGE LIBRARY

9:30AM - 12:00PM

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9: DEGREE / PRACTICE FOSHAY MASONIC LODGE 7:00PM - 11:30PM

SUNDAY, DEC. 13: MEET THE MASTERS FOSHAY LODGE LIBRARY 9:00AM - 12:00PM

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

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16: PRACTICE / DEGREE FOSHAY MASONIC LODGE 7:00PM - 11:30PM

SUNDAY, DEC. 20: MEET THE MASTERS FOSHAY LODGE LIBRARY 9:00AM - 12:00PM

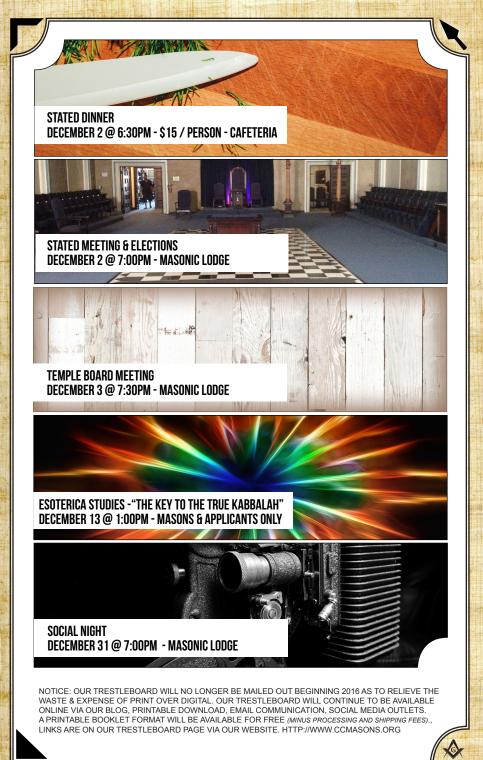
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23: **DEGREE / PRACTICE** FOSHAY MASONIC LODGE 7:00PM - 11:30PM

SUNDAY, DEC. 27: **MEET THE MASTERS** FOSHAY LODGE LIBRARY 9:00AM - 12:00PM

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

THURSDAY, DEC. 31: SOCIAL NIGHT 7:00PM - 11:30PM





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Michael Spreier	(626) 799-6304	Richard Pierce, PM	(310) 839-8853
Michael Spreier	(020) 777-0304	Merrick R. Hamer, PM	
		Andrew Merenbach	(310) 480-0478
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