



Trestleboard

February 2024



From The West

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From The East

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From The South

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"Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are in the dealings with one another; sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason."

-Benjamin Franklin

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2024 Lodge Officers



Bro Roskin Metra
Sr Warden



WB Lourey Bartolome
Master



Bro Jonathan Cruz
Jr Warden



Bro Arman Santos
Treasurer



Bro TJ Miranda
Secretary



Pete Bautista, PM
Assistant Secretary



Bro Roger Galamgam
Sr Deacon



Bro Don Oliva
Jr Deacon



(Vacant)
Chaplain



Bro Jeff Tortona
Sr Steward



Bro Dustin Cooper
Jr Steward



Bro Joseph Randa
Marshall



Bro Napoleon Aspiras
Tiler



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February Birthdays

2-Melvir Gutierrez	19-Mario Mercado
9-Paolo Verzosa	19-Mark Topacio
13-WB Lourey Bartolome	20-Alberto Andres
13-Alfred Canoy	21-Myles Byrd
13-Charles Dimaano, PM	22-George Wilkinson
15-Donald Willis	24-Steven Champlin
17-Florentino Tatco	24-Christian Datu

2024 Officers

Worshipful Master Lourey Bartolome
Senior Warden Roskin Metra
Junior Warden Jonathan Cruz
Treasurer Arman Santos
Secretary TJ Miranda
Assistant Secretary Pete Bautista, PM
Chaplain Rolando Bautista
Senior Deacon Roger Galamgam
Junior Deacon Don Oliva
Senior Steward Jeff Tortona
Junior Steward Dustin Cooper
Marshal Joseph Randa
Tyler Napoleon Aspiras
District Inspector Charles Dimaano, PM
Officers Coach Pete Bautista, PM

Masonic Birthdays

7-Albert Mendoza (9 Years of Service)
16- Douglas Scott (40 Years of Service)
25-Ruben Pasion (11 Years of Service)
26-Emmanuel De Leon (26 Years of Service)
26-Adan Trinidad (9 Years of Service)
27-Renz Uy (10 Years of Service)

Lodge Events

1st—Stated Meeting
11th—Sweetheart and Widows Brunch / Super Bowl Fellowship
22nd—Second Degree Conferral (brother Joseph Marchese)

Secretary & Treasurer Retreats

- Irvine: February 3 to 4
- San Ramon: February 10 to 11



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From the East...
WB Lourey Bartolome



Brethren, the new masonic year is well underway and I hope this message finds you and your families in good health and great spirits! I hope you and your families had a great holiday season!

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank Worshipful Pete Bautista whose successful two year tenure paved the way for the succeeding years. And for also being a great mentor to all of us! I have some big shoes to fill. Also our Inspector, Worshipful Charles Dimaano for always being there to support our lodge and the brothers of our lodge! Thank you!

These past several years have been very eventful. From dealing with the Covid pandemic, working on getting brothers back into the lodge, coming back and getting caught up on degrees, learning and memorizing the work, prepping for MGM and everything else I forgot to mention, it's been great to see our brothers come together to achieve a common goal and continue to strengthen our fraternity. Let us continue to build on those past successes erected by those who came before us. Let's continue to make Welcome Lodge the best there is to the best of our abilities!

I would again like to thank everyone for making our annual Installation of Officers a success. It is always good to see our brothers working in unity and coming together around refreshments and just having a great time.

We anticipate a busy year, hopefully a year of giving back. I am looking forward to doing some several fund raising events which will enable us to give back and support our local community and also provide our lodge with some needed upkeep. Also, for the officers, we need to continue to sharpen up our skills and be proficient in what we do. As Worshipful Pete has said in the past, "We will continue to promote proficiencies so we can maintain continuity on the officers' line." We still have several unfinished lodge projects along with some new projects that need attending to. I believe that together, with the participation of the brethren, hard work, and good ideas we can make great things happen.

February is a month celebrating love and affection. I hope you enjoy Valentine's Day with your love ones. However, for us Masons, the labor continues:

February 1st – Stated Meeting
February 11th – Sweetheart and widows brunch / Super Bowl fellowship
February 22nd – Second Degree conferral

Lastly, to this year's officers line, we are all in this together! Let's continue to build each other up and help each other out. We can do this by the four KBIs,

Keep Brothers informed.
Keep Brothers interested.
Keep Brothers involved.
Keep Brothers inspired.

Again, thank you my Brothers and hope to see you all in the Lodge!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Lourey Bartolome

Worshipful Master



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From the West...
Bro. Roskin Metra

Greetings Brethren,

Hope this finds you and your loved ones in great health and moral spirit. Before anything else, a huge thanks to our families and friends, our brethren and brethren from the neighboring lodge for the continued support that made our 146th Annual Installation of Officers a success.

Another bright year is ahead of us and again I would like to congratulate our 2024 line of officers headed by our Worshipful Master Lourey Bartolome, rest assured that we will work together to continue to promote harmony within our lodge and bring us closer together along with our families as we pursue our masonic journey.

As I take on the responsibilities of a Senior Warden, I am glad to say that I am honored to serve you and will perform my duties to the best of my abilities from "assisting the Worshipful Master in opening and closing the lodge, pay the craft their wages, that none may go away dissatisfied, harmony being the strength.." and to ensure mentorship of all candidates and their progression.

That said, it is my duty to support the Master and to prepare for that office the following year and I am pleased to say, I look forward to the East. On to our schedule of events, monthly stated meeting on 01 Feb at 7:30pm dinner starts at 6:30pm, Sweetheart's and Widow's brunch on 11 Feb at 12nn and degree conferrals to be scheduled once proficiency is completed.

As always, we greatly appreciate everyone's dedication and continued support to our lodge. Thank you and have a great Masonic day!

On the level,

Roskin Metra

Senior Warden

"Masonry was not made to divide men, but to unite them, leaving each man free to think his own thoughts and fashion his own system of ultimate truth. All its emphasis rests upon two extremely simple and profound principles, love of God and love of man."

-Joseph Fort Newton



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From the South...
Bro. Jonathan Cruz

Greetings, Brethren!

As the newly elected Junior Warden of Welcome Lodge No. 255, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for the trust and confidence bestowed upon me. It is an honor to serve our esteemed brotherhood and to continue the valued traditions of our Lodge.

In alignment with the initiatives set forth by Worshipful Brother Lourey and Brother Senior Warden Roskin, one of our key objectives this year is to strengthen the bonds of our Masonic family. Their commendable effort to reintegrate our families into the Lodge's framework has laid a solid foundation for us to build upon.

To foster this sense of community and togetherness, I warmly encourage each of you to bring your family and friends to our stated meeting dinners. These gatherings are not just a means to enjoy communal meals but are pivotal in learning more about each other, creating lasting memories, and involving our loved ones in the rich tapestry of our Masonic journey.

Additionally, our Lodge is seeking volunteers to join our dedicated kitchen crew. This team plays a vital role in preparing and serving refreshments during our meetings, enhancing the fellowship experience for all attendees. If you have a penchant for culinary endeavors or simply wish to contribute to the Lodge in this capacity, your participation would be greatly valued.

To express your interest in joining the kitchen crew or for any queries, please feel free to contact me at (408) 759-1902. Your willingness to contribute is what makes our Lodge a vibrant and supportive community.

Once again, I extend my sincerest thanks to each of you for your ongoing support and enthusiasm. Together, let us make this year a memorable and fruitful one for Welcome Lodge No. 255.

Fraternal regards,

Jonathan Cruz

Junior Warden

“Freemasonry is an institution founded on eternal reason and truth; whose deep basis is the civilization of mankind, and whose everlasting glory it is to have the immovable support of those two mighty pillars, science and morality.”

-George Washington



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Serving Masons and their Families, Across the Lifespan

EMOTIONAL HEALTH DESERVES attention, just like physical health. In the same way you turn to your physician with medical questions, it's important to seek emotional support when you're facing difficult feelings or hard times. As California Masons, you have an incredible resource available in MCYAF, which has a team of licensed professionals ready to help. With a sliding-scale fee schedule and video-conferencing services available, MCYAF's model of care is available to all. Scan the code to visit [MCYAF.org](https://www.mcyaf.org) or call (877) 488-6293 to learn more or schedule a session.

GROUP THERAPY AND WORKSHOPS

Our dynamic groups and workshops connect children, individual family members, or peer groups with shared experiences.

EDUCATIONAL THERAPY

Create custom learning plans to support children with learning differences. Homework and consultation support specific learning needs is also available.

SENIOR WELLNESS

MCYAF offers senior support services to help navigate illness, grief, loneliness, and end-of-life transitions.

INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY THERAPY

We build trusting relationships allowing clients to explore areas of concern in a safe and accepting environment.



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*Assisted Living
and Memory Care,
Elevated*



The **PAVILION** AT THE MASONIC HOMES

Welcome home! The Masonic Home at Union City is pleased to announce the grand opening of its new Pavilion, where those who need memory care and assistance with day-to-day living can enjoy comfortable living quarters in a beautiful, community-minded atmosphere. Our person-centered philosophy of care offers residents the opportunity to live their best life safely, with a helping hand when needed. From a rousing card game, an event in our communal living spaces, or just relaxing in their beautiful new apartments, residents find that the Pavilion offers a haven for their body, mind, and soul.



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NEW! Masonic Value Network

A Select Network of Independent Providers



Looking for caregivers or senior care for a loved one? Searching for services and resources in your own community?

The Masonic Value Network can help!

The Masonic Value Network is a convenient listing of care-related service providers located in communities throughout California (and beyond) that welcome California Masons and Masonic families.

- » Find care-related providers and resources in your area
- » Access offerings and educational materials from independent service providers
- » Convenient online access is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week



Masonic Homes
of California

EXPLORE THE MASONIC VALUE NETWORK

masonichome.org/ValueNetwork



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February Officers' Checklist

Stay on track of lodge business and prepare for important deadlines. Here's your February checklist.

Executive Committee

- Schedule inspector's official visit and examination of the books, due by end of March.
- Share the date and topic for the International Conference on Freemasonry at UC Berkeley with your lodge: March 30, 2024.
- Prepare to attend 2024 Leadership Retreats.

Senior Warden

- Review all candidates' progress toward advancement.
- Begin preparing 2025 program plan.
- Begin preparing 2025 budget.
- Begin preparing 2025 officer appointments.
- Begin preparing 2025 installation of officers.
- Prepare to attend 2024 Leadership Retreats.

Secretary

- Present secretary's annual report to the lodge at stated meeting.
- Continue to collect delinquent dues from members (were due on January 1).
- Send list of members with late dues to the master for the Retention Committee.
- Send any suspension notices.
- Charity Committee considers remissions.
- Review the list of suspended members sent to you by Grand Lodge and determine if your lodge wants to participate in the 2024 Restoration Campaign.
- Budget for and prepare to attend 2024 Leadership Retreats.

Treasurer

- Present treasurer's annual report to the lodge at stated meeting.
- Prepare financial reports for Grand Lodge, to be filed by end of March (unless your lodge uses Intacct, in which case you do not need to submit anything).
- If you haven't yet, enroll your lodge in the Dues Invoicing Service. Lodges enrolled in this program saw more members pay their dues compared to lodges that did not participate. All lodges that participated last year will be enrolled again this year. Lodges enrolled in the program will be emailed about dues through December. To opt into or out of the program, contact Member Services.
- Prepare to attend 2024 Leadership Retreats.

Hall Association

- Submit annual report to the lodge at stated meeting.
- Prepare to attend 2024 Leadership Retreats.

Audit Committee

- Begin auditing lodge books, to be completed by end of April.



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From the Secretary...
Bro. TJ Miranda



February 1, 2024—Stated Meeting

We kicked off our stated meeting on a delicious note, indulging in a delectable feast prepared by our Junior Warden, Brother Jonathan Cruz. The mouthwatering dinner left everyone satisfied and fueled for the evening ahead. Additionally, we extend heartfelt congratulations to Brother Joseph Keith Marchese for successfully passing his first-degree proficiency. It's an exciting milestone on his Masonic journey, and we applaud his dedication and commitment.



Psalm 133: Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

² 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;

³ 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 for evermore.