



Trestleboard

March 2024



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Freemasonry is founded on the immutable laws of Truth and Justice and its grand object is to promote the happiness of the human race.

- George Washington -

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Birthday Celebrants

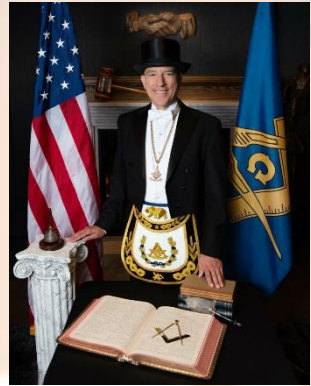
2	Arthuro Gentilezo	15	Jack Cloud, PM
2	Clayton Holmes	23	Abner Mangapit
4	Frank Groth	24	Walter Adams
6	Lewis Diulus III	27	Gemino Barrera, PM
7	Wright Beltran	27	Phillip Nunes
7	Mark Topacio	31	Jules Amores, PM
13	Lewis Bunch, Jr.	31	Rainier Aronce
14	Don Oliva	31	James Pratt

Anniversaries

2	Phillip Nunes	21	Alfredo Dela Cruz
4	Stanley Allen	21	Joselito Sanchez, PM
11	Dann Aldred Arandia	25	Daniel Carbonel
12	Noel Satumbaga	26	Ireneo Lastrella, Jr.
13	Marc Jeffries	27	Clarence Edwards, Jr.
15	Myles Byrd	27	Melvir Gutierrez
15	Herminio Valdeabella, PM	27	Allan Overby
16	Jay Sangalang	29	Andrew Block
19	Christopher Headley	29	Jcid David

From the Grand East...

As we approach the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Grand Lodge of California, I've been contemplating just how much our fraternity has changed in that time.



We have always worked to provide relief where the need exists—including beyond the walls of our lodges. Now, more than ever, we are meeting these needs in new and creative ways.

This year, we greatly expanded admissions at the Masonic Homes of California. That means that, for the first time ever, services through the Masonic Homes are open to the parents and parents-in-law of eligible California Masons—including Fellow Crafts and Entered Apprentices—as well as to our fellow members in the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California and the Grand Lodge of Iran in Exile.

That's not the only way we're reaching into the community around us.

Through the California Masonic Foundation, we recently launched an exciting new campaign through the Working Tools Program to invest in pathways into the trades for students in San Diego looking for an alternative to a four-year college degree.

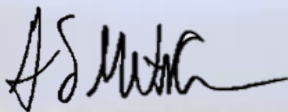
This was part of a place-based philanthropic strategy in San Diego, and one we look forward to building on next year in Sacramento.

Meanwhile, the Masonic Center for Youth and Families keeps growing, providing individual, group, family, and senior therapy to Masons, their families, and the community at large. Through MCYAF, we are meeting an important community need at a time of unprecedented stress.

The California Masonic Memorial Temple and Nob Hill Masonic Center have also implemented new strategies to bring more people in, raise awareness of our institution, and enhance the support they provide to our many important programs. Their contributions to Masonry in California are superb.

Through these efforts and those of our lodges and members, I believe we are “Sharing the Light of Freemasonry” and materially improving the world around us.

Sincerely and fraternally,



G. Sean Metroka
Grand Master of Masons in California



From the East...

Brethren, I hope this message finds you and your families in good health and great spirits!

February came and went and turned out to be a busy month for us. In addition to our regular meetings, we had to transition our current Officers and brothers to new duties within the lodge, we also hosted our Sweethearts and Widows Lunch and Superbowl fellowship and we passed brothers Rey Bartolome and Joe Marchese to the degree of Fellowcraft.

These we could not accomplish without the dedication and participation of the brothers of our Lodge. And I am truly grateful to those of you who demonstrated the initiative, flexibility, and extended your cable-tow to answer the call – from lodge set-ups and breakdowns, food preparation, and maintaining the cleanliness of our hall. Your dedication and efforts truly represent the Masonic ornaments! Well done Brethren and thank you!

Spring is upon us with the start of Daylight Savings Time on March 10 marking the change in the seasons! This month is designated by Our Grand Master as Youth Orders Month - recognizing our young men and women who compose orders such as the DeMolay International, Job's Daughters, and the International Order of Rainbow for Girls and who represent not only the future of our Fraternity but also of the communities where they live and serve. Also, on March 18, the Order of DeMolay celebrates its founding in 1919. Job's Daughters also has a reason to celebrate in the month of March. March 9 is the annual celebration of the birth of Ethel T. Wead Mick, or "Mother Mick," the founder of Job's Daughters International. At the Bethel meeting closest to this date, Bethels around the globe are asked to make a special announcement and take a moment to formally recognize the date. While the International Order of Rainbow for Girls will celebrate its 102nd anniversary on April 16, 2024.

Currently, our March schedule looks like this:

- 5th – LMTA Meeting
- 7th – Stated Meeting
- 28th – School of Instruction (SOI)
- 28th – 3rd Degree Conferral, Hanford Lodge No.279

Brethren, I am pleased to see the enthusiasm and participation of everyone in supporting our meetings, degree work, and other lodge activities. I am sure it also gives each of you great pleasure to see each other and be among each other's company as well. Thank you to all the brothers that have and continue to take time out of their days to investing your time to the lodge. It does not go unnoticed.

I want to also give a special thanks to our secretary, brother TJ Miranda for your tireless efforts in keeping the lines of communications open and attending to the administrative matters of the Lodge. Also, to our brother Senior Warden Roskin Metra and brother Junior Warden Jonathan Cruz for keeping the tradition of leading and providing refreshments for our lodge events. And to brother Jeff Tortona for managing our building, great work everyone!

Thank you!

In closing, allow me to share you this:

“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

Again, thank you, stay safe, enjoy life, and hope to see you all in the Lodge!

Fraternally yours,

Lourey Bartolome

Worshipful Master



From the West...

Greetings from the West,

Happy March!!! Hope everyone is doing well. I would like to thank everyone that made our annual Sweethearts and Widows gathering a success, followed by the Super Bowl fellowship. I look forward to more special events this year as we celebrate with our families and friends.

From our degree conferral, I congratulate brothers Rey Bartolome and Joe Marchese on passing to Fellow Craft Degree. Be reminded to make use of the working tools for more noble and glorious purposes. And thus explained...

To "walk uprightly with our several stations" means that we should live our lives in accordance with our moral principles and values. We should always try to do what is right, even when it is difficult.

To "square our actions by the square of virtue" means that we should always act in a way that is virtuous and moral. We should avoid doing anything that would harm others or damage our reputation.

To "ever remembering that we are traveling upon the level of time" means that we should always be mindful of the fact that our time on Earth is limited. We should make the most of our time and use it to do good in the world.

And "to that undiscovered country, on whose bourne no travelers return" is a reference to death. It is a reminder that we will all die one day and that we should make the most of our time on Earth. A reminder for everyone to live our lives with integrity, virtue, and mindfulness.

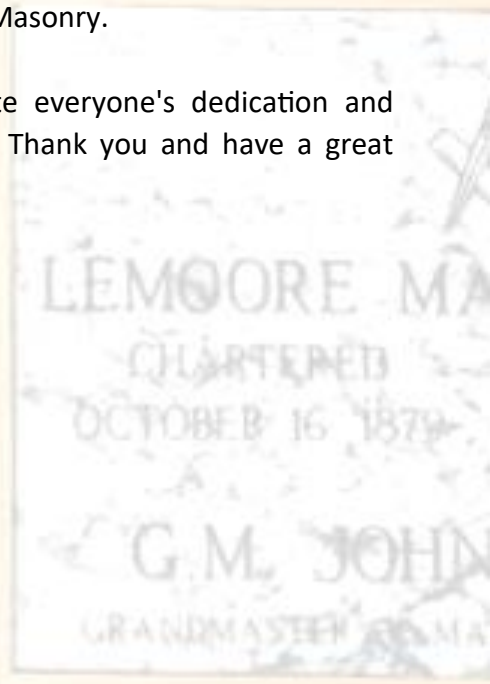
This year, one of the goals of the executive committee is to commit to everyone's progression, degree proficiencies and station labors. Coaching will be provided and set up degree practices for everyone interested. That said, on behalf of the executive committee, I'm here to announce that we would like to give an opportunity for everyone to fill-in the officers chair as needed in our future degree conferrals, so we can all grow together and progress to the East. Not only to better ourselves but also to better our Lodge and Masonry.

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,

Bro. Roskin Metra

Senior Warden





From the South...

Greetings, Brethren!

It is with great pleasure and pride that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to our newest brother Fellowcraft Masons, Brothers Rey Bartolome and Joe Marchese! Their dedication, commitment, and perseverance have led them to reach this significant milestone in their Masonic journey. As they progress through the degrees, they exemplify the values and principles of Freemasonry, embodying the spirit of brotherhood, knowledge, and self-improvement.

May their journey be filled with continued growth, enlightenment, and a deepening understanding of our timeless traditions. Brothers Rey and Joe, as you continue your Masonic journey, know that you have the support and camaraderie of your brethren every step of the way. Embrace the opportunities for learning, engage in meaningful discussions, and continue to contribute to the betterment of our lodge and the Masonic community as a whole.

Once again, congratulations, Brothers Rey Bartolome and Joe Marchese! May your journey as Fellowcraft Masons be enriching, enlightening, and filled with the rewards of true brotherhood.

Last month's Stated Meeting dinner was a heartwarming success, and it was truly uplifting to see so many of our families joining us. The atmosphere was filled with delightful conversations and strengthening bonds, a testament to the enduring spirit of our brotherhood.

In our ongoing effort to welcome our families into the heart of the Lodge, we are excited to announce our next Stated Meeting dinner scheduled for March 7, 2024, at 6:30 PM. This month, we are embracing the vibrant flavors of Korea with a **Korean Barbecue Night** theme. It promises to be an evening of delicious food, engaging company, and an enriching experience for both our members and their loved ones.

We extend a warm invitation to you, your families, and friends interested in learning more about Freemasonry. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share our values and traditions with those closest to us in an informal and friendly setting.

As always, the success of our gatherings greatly depends on our kitchen crew's dedication and talent. This team is the backbone of our dining experiences, ensuring enjoyable refreshments

complement every meeting. If you have a flair for cooking, a love for food preparation, or simply wish to contribute to the Lodge in this unique way, your involvement would be immensely appreciated.

For those interested in joining the kitchen crew or having any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at (408) 759-1902. Your participation and enthusiasm are key ingredients in making our Lodge a dynamic and supportive community.

Once again, I express my deepest gratitude for your continuous support and zeal. Your commitment is what makes Welcome Lodge No. 255 a remarkable place. Let us join hands to make this year memorable and profoundly enriching for our Lodge and its members.

We look forward to seeing you and your loved ones on March 7th for an evening of fellowship and good food!

Fraternal regards,

Bro. Jonathan Cruz

Junior Warden



The Secretary's Corner

Fraternal Greetings, Brethren!

I hope this letter finds you and your families in good health and great spirit.

This is my second month as your lodge secretary and I am fortunate to attend the Secretaries and Treasurers' Retreat in San Ramon. I learned many things about how we do business with the Grand Lodge and how to manage our Blue Lodge.

I have been a Master Mason for many years now but, still, I find myself in the dark when I began to work as your secretary. A huge thanks to brother Jonathan Cruz for the guidance, enabling me to perform my duties and responsibilities effectively.

I am inviting all of you to become part of our Trestleboard by sharing ideas and thoughts you deem important. Please email them to me so I can further send them to the lodge executive committee members for approval. Additionally, on behalf of the Grand Lodge of California, I would like to invite you all to

participate in our campaign **#ImAMason** by sharing your thoughts about Masonry and other great Masonic experiences using Facebook or Instagram.

Lastly, I would like to remind all the brethren to update your contact details in iMember in order to receive important lodge communication.



Secretaries and Treasurers' Retreat in San Ramon 2024 – a great opportunity to learn and to network! Anyone can attend this event and I highly encourage it...

Fraternally yours,

Bro. TJ Miranda

Lodge Secretary

619.730.8655

secretary@welcomelodge255.org

Never Over, Never Under, Always on the Level...



Congratulations to Brother Rey Bartolome and Brother Joe Marchese on becoming our newest Fellowcraft Masons. May their journey be filled with enlightenment, growth, and an unwavering commitment to our shared values.



Current Petitioners...



NAME: Glenn Marte
OCCUPATION: Military, USAF
BIRTH PLACE: Nueva Ecija, Philippines
AGE: 40 Years Old
SPOUSE NAME: Mary Marte

RECOMMENDED BY:
Wfl. Pete Bautista, PM
Bro. Jonathan Cruz



NAME: Steven Ferrell
OCCUPATION: Freight Supervisor
BIRTHPLACE: Yokosuka, Japan
AGE: 30 Years Old
MARITAL STATUS: Single

RECOMMENDED BY:
WB Lourey Bartolome
Bro. Roskin Metra

Current Prospect...



NAME: Rory Hanson

REASON FOR INTEREST:

"I want to join an organization that helps me become a better person, where I can find like-minded people, and to join a cause larger than myself."

Grand Lodge of California

Supporting the Youth Orders

March 2024 is Masonic Youth Orders Month, a time dedicated to renewing our commitment as Masons to serving as role models to young men and women, and to celebrating these important and historic organizations. There are lots of ways for Masons and lodges to recognize the youth orders, but if you really want to make an impact in these young people's lives, consider taking a more active role. That's what Ralph Shelton did more than 40 years ago. Now, four decades of service later, he looks back on the impact DeMolay and other youth orders have had on his life and Masonic career.

Just Show Up

The members of Job's Daughters, the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and DeMolay International are the future leaders of tomorrow—and in many cases, the Masons of tomorrow. That was certainly the case for Shelton. "Soon after maturing out of the program, I became a Mason and haven't looked back since," he says. Today, Shelton is one of the most active and highly decorated Masons in the state; he's a past master of Orange Grove No. 293, a founding member of Ye Olde Cup & Ball No. 878, an inspector at large for Division IX, and a past grand chaplain of the state. On top of that, he's a trustee of the California Masonic Foundation and the chair of the Youth Orders Committee for the Grand Lodge—proof, in other words,

that many of the young people involved in Masonic youth orders tend to make their way into leadership positions within the fraternity. “It’s not an understatement to say these young people are a major part of our fraternity’s future,” he says. So, what can individual members do to help support their local youth orders? Simple, according to Shelton: “Just show up.” Attend their meetings, go to their installations, and above all talk to them. “Show up and strike up a conversation with one of the young people,” he says. “You’ll be surprised how much you’ll both get out of the conversation.” That works the other way round, too: Shelton says he routinely asks members of the youth orders what the fraternity can do for them. The number one answer is always that: just show up. That works on both an individual and lodge level. Many groups already lease or donate their space to the youth orders. “But that’s not enough,” Shelton says. “It’s important to make them feel welcome, not like they’re an imposition.” Do this by inviting those groups to a shared meal, keeping in regular contact with them, and making the lodge calendar more open to host their events—yes, even if that means forgoing a rental! Lodges can also encourage their new members to take on advisory roles in the youth orders in lieu of directing them immediately into a lodge leadership position. “Take that guy from the third-degree you just did and get them involved with the kids,” Shelton says. The benefits cut both ways. “These young people really look up to [Masons] and respect them, and that makes you more aware of how important it is to

model what we preach in the fraternity,” Shelton says. Not only does that make you a better Mason, it makes you a better person. “Working with these young men in DeMolay has certainly changed my life.”



Masonic Homes
of California

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

RELIEF FOR CALIFORNIA MASONS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- Information and referrals
- Senior communities in Covina and Union City
- Statewide Masonic Outreach Services for members of all ages and their families
- Transitions short-term care for neurological and post-surgical rehabilitation (Union City)
- The Masonic Center for Youth and Families in San Francisco and Covina—with telehealth services now available everywhere
- **NEW!** Shared housing for seniors in Covina

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mcyaf.org
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(626) 251-2300 (Covina)

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