



Vol 65 Tarzana, California December 2008 No. 12

*You are cordially invited to attend the*

**One Hundred and Sixth Annual Open**

**Installation of Officers**

*Of*

**Hollywood Lodge #355**

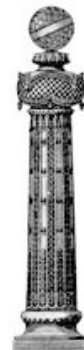
**Free and Accepted Masons of California**

*On*

**Sunday, December 14, 2008  
6:00 p.m.**

*at*

**The Boulevard Masonic Center  
19626 Ventura Boulevard  
Tarzana, CA 91356**



**TRESTLE BOARD FOR DECEMBER 2008**

Wed. 3rd	Masonic Formation Meeting	7:30 pm
Thurs. 4th	Stated Meeting Dinner & Stated Meeting	6:30 pm
Tues. 9th	Building Association	7:30 pm
Wed. 10th	Symbolism Class	7:30 pm
Thurs. 11th	Installation Practice	7:30 pm
Sun. 14th	Annual Installation of Officers	6:00 pm
Thurs. 18th	LODGE DARK—Happy Holidays!	DARK
Thurs. 25th	LODGE DARK—Happy Holidays!	DARK

**DINNER RESERVATIONS ARE MANDATORY**

**Reservation deadline is noon Monday preceding the meeting**

Stated Meeting Dinners are **\$10.00** per person.  
Free dinner for widows of Lodge #355, Lodge  
guests, and  
Brethren in your Birthday Month.



**DINNER RESERVATIONS: (818) 635-0808**

*Ladies Entertainment after the Dinner:*

EBS

**December 4, 2008**

**Appetizers  
Greek Salad or Beef Stew  
Dave's Lamb Kapama**

**Holiday desserts**

**January 8, 2009**

**P & B Sliders  
Pork Chops & Apple Sauce  
(Chicken option)  
Mashed Potatoes, collard  
greens  
Banana pudding / Nillas**



## *From The East*

For the last three years, I've kept my articles focused mainly on esoteric subjects, as I wanted to share my journey through learning new leadership skills, new uses of our craft, and other revelations with you. Generally speaking, I figure the practical is mundane, whereas the esoteric is timeless. However, for my last article, I'd like to focus on practical issues, particularly "thank you"s, because my time as Master could not have happened without the help of so many people.

To my officers, I thank you for all your support. I hope you all receive as much or more than I did from your tenure as servants of the Lodge. And, I hope my leadership taught or inspired you all to be better leaders, whether it being from simply learning not to do it the way I did it, to genuinely learning from my actions.

There are a few unsung heroes I wish to thank, in particular:

Aaron Cohen: I can't think of anyone who does more for the Lodge, and does it quietly, repeatedly, and dependably. Aaron would step in as Officer at Large whenever someone else couldn't make it, and was always willing to help with ritual, even with only a few minutes notice. He coached all of our new candidates this year, and the incredible quality of the proficiencies we've been hearing this year is due in large part to his coaching. He helped prepare and serve all of our stated meeting dinners. Often the first to arrive, and the last to leave, he was always there to pick up the slack of others. Aaron's dedication did not go unnoticed by me, and I hope that it doesn't by others as well. Thank you, Aaron.

Dale Jacobs: Thank you for being there to help cook and serve for stated meetings. Another quiet, but dependable helper, I want you to know I appreciate your consistent and eager help.

Stan Higgins: Thank you, Stan, for causing new energy and life to be breathed into new candidates, and for stepping in to Senior Deacon, yet again. Your commitment to Masonry, and to people experiencing the fullest version of it we can provide is evident in all your efforts. When all the other drama is set aside, we should all take your example, and focus on and do what's right for the candidates. Thank you.

Marco Romey: Thank you for your enthusiasm and eagerness to help in anything I asked. It seemed that any task I set before you was accomplished, and done so above my expectations, always faster than I could have hoped.

Aaron Shubb: Thank you for bending over backwards to

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## **HOLLYWOOD LODGE #355**

You are invited to join us for a day at:



Saturday, January 17, 2009  
11:00 AM – 5:15 PM

\$26<sup>00</sup> per person

The package includes: Club House admission, box seats, Daily Racing Program, lunch (Santa Anita Park signature sandwiches, chips & soda) and a professional handicapper will visit to go over the day's races.

We will depart on time from our lodge by bus.

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW, SPACE IS LIMITED. YOUR CHECK WILL BE YOUR RESERVATION.**

*And away they go .....* 

Contact: Spyros Pappas @ 818.894.5690



## *From the South*

Dear Brethren,

As the Holiday season approaches, there is always so much activity and personal business to attend to that it is easy to forget to thank family and friends, like you, for their support and kindness. So, before I forget, thank you, and may this holiday season bring to you and your family all of the joy and happiness that you deserve.

This fast and crazy year is finally winding up and coming to an end. The November election of officers went without a hitch and the line officers have moved forward as is normal for most Lodges. The Secretary and Treasurer have also accepted their posts for another year and the installation is slated for the Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. I hope you can come to attend; more information will be included in this issue of the Chips.

During the month of November, we managed to sneak in a couple of degrees and a Celebration dinner to acknowledge the 50<sup>th</sup> year Masons who had not yet received their pins. Congratulations brothers!

This is my last month hosting the stated dinners and I would like to thank all of for having the courtesy when able to call ahead and reserve you place for the dinners. This will now make it much easier for your new Junior Warden to carry forward with other planned improvements for the dinner events and minimize the losses the Lodge incurs hosting them.

Thank you again for your support.

Fraternally,

*Arthur Melendez*

Arthur Melendez, Senior Warden Elect

### Social Hall Rental

Are you planning a special event? Do you have a large birthday party, Bar Mitzvah, Retirement Party, Quinceañera, or Office Party coming up?

If so, consider the Boulevard Masonic Center's Social Hall. The Hall you've come to know and love for Stated Meeting Dinners is available to rent for special occasions. If you, your company, or your friends are looking for a venue to host an event for up to 250 people, come talk to us, first!

For more information about renting the Social Hall for your event, please call **Aaron Shubb** at **(818) 590-9597**.

### THE BOULEVARD MASONIC CENTER ACTIVITIES

First and Third Tuesday ..... Horizon Star Chapter #403 O.E.S.  
 Second Tuesday ..... Woodland Hills Shrine Club  
 Second Tuesday ..... Building Association Meeting  
 Every Thursday ..... Hollywood Lodge #355 F&AM  
 First Wednesday after Stated Meeting ..... Symbolism Class

### NEW MASONS PROFICIENCY TRAINING

Every Tuesday and Thursday Evening starting at 7:00 pm in the Lodge Library, several Candidates Coaches are teaching the First, Second, and Third Degree Proficiencies.

If you are in need of any Lodge Regalia - Contact: Burt Haaz, P.M.  
 At: 818-363-7117

### THE "OLD CHARGES"

By Wallace MeLeod

*(Bro. Wallace McLeod is a member and Past Master of Mizpah Lodge #572, Toronto, Canada, and of Quatuor Coronati Lodge #2076, London, England; and is the Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario.)*

The Charges of a Freemason. In our Constitution (Ontario) in Section 371, we read the words. 'Every newly initiated candidate shall be presented with a copy of the Book of Constitution...' One hopes that a new Mason will become familiar with our regulations by reading through this book. But if he does so, he may be puzzled by the first section of Part VI, which is entitled, "The Charges of a Freemason. Extracted from the Ancient Records of Lodges throughout the World, for the use of Lodges"

In this section, he will find some parts that sound familiar. a bit like the ritual "The persons made Masons and admitted members of a lodge must be good and true men., free born, and of a mature and discreet age and sound judgment, no bondsmen, no women, no immoral or scandalous men, but of good report"

But what is he to make of other portions? "The Master, knowing himself to be able of cunning shall undertake the lord's work as reasonably as possible."

Such rules as this cannot apply in any literal sense of most of us. Why then are they printed for every Mason? The reason is historical. In its present form most of the wording of this section goes back two hundred and seventy-five

years. In 1723, the Reverend James Anderson, with the approval of his Grand Lodge, published the most influential work on Masonry ever printed. The first book of The Constitutions of the Free-Masons. He included a section called the Charges of a Free-Mason, extracted from The ancient Records of lodges beyond Sea, and of those in England, Scotland, and Ireland, for the Use of the Lodges in London." Apart from a number of tiny changes, the modern wording is identical.

Anderson's Sources. But here too we must ask the same question. Why did this book of Constitutions designed for nonoperative Masons, include rules that apply to operative masons? And where did Anderson find this material? The second edition of his Constitutions, printed in 1738 tells a bit more at the Annual Festival on 24 June 1718, when the Grand Lodge was one year old, the Grand Master "desired any Brethren to bring to the Grand Lodge any old Writings and Records concerning Masons and Masonry in order to show the Usages of ancient Times; And this Year several old Copies of the Gothic Constitutions were produced and collated."

And in September 1721, the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge, "finding Fault with all the Copies of the old Gothic Constitutions, order'd Brother James Anderson. A.M. to digest the same in a new and better Method." The end result of his labours was the book of Constitutions, which was duly approved by the Grand Lodge, and printed in 1723. And James Anderson did make use of the old manuscripts that he called "The Old Gothic Constitutions." We can tell from the wording of his text that by the time of his second edition he had obtained access to at least six of them, and that he quoted and paraphrased them quite extensively.

The Old Charges: Number, Date, Location, Form. But what are these "Old Gothic Constitutions" also known as the "Old Charges" and the "Old Manuscript Constitutions"? In all, 119 copies have survived, all going back to the same original, and there are references to 15 more that are lost. New versions are turning up all the time; In the last ten years, six more have come to our attention.

Nearly two-thirds of them are earlier than the first Grand Lodge of 1717- perhaps as many as 75. Fifty-five go back before 1700 Four were written about 1600, one is dated 1583, one is about 1400 or 1410, and one goes all the way back to 1390

Most are located in England; London alone has more than fifty. Thirteen are in Scotland-none of them earlier than 1650; four are in the United States; one was last heard of in Germany; and one has wandered to Canada-the Scarborough Manuscript of about 1700.

The Old Charges present various aspects. About fourteen are known only from printed transcripts. A few are written on separate sheets of paper or vellum; about thirty-three are written on sheets that are fastened together in book form; but the typical form represented by more than fifty versions, is a scroll or roll of paper or parchment, between three and fourteen inches wide, and anything up to fourteen and a half feet in length.

(continued on page 8)

## SUNSHINE REPORT

From Spyros Pappas

**TO INFORM THE LODGE OF ANY SICK MEMBER OR WIFE OF A MEMBER, CONTACT SPYROS PAPPAS AT: 818-894-5690 OR E-MAIL: SPYROSPAPPAS@YAHOO.COM**

If you know of someone who is not receiving e-mails regarding the Lodge, please have them call **Rudy Bauer at (818) 363 - 5727** with the information OR e-mail him at [ARNJAYBEE@aol.com](mailto:ARNJAYBEE@aol.com). You may also obtain Theatre Tickets from Rudy @ \$6.50 each.

## KIDS I D

**Contact Johnny Johnson at:  
(818) 897 - 1345**

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Contents: Let us summarize the contents with a review of typical examples of the wording.

They nearly all begin with an Invocation: "The might of the Father of Heaven, with the wisdom of the glorious Son, through the grace and goodness of the Holy Ghost, that be three persons in one Godhead, be with us at our beginning, and give us grace so to govern us here in our living that we may come to His bliss that never shall have ending. Amen.'

Then comes an announcement of the purpose and contents, followed by a brief description of the Seven Liberal Arts or Sciences, one of which is Geometry, or Masonry. Then we have a proof of the fundamental nature of Geometry.

[Then there is an extended Traditional History of Geometry, Masonry, and Architecture, taking up over half of the text. It is based in the first instance on the Bible. The art of building was invented, we are told, before Noah's Flood by Jabal and metal founding was discovered by his brother Tubal-cain. They knew that God would send destruction for sin so they wrote their arts on Two Great Pillars, that were found after the Flood. Then we hear about Nimrod and the Tower of Babel: and how Abraham went to Egypt and taught the Liberal Arts and sciences to the Egyptians; and how he had a student Euclid; and then how King David loved Masons well; how Solomon built the Temple, with the help of King Hiram and his Master Builder. One man who worked at Solomon's Temple later went to France, and taught the art to Charles Martel; subsequently the Craft was brought to

to England, in the time of Saint Alban: and finally about the year 930, Prince Edwin called a great assembly of Masons in the city of York, and established the regulations used "from that day until this time."]

(Note: Read this section as an ancient document, but remember the evolution of Masonry is not historically accurate.)

Next we have the manner of taking the oath: "Then let one of the elders hold the Book, so that he or they may place their hands upon the Book, and then the rules ought to be read."

Then comes the admonition: "Every man that is a Mason take right good heed to these charges, if that you find yourselves guilty in any of these, that you may amend you against God. And especially ye that are to be charged, take good heed that ye may keep these charges, for it is a great peril for a man to foreswear himself upon a Book."

Next come the regulations or Charges proper. Some are to administer the trade: "No Master shall take upon him no lord's work, nor no other man's work, but that he know himself able and cunning to perform the same. . ." These are the ones that are still quoted in "The Charges of a Freemason." Others do not concern trade matters at all, but are intended to regulate behavior. No doubt they were essential in a community of tradesmen who were thrown together in close proximity for twenty-four hours a day. Still, they are unexpected, and serve to mark the masons lodge as different from most other craft organizations. "No Fellow [is to] slander another behind his back. to make him lose his good name or his worldly goods." And also that "no Mason shall play at hazard or at dice."

Finally comes the Oath: "These charges that we have rehearsed. and all other that belong to Masonry, ye shall keep, so help you God and Halidom, and by this Book to your power. Amen."

What were they used for? In its most common version, the text is about 3,500 words long. To copy it out by hand represents a substantial investment of effort, and yet it was copied repeatedly. In the circumstances it is fair to ask what the Old Charges were used for. To begin with, the rules and orders served a practical purpose. They clearly were intended to regulate the Craft.

We also know that occasionally the manuscripts were treated like a Warrant or Constitution. One early Scottish lodge had a copy of the Old Charges, written on a single sheet of parchment had been mounted and framed, and the members believed that their meetings would not be legal unless it was exhibited in the lodge room.

In a sense, the Old Charges also served as The Work, because they described certain procedures that were to be followed when any man was made a Mason, and they included little bits of ritual, such as the Invocation and the Obligation.

We see then that they provided ordinance, authority, and ritual, three practical matters. But as well they must have had a psychological effect. They inculcated in masons a sense of respect and reverence for their craft. They told how it went back before the Flood, how it was connected with famous buildings in the sacred Writings, and how it could number among its votaries even monarchs themselves. This was no servile trade of recent devising, but an ancient and honorable institution.

## December Birthdays

Happy Birthday To Members of Hollywood Lodge #355  
If your name is not here, please contact the Editor

1 Ralph Van De-grift, P.M.	12 Anthony Gentile	22 Roger Koeninger
3 Vince Winters	12 Bryan Allen	22 Samuel Young
4 Charles Talcott	13 Joseph Choate	24 Donald Foster
4 George Burnette	13 Ronald Gorman	24 Richard Wood
6 Edgar Daic	14 James Howard	27 Paul Kayne
7 Charley Cohen	15 Charles Curcuruto, P.M.	29 Gary Peacock
7 Teodorico Oliva	17 Scott Ponder	30 Ira Karbeling
8 Kenneth Rose	17 William Eddy	31 Carl Jackson
8 Ron Bernheim	19 George Atwell	31 Louis Bernath
9 Mark Divis	19 Roger Albright	
10 Aaron Cohen	20 George Fayle	
10 Ron Beldner	21 Charles Kelemen	

### **CALLED FROM LABOR**

From the Secretary

**None Reported**

**Soft and Safe Be Thy Resting Place  
Bright and Glorious Be Thy Rising From it.**

(from page 3)

accommodate my crazy food ideas, and yet, even with short notice changes, cooked excellent food all year.

There are so many others who made my year possible. Please don't take offense if I didn't single you out here. Here, I just wanted to publicly thank the people who don't often get praise in public, usually because they don't do what they do for praise, they do it out of the goodness of their hearts: true examples of Masonry in practice.

Thank you everyone for bearing with me as I learned what it means to be Master. I know you'll show the same compassion and interest to our future Masters. And, in the meantime, I'll see you in the Past Master's section.

Fraternally,  
*David Sylvester*, Master

## 2008 Officers

### Master:

**David Sylvester**  
(805) 340 - 5769

E-Mail: [slyman007@aol.com](mailto:slyman007@aol.com)

#### Senior Warden:

Russell Jaeger  
(818) 636-1605  
E-Mail: [russelljaeger@yahoo.com](mailto:russelljaeger@yahoo.com)

#### Junior Warden:

Art Melendez (Flor)  
(818) 635-0808  
E-Mail: [Tecolote1@Gmail.com](mailto:Tecolote1@Gmail.com)

#### Treasurer

John Champion, P.M. (Virginia)  
(818) 701-1492  
E-Mail: [jvchamp@pacbell.net](mailto:jvchamp@pacbell.net)

#### Secretary:

Jerry Shubb, P.M. (Joan)  
19626 Ventura Blvd. Tarzana, CA 91356  
(818) 345-9757  
E-Mail: [jerryshubb@aol.com](mailto:jerryshubb@aol.com)

#### Senior Deacon:

Steve Mahr  
(818) 521-0501 cell  
E-Mail: [mahr.steve@gmail.com](mailto:mahr.steve@gmail.com)

#### Junior Deacon:

Sheldon Mowrey  
(562) 288-5253  
E-Mail: [SMowrey@adelphia.net](mailto:SMowrey@adelphia.net)

#### Chaplain:

Michael Pearce (Kelley)  
(818) 641-9773  
[mrpearce@socal.rr.com](mailto:mrpearce@socal.rr.com)

#### Marshall:

Ron Sindelar (Jean Marie)  
(818) 346-8732  
E-Mail: [captj1701@aol.com](mailto:captj1701@aol.com)

#### Senior Steward:

Steven Klein (Fidelia)  
(626) 678-5226  
E-mail: [sdklein2005@yahoo.com](mailto:sdklein2005@yahoo.com)

#### Junior Steward:

TJ Oliva (Karia)  
(213) 268-2408  
E-mail: [tjoliva@socal.rr.com](mailto:tjoliva@socal.rr.com)

#### Tiler

Norm Hoffman, P.M. (Farzameh)  
(818) 715-9055

#### Candidates Coach:

Stan Higgins, P.M. (Ethel)  
(818) 892-5100  
(818) 438-5758...Cell

#### Officer's Coach:

Ted Schuman, P.M. (Penny)  
(818) 886-9754  
E-Mail: [tschuman@psfin.com](mailto:tschuman@psfin.com)

#### Asst Officer's Coach:

James Bayhülle  
(310) 710 - 5994  
E-Mail: [jbayhülle@gmail.com](mailto:jbayhülle@gmail.com)

#### Officers at Large:

Jack Levy, P.M. (Brenda)      Spyros Pappas (Tasi)      Aaron Cohen      Fred West

#### Inspector, 322nd Masonic District:

Chris Holme, PM (Heather)  
H-(818) 981-9188    Cell (818) 448-2424

#### The Boulevard Masonic Center Building Manager:

Aaron Shubb  
(818) 590-9597  
For Rentals

Hollywood Lodge #355  
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