



# Columbia Brotherhood Lodge No. 370

Free and Accepted Masons

855 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco, CA 94132

VOLUME 121, ISSUE 07

JULY 2026

### THIS MONTH JULY

- JULY 1
  - Stated Meeting
- JULY 4-10
  - Master's Trip
- JULY 28
  - HA Meeting

### AUGUST

- AUGUST 5
  - Stated Meeting
  - Backpack Donation Event
- AUGUST 10 & 24
  - Masonic Formation Class
- AUGUST 12
  - Officer Practice
- AUGUST 15
  - CBL 370, CAL 1, SF 120 JOINT PICNIC
- AUGUST 19
  - DSOI, Host: CBL 370
- AUGUST 21
  - FRIDAY FUN
- AUGUST 25
  - Hall Assn. MTG
- AUGUST 26
  - Degree Conferral

### SEPTEMBER

- SEPTEMBER 2
  - Stated Meeting
- SEPTEMBER 5&6
  - Mystery Trip
- SEPTEMBER 9,16,&23
  - Degree Practice
- SEPTEMBER 14,&28
  - Masonic Formation Class
- SEPTEMBER 17
  - DSOI, Host: CAL 1
- SEPTEMBER 19
  - Past Master Dinner Dance
- SEPTEMBER 19
  - Past Master Dinner Dance
- SEPTEMBER 30
  - Degree Conferral

## From the East

Worshipful Master, Bruce Lyons



Hello Brothers, Ladies, and friends,

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Happy 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to our great country, the most important democracy this world has ever seen, the good old USA, a country birthed on ideas, rather than a place based upon a certain religion, ethnicity, or other divisive concept.

The United States of America is a place where we enjoy the freedom to say what we want, to criticize the government, to assemble to protest,

to worship as we desire or not to worship at all. We enjoy freedoms that many peoples in this world do not. Let us remember that for this Republic to last another 250 years, we must engage civically and morally in seeing the ideals that our founders, many of them Masons, have given us in the Declaration of Independence and later in our Constitution as our foundation. **Please take a moment to reflect on this special anniversary and how privileged you are to be living in this great country, a place of individual freedom, rights, and liberties and how we can create a more perfect union over the next 250 years.**

June was also a month of celebration. Our annual family camping trip to Lake

Oroville was a great success with over 40 people enjoying the hospitality of CBL 370. **Brother Jod'I and WB Alex**, along with **WB Onnie**, and their wives rolled out the red carpet and cooked up a storm. Pictures **Brother Jose** has taken and will be showing on the monitor at our Stated Meeting. Thank you to our brothers for their hard work and for making the weekend such a success.

On June 27<sup>th</sup> we had our annual widows' trip, a cruise on the bay on the Hornblower. Thank you to **Brother Carlos and Sister Dinah** for their hard work to create this special event.

June 26<sup>th</sup> was our first Karaoke night at the lodge and we celebrated **WB Anil's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday**. Thanks to all who participated in this fun event.

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# From the West

*Senior Warden, Frank Pertierra*



Greetings Brethren,

On July 4th, 2026, the nation will observe the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This significant milestone provides an opportunity to reflect on the country's history, recognize the contributions of all Americans, and consider the aspirations we hold for future generations.

During the June stated meeting, Worshipful Master Bruce Lyons shared a positive update regarding Mr. Gene Millonida's application to receive the degrees of Masonry in our Lodge,

The officers practiced together on June 10 and June 17 to get ready for the Entered Apprentice initiation, which took place on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

We appreciate all Brothers who attended our degree conferrals and thank those who attended this one and who gave their support to the candidate and our Lodge.

Several Brothers are joining the Master's trip to New York from July 4 to July 10. We anticipate they will return with valuable experiences to share from

their travels. We wish them a pleasant and safe journey.

Monday Formation Class (MFC) meetings facilitated by WB James Gonzalez will be dark in July and will resume on August 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

Please feel free to contact WB James Gonzalez with suggestions.

Thank you for supporting Masonry and our classes.

Fraternally yours,

**Frank B. Pertierra**  
**Sr. Warden**



# From the South

*Junior Warden, Jimmy Fowler*



Greetings Brethren and family,

I've been mistaken in my last few articles. We are NOT dark in July. I moved the barbecue dinner to this month instead of August.

If you didn't attend the camping trip, you missed out! Brother Jodl out did himself again. Suffice it to

say no one went hungry. It was also great to visit it with Brother Allan Young before he moved to Kentucky. Be sure not to miss next year's camping trip.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the Masters trip, but I wish the group going safe travels.

I have a basic outline for the meals this year but if you've got any suggestions please let me know.

As always, PLEASE sign up for stated meetings and events via Signup Genius or

by texting me (or the special event chairman) for our stated meetings and events. It is imperative we have accurate counts for all meetings and events.

Please text me at (415) 530-9779 with questions, questions, with suggestions and or for assistance..

See you soon,

**Jimmy Fowler**  
**Junior Warden**



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**CHARITY COMMITTEE**  
Bruce Lyons, Worshipful Master ..... Chairman  
Frank Pertierra, Senior Warden ..... Member  
Jimmy Fowler, Junior Warden..... Member

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
Bruce Lyons, Worshipful Master  
Frank Pertierra, Senior Warden  
Jimmy Fowler, Junior Warden  
Reyno Del Rosario, Jr., P.M. Treasurer  
Jason Yen P.M., Secretary

**INVESTMENT-COMMITTEE TRUSTEES**  
William F. Aldridge, P.M. ... Exp 2026 ..... President  
Markos Balopoulos, P.M. ... Exp 2028 Vice President  
Lawrence Di Giacomo, P.M. Exp 2028 ..... Member  
Francis Feliciano, P.M. .... Exp 2028 ..... Member  
Robert Ranum, PM ..... Exp.2029 ..... Member  
Jason Yen, PM ..... Secretary

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Jose Rivera..... Exp 2026..... Vice President  
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Patrick Cheng..... Exp 2027..... Member  
Amelio Feliciano..... Exp 2027..... Member  
James S. Guerrero ..... Exp 2026..... Member  
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**Please remember that no motion can be made during the Stated Meeting unless the Worshipful Master has been properly notified and has included it in the meeting agenda. Failure to do so may cause undue delays and your motion may not be recognized or voted on.**

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Scholarship applications are available and are due by July 1, 2026. Those interested in applying for a scholarship should request an application from our Secretary. Much success to our scholarship applicants.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to our newly obligated Brother Gene Millonida. Congratulations to our officers on the most recent degree conferral and to Brother Jimmy Fowler on his first entered apprentice conferral and lecture, Safe travels to our brothers and families participating in the Grand Master and Master trips celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the declaration of independence and the principles of liberty and enlightened citizenship. May our brothers and their families enjoy the summer break.

*Fiat Luz "Let there be Light"*

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I am pleased to say that our newest Master Mason **Bro. Charles Gagas** has been helping as the Jr. Steward for our degrees as **Brother Bill Nichols** has been away for work in Louisiana. **Brother Charles** and his wife **Claire** will also be joining us on the Master's trip to New York City. He is a great new addition to our lodge.

Congratulations to our newly obligated **Brother Gene Millionida** who was elected to take the degrees of masonry at our lodge and received his first degree. **Brother Jimmy Fowler** sat in the East for the degree and did a wonderful job along with the rest of the officer's team.

After our July Stated meeting the rest of the month will be dark. Please enjoy your summer. If you are not joining us in New York City for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the Master's Trip, I look forward to seeing you at our August Stated Meeting and at **our annual picnic on August 15<sup>th</sup> at Orangewood Park in South San Francisco** with our fellow District 141 lodges, San Francisco #120, and California #1. Thank you Worshipful Masters Sal and John for creating a great event.



### ***What is a valid reason to reject a candidate to receive the degrees of masonry?***

Since, all brothers of our lodge have gone through the same process, I probably do not need to recount how the admission process works, but I just wanted to give a quick recap.

- First, **the gentleman is recommended by a brother AFTER inquiring about joining our lodge.** We don't recruit, we don't ask, we just let men know that we are here to help those looking to become better men by giving them a structured, lifelong path of moral growth, self-examination, and service — not by changing who he is, but by sharpening the virtues he already carries.
- Second, after **attending at least five events** at our lodge, Stated meetings, social events, and typically many Masonic Formation classes, he submits his application with a fee of over \$400.00 to take the degrees of freemasonry at our lodge. Once his application is read at a Stated meeting it is submitted to the Grand Lodge for a background check.
- Third, after the background check, the Master asks **a committee of three brothers to investigate him**, going to his home, interviewing his partner, and him to see if he would be a good fit for our lodge.
- Fourth, after going through this process, he is asked to **speak before the lodge and tell the brothers why he wants to be a Mason**; his

purpose, his desires, and what he can add to our lodge.

- Only after these steps are completed do we ballot on his application.
- In accordance with CMC §804.510. All brothers during this process can always tell the Master a Masonic he does not think this candidate would be a good member of our lodge. Any such objection in private to the Master is kept private and automatically postpones the ballot until the objection is withdrawn, or after 60 days, the application is automatically rejected.

What is a **valid reason for rejecting a candidate**? It always involves **character, integrity, or fitness for the Craft** — not personal dislike, social differences, trivial objections, or a dislike of the brothers proposing the candidate.

The core Masonic reasons for rejecting a candidate:

- **Lack of good moral character** — Freemasonry requires that a man already be of upright reputation. We should avoid admitting someone whose conduct would damage the fraternity's standing. This is **the most fundamental reason for rejection.**
- **Dishonesty during the investigation** — If a petitioner lies about his past, criminal history, motives, or personal life, that alone is grounds for rejection.
- **Bad reputation in the community** — Our lodge will not take on the burden of defending a man who is widely distrusted or disliked. Masonry seeks men who can be built upon, not men whose reputations must be repaired.
- **Unworthy motives for joining** — Seeking business advantage, social status, influence, or personal gain contradicts Masonic principles.
- **Incompatibility with Masonic obligations** — If a man's beliefs or lifestyle would prevent him from keeping the obligations of the Craft, he may be rejected.

During our discussion, sometimes heated, it was voiced that a man could be **rejected because he did not "fit our lodge"**. **Maybe, he would do better at a different lodge.** I find that this is not a valid reason, the candidate should be given the courtesy to make his own judgment, especially after good council.

My thinking is, how can I judge who is fit and who is not, who is a "worthy" man? If the candidate is well known, of good moral character, desires to follow our beliefs and structure, passes the background check, and is deemed worthy by our investigating committee, then in my humble opinion, he is worthy of joining our lodge.

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If he wants to become a mason for honorable reasons, let us welcome him and his family to our family.

**The Great Architect of the Universe will judge each of us upon our demise.** We are not to judge. If a man is worthy of being a mason anywhere, and he desires to join our lodge, we should be grateful and welcome him, not reject him for un-Masonic reasons.

With sincere fraternal regard and brotherly love,

Enjoy your summer,

Bruce Lyons,  
Worshipful Master 2026



## IN MEMORIAM

Thankfully, we have no reports of brothers who have laid down their tools during the past month.

For all who have laid down their tools and or entered into rest:

*Soft and safe to thee, my brother or sister, be thy resting place. Bright and Glorious be thy rising from it. Fragrant be the acacia sprig that there shall flourish. May the earliest buds of spring unfold their beauties o'er thy resting place, and there, may the sweetness of the summer's last rose linger longest.*



## MASONIC FORMATION CLASS



Columbia Brotherhood Lodge hosted Masonic Formation Class (MFC) Meetings on Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> and Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion topics included questions from participants; the Holy Saints John, San Francisco

History, the Declaration of Independence and Notable Masons associated with it, and the founding of the City of San Francisco. After discussions, Brother Charles Gagas worked on his Master Mason proficiency, and Brother Huey Thomas continues to work on his Fellowcraft proficiency.

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With the exception of the Stated Meeting and the Master's trip, the lodge will be dark in July. MFC meetings will resume in August on Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> and a second MFC meeting is planned for Monday August 24<sup>th</sup>. Planned discussion topics include questions from participants; Advanced Stations, Freemasonry and Public Education. Summaries of selected June topics and other current concerns are discussed below..

### THE HOLY SAINTS JOHN

The Holy Saints John—**John the Baptist** and **John the Evangelist**—stand as complementary exemplars of the moral and spiritual ideals Freemasonry seeks to cultivate. John the Baptist represents moral discipline, upright conduct, and the cleansing power of conscience, urging the Mason to govern his passions and act with integrity before God and humanity. John the Evangelist embodies spiritual illumination, divine wisdom, and the contemplative search for truth, calling the Mason to elevate his thoughts, deepen his understanding, and practice brotherly love. Their feast days—at midsummer and midwinter—frame the Masonic year and symbolize the equilibrium between zeal and knowledge, action and reflection, outer conduct and inner faith.

This duality is expressed with particular clarity in the emblem of the **point within a circle**, one of the Craft's oldest moral symbols. The point signifies the individual Mason; the encircling boundary marks the limits of duty and virtue within which he must remain; and the two parallel lines—traditionally assigned to the Saints John—stand as guides of moral rectitude and spiritual insight. Above the circle rests the **Volume of Sacred Law**, anchoring the entire symbol in divine truth. Together, these elements teach that a Mason remains centered and true when he balances ethical discipline with enlightened understanding, measuring his life against the principles of faith, conscience, and the pursuit of Light.

### THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco's origins trace to 1776, when Spanish authorities established the Presidio and Mission San Francisco de Asis as part of their colonial system.

Because Spain outlawed Freemasonry throughout its empire, no lodges operated legally in Alta California, and the fraternity played no role in the city's initial founding.

For decades the settlement remained a small, isolated outpost until the 1840s, when American merchants, whalers, and naval forces began

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reshaping the region. The U.S. seizure of Yerba Buena in 1846 and its renaming to San Francisco in 1847 marked the beginning of the city's American civic identity. After this transition, Freemasonry became deeply woven into the city's rapid transformation.

American Masons arrived with the merchant community, and by 1849, California Lodge No. 1—the first chartered lodge in the state—was established, and masons such as John W. Geary, Ephraim Willard Burr, and William D. M. Howard held key civic roles, shaping early law, infrastructure, and commercial stability.

During the chaotic Gold Rush years (1849–1856), Masons were heavily represented in the Vigilance Committees, early fire companies, charitable institutions, and the merchant class that rebuilt the city after devastating fires. Their lodges became some of the earliest stable institutions in a boomtown defined by transience and disorder.

By the late 19th and 20th centuries, Masonic influence became visible in the city's physical landscape—from the Masonic Cemetery at Lone Mountain to the Masonic Auditorium on Nob Hill.

While Freemasonry had no connection to the Spanish founding of 1776, it played a major role in the American civic founding after 1847, helping shape San Francisco's government, commercial networks, public institutions, and civic culture. The fraternity became one of the city's enduring pillars during its most formative decades.

### THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The Declaration of Independence arose from a mounting series of political, economic, and philosophical conflicts between the American colonies and Great Britain. By the mid-18th century, Enlightenment ideas—especially **natural rights**, social contract theory, and the dignity of the individual—had taken deep root in colonial society. Freemasonry, already thriving in the colonies, provided a unique forum where these concepts were discussed “on the level” among men of diverse backgrounds. This intellectual environment helped cultivate habits of reason, equality, and civic responsibility that shaped many of the leaders who would guide the colonies toward independence.

As tensions escalated through the Stamp Act, the Intolerable Acts, and increasing military confrontation, the Continental Congress formed the **Committee of Five** in June 1776 to draft a formal declaration. Among its members, Benjamin Franklin—an active Freemason—played a central role in refining Jefferson's draft, sharpening its

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philosophical clarity. Presiding over Congress was John Hancock, Grand Master of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge, whose bold signature became the Declaration's most iconic mark. In total, at least eight confirmed Freemasons signed the Declaration: Franklin, Hancock, Joseph Hewes, William Hooper, Robert Treat Payne, Richard Stockton, George Walton, and William Whipple. Their involvement reflects not a Masonic conspiracy, but the influence of Masonic ideals on their character and worldview.

The Declaration's core principles resonate strongly with Masonic teachings. Its assertion that “all men are created equal” parallels the lodge's insistence that every Brother stands on the level, equal in dignity and moral worth. Its emphasis on unalienable rights echoes the Craft's belief in the inherent moral agency of every individual. The principle of government by consent mirrors the democratic governance of Masonic lodges, where officers are elected and authority arises from the collective will. Finally, the Declaration's justification for resisting tyranny reflects Masonry's call to oppose oppression of mind, conscience, and spirit. These philosophical parallels demonstrate how Enlightenment thought and Masonic moral architecture converged in the founding of the United States.

Beyond the signers themselves, several key Masonic figures shaped the broader struggle for independence. **George Washington**, a Freemason, commanded the Continental Army and embodied the virtues of leadership, restraint, and civic duty. **Paul Revere** helped organize patriot networks in Boston, while **Marquis de Lafayette**—a French Freemason—became one of the Revolution's most important allies. Their contributions underscore that the Revolution was not only a political movement but also a moral one, grounded in the belief that free people, guided by virtue and reason, could build a just society.

Brothers, candidates and prospects are invited to attend MFC meetings and participate in discussions similar to those summarized above.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Gonzalez, PM  
MFC Coach



## LODGE OFFICER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES – THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

As part of the Keystone Initiative, the Grand Lodge defined job descriptions for all lodge officers clarifying their duties and how they work together within the lodge structure. The following provides information on the executive committee.

The Executive Committee, comprised of the Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Secretary, serves as the cornerstone of the lodge's success and longevity. This committee provides visionary leadership, ensuring effective governance and guiding the lodge's strategic direction. By overseeing event planning, financial



stewardship, and member engagement, the Executive Committee works to strengthen connections, foster growth, and uphold the lodge's traditions. Their dedication ensures that the lodge continues to create meaningful change, inspire its members, and build a lasting legacy for the fraternity.

The Worshipful Master is the elected leader of the lodge and the embodiment of its mission, values, and traditions. He presides over all meetings, ensures the integrity of the ritual, and oversees the governance, administration, and well-being of the lodge. As the lodge's chief executive, he sets vision and tone, delegates effectively, builds harmony, and ensures that every member experiences meaning, growth, and connection.

His core responsibilities include:

- Presiding at all meetings of the lodge and ensure they are conducted with dignity, order, and fidelity to the Ritual (CMC §805.120.A).
- Discharging all executive functions of the lodge and perform all acts proper to his office by ancient usage (CMC §805.110.C–D).
- Superintending the official acts of all lodge officers and ensure their duties are properly discharged (CMC §805.120.H).
- Guarding against infractions of the Bylaws, California Masonic Code, General Regulations, and Ritual (CMC §805.120.I).
- Attending to the best of his ability, and encouraging officer attendance, at programs that support leadership development (Lodge leadership retreats, Annual Communication, District School of Instruction,

Prospect Managers Association Meetings, Secretary's Association Meetings, etc.) Ritual & Degree Work

- Confer, or cause to be conferred, all degrees in strict accordance with the Ritual (CMC §805.120.B).
- Giving, or causing to be given, all lectures appertaining to each degree at the time it is conferred (CMC §805.120.C).
- Appointing all officers whose positions are not elected (CMC §805.120.D).
- Issuing or causing to be issued all necessary summonses and notices (CMC §805.110.B).
- Attesting approved minutes at every stated meeting (CMC §805.120.G).
- Coordinating lodge operations through the Executive Committee.
- Removing any officer who fails to qualify or neglects their duties (CMC §805.110).
- Chairing the Executive Committee (Master, SW, JW, Treasurer, Secretary).
- Chairing the Charity Committee with the Wardens, carefully reviewing requests for relief.
- Appointing an Auditing Committee and Member Retention Committee at the first stated meeting after installation (CMC §805.120.E).
- Appointing a chairman for coordination with Grand Lodge education programs (CMC §805.120.F)
- Providing for the installation of his successor (CMC §805.120.J).
- Holding full executive authority of the lodge and may remove any officer who fails to perform their duties (CMC §805.110).
- Presiding over and governs all lodge meetings and functions.
- Ensuring proper installation and continuity of leadership for his successor (CMC §805.120.J).

The Senior Warden is the lodge's second elected officer and the principal supporter of the Worshipful Master. He leads the lodge's education efforts, oversees candidate formation, and ensures that members advance through their Masonic journey with meaning and integrity. As second in command, he must be fully prepared to assume the powers and duties of the Master in their absence, per the California Masonic Code (§805.210).

His core responsibilities include:

- Leading the lodge's education and candidate formation program, ensuring candidates receive a meaningful and well-supported experience.
- Serving as chairman of the Education Committee, coordinating learning, ritual understanding, and candidate coaching.
- Supervising the Candidate Coaches, ensuring

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instruction aligns with lodge standards and Masonic values.

- Partnering with the Junior Deacon to design and deliver member education and lodge-wide programming.
- Supporting the Master in long-range planning, governance, and leadership of the lodge.
- Contributing actively to the Executive Committee, offering judgment and insights that strengthen lodge operations.
- Serving on the Charity Committee with the Master and Junior Warden, reviewing requests for relief.
- In the Master's absence, assuming full leadership responsibilities of the lodge.
- Attending to the best of his ability, programs that support leadership development (Lodge leadership retreats, Annual Communication, District School of Instruction, etc.)
- Assisting the Master in all duties.
- Succeeding to the Master's authority and responsibilities in his absence (CMC §805.210).
- Overseeing candidate formation and education on behalf of the lodge.

The Junior Warden is the lodge's third elected officer and a key steward of membership vitality. He supports the Master and Senior Warden, fosters harmony among the brethren, and ensures that members, guests, and prospects experience a warm, connected, and meaningful lodge environment. In the Master's and Senior Warden's absence, he assumes the Master's duties per the California Masonic Code (§805.210).

His core responsibilities include:

- Leading the lodge's membership engagement efforts, promoting strong participation and connection.
- Guiding the prospect experience in partnership with the Senior Deacon, ensuring thoughtful communication and meaningful orientation.
- Overseeing the Welcome Committee through the Marshal, creating a warm and hospitable lodge environment.
- Supporting the Chaplain in outreach to absent members, reinforcing retention and inclusion.
- Maintaining order and propriety during times of refreshment.
- Serving on the Charity Committee with the Master and Senior Warden, reviewing requests for relief.
- Serving on the Executive Committee, contributing to lodge planning, governance, and strategic decisions.
- Assisting the Master as needed in all facets of lodge leadership and operations.
- Attending programs that support leadership development (Lodge leadership retreats, Annual Communication, District School of Instruction,

Prospect Managers Association Meetings, etc.)

- Serving as the lodge's Prospect Manager, coordinating all outreach, follow-up, and engagement efforts for prospective members.
- Assisting the Master in all duties; succeeds to the Master's powers and responsibilities in the absence of both the Master and Senior Warden (CMC §805.210).
- Participating in lodge governance through the Executive Committee

The Treasurer is the elected financial steward of the lodge, entrusted with safeguarding all funds and assets, maintaining accurate financial records, and ensuring responsible fiscal management. Working closely with the Master, Secretary, and finance-related committees, he supports the lodge's financial stability, transparency, and long-term sustainability.

- Safely keeping all lodge monies, property, and other assets, except those specifically entrusted to trustees (CMC §805.220.B).
- Disbursing or transferring funds only upon an order signed by the Master, attested by the Secretary, and approved by the lodge (CMC §805.220.A–B).
- Maintaining detailed and accurate books showing receipts, disbursements, assets, liabilities, and all financial activity (CMC §805.220.C).
- Presenting a comprehensive financial statement at the August stated meeting (covering Jan 1–Jun 30), using the Grand Master's required form (CMC §805.220.D).
- Presenting a similar annual financial statement each February for the prior calendar year (CMC §805.220.D).
- Providing additional financial reports at any time if requested by the lodge (CMC §805.220).
- Serving on the Executive Committee alongside the Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and Secretary, contributing to planning and lodge governance.
- Supporting budget development, forecasting, and long-term fiscal planning. Collaborating with the Assistant Treasurer (if applicable) to ensure efficient financial operations.
- Attending to the best of his ability programs that support leadership development (Lodge leadership retreats, Annual Communication, District School of Instruction, etc.)

The Secretary is the lodge's chief administrative officer and the steward of its records, communications, and reporting. He ensures the lodge's compliance with the California Masonic Code and Grand Lodge procedures, maintains accurate member and meeting records, oversees all required filings, supports officers and

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committees, and provides the administrative foundation that keeps the lodge running smoothly and effectively.

His core responsibilities include:

- Preparing accurate minutes for all Stated and Special Meetings and maintain them as part of the official record.
  - Presenting minutes for lodge approval and the Master’s signature; distribute electronically when authorized.
  - Maintaining bylaws, dispensations, the lodge seal, and other official documents.
  - Preserving all required books, including the Bylaws Signature Book and the Tiler’s Register.
  - Ensuring historical records are properly stored or digitized according to Grand Lodge guidelines.
- Membership Management**
- Maintaining complete membership records, including personal data, degree dates, status changes, and affiliations.
  - Recording and reporting all membership actions—initiations, affiliations, rejections, demits, suspensions, expulsions, restorations, and deaths—using Grand Lodge systems.
  - Providing semiannual (August) and annual (February) membership statements in required formats.
  - Notifying rejected applicants and issue required refunds.
  - Sending dues delinquency notices and annual reminders about good standing.
  - Issuing notices, summonses, and official correspondence as directed by the Master or required by Code.
  - Serving as the lodge’s principal administrative liaison with the Grand Secretary.
  - Communicating election results, candidate notifications, and required summaries to Grand Lodge.
  - Receiving all monies due the lodge and deliver or deposit them for the Treasurer at least monthly.
  - Maintaining accurate receipt records for all funds received.
  - Coordinating closely with the Treasurer to ensure financial reporting accuracy.
  - Transmitting annual reports, certificates of election, required returns, and life membership fund data to the Grand Secretary.
  - Submitting membership and financial statements to the Inspector and Grand Lodge by required deadlines.
  - Ensuring timely compliance with all reporting cycles and formats. Systems & Technology
  - Using all platforms designated by Grand Lodge for

membership, financial entries, reporting, document storage, and communications.

- Maintaining information security and ensure records are accessible to authorized lodge officers.
- Digitizing eligible records more than five years old into permanent electronic storage.
- Providing administrative support to the Master and officers, ensuring ready access to records and data.
- Assisting committee chairs with documentation and reporting needs.
- Supporting installations, funerals, public ceremonies, and other lodge functions.
- **Perform additional tasks required by lodge bylaws**, the Master, or the California Masonic Code.
- Ensuring a complete and orderly transfer of all records to the incoming Secretary at the end of the term.
- Attending to the best of his ability programs that support leadership development (Lodge leadership retreats, Annual Communication, District School of Instruction, Secretary’s Association Meetings, etc.)
- Holding custodial authority over lodge records, sealing, minutes, and administrative systems.
- **Acting under the direction of the Master** and in accordance with lodge bylaws and the California Masonic Code.
- Ensuring continuity through orderly maintenance and transfer of all lodge records.

Resource: Lodge Officer Roles and Responsibilities, Grand Lode of CA, <https://freemason.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Officer-Job-Descriptions.pdf>

The California Masonic Code (CMC) does not limit the number of participants in an executive committee meeting. Subject to the bylaws and the Master, other participants including the Assistant Secretary, trustees, line officers, event chairs and other brethren can be present to assist in these planning sessions.

**CMC, §802.020, Lodge Bylaws, Section 2, specifies that, “the dues of each Mason of this Lodge shall be payable in advance on the first day of January.” The 2026 dues are \$92.50 per annum. Several payment options are available, including online payments at [www.freemason.org](http://www.freemason.org) or mail in or in person presentation of checks directly to our secretary.**

**Sneak Peak from Roxie Hui regarding Activities planned for Upcoming Stated Meetings**

- August – We will participate in our California First Lady’s Forget Me Not Blanket project for the Shriners Children’s Hospital.
- September – Work on backpack donation.

## July Birthday List

### Happy Birthday Brethren

Sergio Azzolino	Jeffrey Miller
Philip Busalacci	Marland Moseng
Pantaleon Calisa	Ronnie Overman
Roberto Carbonell	Gil Palencia
Ramond Choye	Theodore Pallas
Richard Corriea	James Pappas
Corrado De Martini, PM	Peter Preovolos
Michael Dwyer, PM	Nicholas Rasis, PM
John Echevarria	Maurice Sciaroni
James Gonzalez, PM	Ken Sun
Gerardo Guzman	Carlos Suncin
William Koch	Jason Unluata
George Kourtoglou	John Whitefield
George Masson	

### JULY MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

#### Happy Masonic Birthday Brethren

Pantaleon Calisa	7/29/2003
Oscar Estioko	7/20/1974

### CBL 2026 MASTER'S TRIP

*Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence*

**JULY 4 - JULY 10, 2026**  
ARRIVE JULY 4 • DEPART JULY 10, 2026

**EXPERIENCE THE BEST OF NEW YORK CITY WITH YOUR BROTHERS**

- STATUE OF LIBERTY
- MACY'S FIREWORKS OVER THE HUDSON
- NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
- RESTAURANT WHERE PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON DINED WITH HIS TROOPS AT THE END OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

...AND MORE!

**HOTEL**  
HOTEL INDIGO  
120 WATER STREET  
NEW YORK, NY

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**  
WM BRUCE LYONS  
OR  
BROTHER CARLOS SUNCIN

### Columbia Brotherhood Lodge No. 370

*Cordially Invites you to its*

**2026**  
**Past Master**  
**Dinner and Dance**

*Saturday, September 19th, 2026*  
*5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.*  
*at*  
*Columbia Brotherhood Lodge*  
*855 Brotherhood way*  
*San Francisco, CA*

*CBL Past Masters and their ladies are guests of honor*

*Attire: Past Masters - Tuxedo / Others - Business suit*

**\$50 per person - Non CBL 370 - Member**  
**\$25 per person - CBL 370 Member**  
**CBL No. 370 Past Masters and Spouses - Free**

**RSVP AND PAYMENT DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2026**  
For reservation, please contact:  
Donnie Dela Cruz: Phone (707) 718-0825  
Email: [dnnie6219@gmail.com](mailto:dnnie6219@gmail.com)  
Payments Payable to: "Columbia Brotherhood Lodge #370"  
Mail to:  
Donnie Dela Cruz - 789 Del Mar Circle, Vacaville, CA 95688



**JUNE BIRTHDAY CELERANT**



**EA Degree Conferral Participants June 24, 2026**



**WM Bruce Lyons / Bro. Gene Millonida**

**Bro. Allen Yount / WM Bruce Lyons**

**Bro. Gene Millonida / Bro. Jimmy Fowler**



2026 Annual Camping Trip Participants

## SAVE THE DATE

For the:  
**2026 ANNUAL, JOINT LODGE PICNIC**  
 Hosted By:

California Lodge No. 1  
 San Francisco Lodge No. 120  
 Columbia Brotherhood Lodge No. 370  
 On **♣ Saturday, August 15, 2026**

At **♣ Orange Park,**  
 South San Francisco, CA 94080  
**Brothers, families & guests welcome**  
**FOOD · FELLOWSHIP · FUN**

*Dress comfortably. Come hungry. Bring your family*

### HAVE YOU BEEN LISTENING? TRIVIA

1. CMC §804.510 provides a process for objecting to a \_\_\_\_\_ prior to balloting.
2. The Holy Saints \_\_\_\_\_ stand as complementary exemplars of the moral and spiritual ideals.
3. The Volume of Sacred \_\_\_\_\_, above the point In a circle anchors the entire symbol in divine truth.
4. San Francisco's origins trace to 1776, when Spanish authorities established the Presidio and Mission San Francisco de \_\_\_\_\_ as part of their colonial system..
5. The assertion that "all men are created \_\_\_\_\_" parallels the lodge's insistence that every Brother stands on the level.
6. By the late 19th and 20th centuries, Masonic influence became visible in the city's physical \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The Continental Congress formed a Committee of \_\_\_\_\_ in June 1776 to draft a formal declaration.
8. The Master, Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden, Treasurer, and Secretary make up the \_\_\_\_\_ committee.
9. The Worshipful Master is the elected leader of the lodge and \_\_\_\_\_ over all meetings.
10. Beyond the signers themselves, several key Masonic figures shaped the broader struggle include \_\_\_\_\_, Paul Revere, and Marquis de Lafayette.



**July Cryptogram** – The July 2026 Cryptogram provided in the box below is a statement associated with Freemasonry, the month of July and the Declaration of Independence. The decoded statement will be provided in the Next Trestle board.

Clues for the Cryptogram are: (Q=A), (K = E), (Z = I), (P=O),(R=B), (O = T)

OMK HQEXK PN QJKBZHQ ZX ZG Q DBKQO  
 JKQXEBK OMK HQEXK PN QWW JQGSZGT.  
 — OMPJQX CQZGK

COLUMBIA BROTHERHOOD LODGE NO. 370

### ANSWERS TO JUNE 2026 TRIVIA

1. Memorial Day was first referenced as **Decoration Day**
2. **Inappropriate** use of the ballot is grounds for a Masonic Trial and Punishment.
3. **Freemasonry** has long emphasized communication, civility, and harmony as essential virtues within the lodge.
4. The **Rough** Ashlar represents the unrefined self at the beginning of the inner work.
5. Encouraging **introspection** rather than dogma that allows Masons to "see beyond the literal to the metaphorical,
6. Corinthians 13 is often called the "**Love** Chapter."
7. As part of the Keystone Initiative, the Grand Lodge provided well-defined job descriptions for all **lodge** officers.
8. The **gavel** is the emblem of the Master's authority
9. Improper use of the **ballot** constitutes unmasonic conduct sufficient to support the filing of a charge against a Mason.
10. The Worshipful Master is the **chairman** of the Executive Committee which includes the Master, the Senior and Junior Wardens, the Treasurer and the Secretary.



### Decoded Plaintext, June 2026 Cryptogram

Is provided in the box below and is e statement is associated with the June 24<sup>th</sup> Feast of St. John the Baptist, the Summer Solstice, and the peak of Spiritual Light.

"As the sun reaches its highest point in the June sky, so should a Mason strive to reach the summit of virtue, warming his community with brotherly love and walking in the full light of truth."



COLUMBIA BROTHERHOOD LODGE #370  
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## Important Reminder from the Master

As we celebrate the Fourth of July and the 250th anniversary of our nation, let us take a moment to reflect on the ideals upon which the United States was founded—ideals of liberty, equality, and the freedom to speak, worship, and participate fully in civic life. These principles, shaped in part by many Masonic founders, and we are privileged to live in a country built not on divisions of ethnicity or creed, but on shared values and the belief that a free people can strive toward a more perfect union.



June was filled with fellowship and meaningful activity within our lodge, from the Lake Oroville family camping trip and the widows' cruise to our first karaoke night and the advancement of new brothers in their Masonic journey. These moments remind us of the strength of our fraternity and the importance of welcoming good men into our ranks. As we consider candidates for the degrees of Masonry, let us remember that only character, integrity, and fitness for the Craft are valid measures—not personal preference or social differences. When a man of good moral standing seeks to join us for honorable reasons, we should receive him with gratitude and brotherly love. As we go dark for the remainder of July, I wish each of you a safe, joyful summer, and I look forward to gathering again in August to continue the work and fellowship that define our lodge.

Bruce Lyons,  
Master, 2026