



# Columbia Brotherhood Lodge No. 370

Free and Accepted Masons

855 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco, CA 94132

VOLUME 121, ISSUE 01 JANUARY 2026

## THIS MONTH

### JANUARY 7

•STATED MEETING

### JANUARY 12 & 26

•MASONIC FORMATION  
CLASS

### JANUARY 14 & 28

•OFFICER PRACTICE

### JANUARY 21

DSOI HOSTED BY CBL 370

### JANUARY 23

•FRIDAY NIGHT FUN

## FEBRUARY

### FEBRUARY 4

•STATED MEETING

### FEBRUARY 6 & 20

•FRIDAY FUN NIGHT

### FEBRUARY 9 & 23

•MASONIC FORMATION  
CLASS

### FEBRUARY 8

•BIG GAME PARTY

### FEBRUARY 14

•SWEETHEART DINNER

### FEBRUARY 11 & 25

•OFFICER PRACTICE

### FEBRUARY 19

•DSOI HOSTED BY SF 120

### FEBRUARY 28



## From the East



**Happy New Year Brothers, Sisters, Family, and Friends of Columbia Brotherhood Lodge,**

I hope you had a blessed and joyous holiday season. As we begin the new year of 2026, I wanted to send you greetings from the East. The trust and support of my lodge means so much to me, I look forward to serving as Master for the ensuing Masonic year.

Thank you to those who attended the 121<sup>st</sup> Installation for Columbia

**Worshipful Master, Bruce Lyons!**

Brotherhood Lodge. I am so appreciative of our installation team and the work that they did to make the ceremony meaningful to me and my fellow officers.

**Worshipful Brother (WB)**

**Alex Ellescas** as the Installing

Officer, **WB Orlando Arce** as

the installing chaplain and

**WB Dionisio De La Cruz** as

the Master of Ceremonies

performed their roles

flawlessly, and I appreciate

their dedication. I also

wanted to take this

opportunity to thank our **Jr.**

**Past Master, Anil Awasti**, for

his leadership this past year

and his ongoing support as

Chaplain for the ensuing

Masonic Year. The evening

would not have been

complete without the

excellent meal and music that

followed. My thanks to

**Brother Jimmy Fowler, Jr.** Warden, **Maria, Crystal**, and the rest of our event staff that served and presented our wonderful meal and who decorated our dining room to celebrate the event and the season.

“Sound of the Gavel” led by **Brother John Echeverria** deserves thanks for the great music during and after the ceremony.

Lastly, I was honored that the **Grand Master of California, Most Worshipful Garrett Chan**, and his wife **JoMay** joined us for our celebration.

I also wanted to extend my thanks and appreciation for those who have committed to serving as officers of our lodge for 2026 and those

*Continued on Page 4.*



## From the West

*Senior Warden, Frank Pertierra*



Greetings Brethren,

Happy New Year to all my brothers. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude and humility for the trust and support you have shown me. As I take on the role of Senior Warden of the lodge for 2026, I am committed to working alongside each of you to ensure our continued progress and success.

I ask for your ongoing support, as I believe that when we stand united and work together, we can achieve all our goals. Let us approach this year with a spirit of collaboration and brotherhood, strengthening the bonds that make our lodge strong.

As the Senior Warden, I recognize that a significant portion of my responsibilities within the educational realm is to guide our aspiring candidates on their journey toward becoming Master Masons. Our candidate coach, WB James Gonzalez, leads the Masonic Formation Class on Monday nights. This class is designed to guide and support our aspiring candidates as they progress on their journey toward becoming Master Masons.

I encourage other Master Masons to join these sessions and assist our candidates. Your presence, along with the sharing of

your thoughts, knowledge, and insights, plays a vital role in enriching their experience and strengthening our lodge's educational efforts. This new beginning is a time for us to embrace fresh aspirations and work towards the continuous improvement of our lodge. Let us move forward together with optimism and dedication to making this year even better than the last.

I hope to see you all at our January stated meeting.

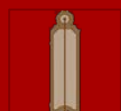
Fraternally

**Frank Pertierra,  
Sr. Warden**



## From the South

*JUNIOR WARDEN, JIMMY FOWLER*



Happy New Year!

Brethren, I hope your holidays were great.

This being my first article as Junior Warden I would like to thank you for electing me. I look forward to a challenging but rewarding year.

Worshipful Bruce has many fun events planned and I

hope that you will be able to attend.

Regarding the reservations for events, please sign up early and accurately. It makes it easier for everyone involved. Sign up options include using sign-up genius, emailing me at [jaf1331@yahoo.com](mailto:jaf1331@yahoo.com), or

texting me at (415) 530-9779.

Happy New Year to all, and I hope to see everyone soon.

Fraternally,

**Jimmy Fowler  
Junior Warden**



**2026 LODGE OFFICERS**

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Jimmy Fowler ..... **JR. WARDEN**  
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**2026 COMMITTEES****AUDITING COMMITTEE**

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Robert De Luzuriaga, P.M. .... (415) 309-7506  
James Gonzalez, P.M. .... (510) 772-7415  
Augusto Tagaro, P.M. .... (650) 346-4551

**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 2025 ..... Member  
Francis Feliciano, P.M. .... Exp 2028 ..... Member  
Jason Yen, PM ..... Secretary

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**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE**

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Ron Sickler..... (650) 464-8717

**HALL ASSOCIATION BOARD****RICHMOND MASONIC TEMPLE COMPANY**

James S. Guerrero ..... Exp 2026.....Member  
Jose M. Rivera ..... Exp 2026 .....Member  
Patrick Cheng ..... Exp 2027.....Member  
Carlos Suncin ..... Exp 2027.....Member  
Amelio Feliciano..... Exp 2027.....Member  
James Gonzalez, PM ..... Exp 2028 .....Member  
Bruce Lyons, Worshipful Master.....Ex Officio Member  
Frank Pertierra, Senior Warden .....Ex Officio Member

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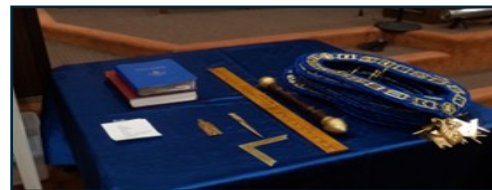
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Please remember that no motion can be made during the Stated Meeting unless the Worshipful Master has been properly notified and has included it in the meeting agenda. Failure to do so may cause undue delays and your motion may not be recognized or voted on.

**EDITOR'S NOTES**

Congratulations to our 2026 officers on their installations for the ensuing Masonic year. May our newly installed officers and committee personnel be most successful in their 2026 endeavors in serving the lodge and its members. May each of us continue mastering our craft and supporting our Worshipful Master Bruce Lyons and his vision for the year.

May each prospect or candidate working toward becoming a Mason and may Brothers advancing in degrees be inspired with all the awareness, insight and knowledge needed to reach their Masonic goals.

May each of our Brothers and those they care about enjoy a happy and meaningful 2026.



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who will be chairing events and committees this year. Our lodge succeeds when we have members committed to ensuring that the fraternity enjoys great fellowship and commits to serving our community. Our printed calendar is available from our Stewards as well as online at [HOME | CBL 370](#) – just click on the calendar button. Our Trestleboard is also always available on our website.



2026, as you may know, is the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of this democratic experiment called the United States of America. Many of the founding fathers of the USA were Masons and we have a long history of promoting democracy as part of our fraternity. Look forward to celebrating the USA in many of our activities this year, including the Master's trip to Philadelphia and New York beginning on June 29<sup>th</sup> and celebrating the Fourth of July in Philadelphia.

San Francisco is also celebrating its founding with the creation of Mission Dolores and the Presidio by the Spanish in 1776. This celebration will also be part of our year.

My goal this year is service – service to the community and service to the brotherhood. Serving the community to me means letting the residents of San Francisco know a little more about how Masonry can help them and how we have helped in the past.

#### Serving the Community:

- Our current scholarship program is for family members of our Master Masons, and we hope to expand this to include scholarships for deserving students at our local high schools. We will honor these winners at our June Stated Meeting.
- Veterans will be honored in November at our Stated Meeting.
- First Responders will be honored at our April Stated Meeting.
- Volunteering at the Food Bank – the date to be determined.

#### Serving the Brotherhood:

- Providing a safe and inviting lodge.
- Helping the brethren to become better men through education and advice.

- Having great fun and fellowship with the brothers and their families.

I expect to accomplish this goal of service with the help of our officers and brothers of Columbia Brotherhood Lodge and the principles of Masonry:

#### Brotherly love, relief, and truth

**Brotherly love** calls us to embrace every man as a brother, regardless of station or creed. In a world fractured by division, we are summoned to be instruments of harmony, extending the hand of fellowship with sincerity and warmth. Let us remember, when we lift another, we rise ourselves. True brotherhood is not confined to the lodge—it radiates outward, touching families, communities, and nations.

**Relief is love in action.** It is the gentle whisper of compassion and the strong arm of support. Whether through charity, counsel, or simple kindness, we affirm that Masonry is not a philosophy of words alone, but of deeds that echo in eternity.

**Truth is the light that guides our journey.** It is the unwavering star in the night sky, pointing us toward integrity and wisdom. In an age where falsehood often masquerades as fact, we are called to stand firm, to speak with honesty, and to live with honor. Truth is not always easy, but it is always right. It is the foundation upon which trust is built and the key that unlocks the gates of understanding.

When we use these principles, we become builders of character and a force for light to lead us out of the darkness. And finally, The Great Architect of the Universe, without whom nothing can be accomplished, guiding our steps and strengthening our hearts as we labor in His service.

Harmony and fellowship are the strength of our lodge and of Masonry. Next time, someone wants to say something about another brother, ask them, will this honor that brother or hurt his good name. The success of our lodge starts by looking into our hearts to discover a way to present ourselves positively rather than negatively. A kind word for someone with whom you have a disagreement goes much further than being critical. Whisper good council rather than shout your criticism and harmony will prevail. Let's work together to create a harmonious environment.

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Wishing you a prosperous and joyful 2026,

Fraternally,

**Bruce Lyons,  
Worshipful Master**



## FROM THE SECRETARY

Dear Brethren,

Happy New Year to all! As we welcome 2026, I wish each of you a year filled with happiness, success, and your heart be full of gratitude. May this year bring you growth, joy, and countless moments to cherish.

By now, many of you have already paid your 2026 Dues of \$92.50—thank you! Others may have received a mailed reminder. Please remember that Dues must be paid in order to be in good standing as of January 1st.

An increasing number of members are choosing to pay their Dues online at [freemason.org](http://freemason.org), where you may also enroll in a convenient monthly payment plan. Once your first installment is made, you will be considered in good standing. This option allows you to spread the cost over the course of the year.

If paying your Dues presents any hardship, please contact the Secretary in confidence. It will always be our honor to assist you. Our foremost concern is that you remain in good standing and continue to enjoy all the rights and benefits of Masonry.

**NAME TAGS:** Members who wish to have a new name tag, please take this opportunity to order it. For efficiency and cost saving reasons, I will be taking orders beginning January 10 to April 03, 2026. The cost will be \$15 per name tag.

If you need any assistance or have questions, please feel free to reach out to me or any of the officers. We are here to support you.

Sincerely and Fraternaly yours,

Jason Yen, P.M.  
Secretary



## 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.

*Soft and safe to thee, my brother, 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

As Masons we seek further light and are required to provide suitable assistance to our less informed brethren. Since Masonic Formation Class (MFC) participants include prospects; Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master



Masons, Master Masons who have completed their proficiencies, Master Masons who have had officer and other training, and Past Masters, the MFC program is designed to provide a forum for discussing Masonic concepts, practices and events to encourage exchange of ideas that promote understanding and personal growth assist as each participant strives to become his best self.

In addition, time is set aside to assist Brothers in becoming more proficient in lectures of their current degrees and officers who are working on becoming proficient in Masonic rituals.

MFC was dark during the month of December, so the next MFC Meetings are planned to resume in January 2026. The first MFC meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> and the next is scheduled for Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Selected notable, Masonic, December events and general topics of discussion planned for 2026 are provided below.

### Selected Masonic Events Occurring In December

- **December 13, 2025:** Columbia Brotherhood Officer installation.
- **December 14, 1799:** WB George (1732-1799) Washington died at the age of 67. He was a member of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4.
- **December 16, 1963:** HRH The Duke of Kent,

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Prince Edward, was initiated as a Freemason in Royal Alpha Lodge No. 16 in London. He would later become the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE).

- **December 19, 1912:** The Grand Lodge of the Philippines was officially formed.
- **December 21, 2025: Winter Solstice:** The astronomical event around this time connects to ancient traditions of light returning, themes reflected in Masonic symbolism.
- **December 27 (Annually):** The **Feast of St. John the Evangelist** is celebrated. This date is one of the two main patron saints' feast days celebrated by Freemasons. The other is Feast of St. John the Baptist on June 24th.
- **December 27, 1813,** the two rival Grand Lodges in England (the "Ancients" and the "Moderns") united to form the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE).

### 2026 MFC Discussion Topics

Date	Discussion Topics(s)
1/26/2026	Initiatic Process / Grand Lodge Annual MTGS
2/9/2026	Operative vs. Speculative Masonry / American Presidents
2/23/2026	Etiquette / Civility / Lodge Furnishings
3/9/2026	Orders of Architecture
3/23/2026	Tenants: Brotherly Love, Relief, Truth and Faith, Hope, Charity
4/6/2026	Hiram Abif / Hiram Award / 3 Steps
4/20/2026	Ancient Masonic Structures and King Solomons Temple
5/11/2026	Spiritual Building / Masonic Relief
5/18/2026	Liberal Arts and Sciences
6/8/2026	Holy Saints John / San Francisco History
6/22/2026	Declaration of Independence and Notable Masons
8/10/2026	Advanced Stations /
8/24/2026	Freemasonry and Public Education
9/14/2026	Ruffians
9/28/2026	Geometry
10/12/2026	Elements of a Lodge
10/26/2026	Lodge Operations and Elections
11/9/2026	Exemplary Behavior

Respectfully submitted,

James Gonzalez, PM,  
MFC Coach



**COLUMBIA BROTHERHOOD LODGE NO. 370**

## Masonic Memorial Service for Worshipful Brother Michael Balopoulos

(October 10, 1932—November 21, 2025)

Please join us as we remember and celebrate the life and contributions of our departed brother.

January 10th, 2026, at 1:00 PM  
SAN FRANCISCO SCOTTISH RITE  
2850 19TH Avenue,  
San Francisco, CA 94132

We will always cherish in our hearts and minds the memory of our departed brother.

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT  
Bro. Jimmy Fowler – 415-530-9779 or  
email [jaf1331@yahoo.com](mailto:jaf1331@yahoo.com)



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

## VALENTINE'S DAY

*Sweetheart Dinner Dance*

LET'S SPREAD THE JOY AND MAKE WONDERFUL  
MEMORIES TOGETHER.

FEBRUARY 14 AT  
2026 6PM

855 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco, CA

Please look out for the Sign-up Genius in your email  
for food choices.

Cost: \$40 per couple for members  
\$60 per couple for non-members

Contact is Jod'l Cruz 707-631-8001  
[jodljaycruz@gmail.com](mailto:jodljaycruz@gmail.com)



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS HAPPY BIRTHDAY BRETHREN

Carlos Balldares	Faisal Jaber	Ross Petersen
Gregory Blednyh, PM	Ramon Jimenez	Carlos Salgado
Daniel Boyd	Preme Monta Jr	Charles Suncin
Thomas Burkrd III	Richard Ng	Augusto Tagaro, PM
Benito Caratiquit Jr	Elmor Oro	Thomas Tinger
Francis Dalog	John Palau	Stephen Toy
Raul Gonzales, PM	Gustavo Pasos	Manolo Vanta, PM



## JANUARY MASONIC BIRTHDAYS HAPPY MASONIC BIRTHDAY BRETHREN

Kenneth Bott	1/29/1968	Julio Esquivel	1/22/1974
Daniel Boyd	1/30/1997	Raul Gonzales, PM	1/30/1995
Raymond Cafini, PM	1/26/1970	John Gottsche	1/12/1954
Timothy Curren	1/11/1983	Manolo Vanta, PM	1/17/1984
Perfecto Dizon	1/18/2014	Lawrence Yarberry	1/31/1969
Michael Dwyer, PM	1/25/1999		





## 2026 CBL FOOTBALL WATCH PARTY



Columbia Brotherhood Lodge No. 370 invites you to its 2026 Football Watch Party. Come and Join the Fun, Drink, Food, and the Game.

Sunday, February 8, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.  
855 BROTHERHOOD WAY  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Cost: \$10.00 per person, Kids under 15 are free RSVP via Sign Up Genius or Contact Brother Jimmy Fowler at [jaf1331@yahoo.com](mailto:jaf1331@yahoo.com), or (415) 530-9779













## HAVE YOU BEEN LISTENING? TRIVIA

1. 2026 is the \_\_\_\_\_ anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
2. San Francisco's founding in \_\_\_\_\_ involved the Spanish establishing both Mission Dolores (Mission San Francisco de Asís) and El Presidio de San Francisco.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ is responsible for overseeing candidate education.
4. WB George Washington was \_\_\_\_\_ years old when he died on December 14, 1799.
5. The Premier Grand Lodge of England (the "Moderns"), formed in 1717, and the Ancient Grand Lodge of England (the "Ancients"), united to form the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) on \_\_\_\_\_.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ is the light that guides our journey.
7. The Grand Lodge of the Philippines was officially formed on \_\_\_\_\_.
8. In 2025, the Winter Solstice occurred on \_\_\_\_\_.
9. On December 16, 1963, His Royal Highness, The Duke of Kent, Prince Edward, was initiated into \_\_\_\_\_ in the Royal Alpha Lodge No. 16, London.
10. The Feast of St. John the \_\_\_\_\_ is celebrated on December 27.

## Answers to December 2025 Trivia

1. The **cornucopia**, the jewel of the Senior and Junior Stewards can represent the abundance and generosity valued by the fraternity.
2. Prominent Masons, including George Washington, influenced the establishment of Thanksgiving as a national holiday. Washington issued the first **Thanksgiving** Proclamation on November 26, 1789, promoting gratitude for the new nation's government.
3. The **divine** proportion or golden ratio is a mathematical proportion approximately equal to 1.618 appears in nature, is used in art and architecture for aesthetically pleasing compositions and forms the basis of the golden spiral and Fibonacci numbers.
4. The dues for **2026** are \$92.50.
5. George Washington at the age of twenty, was initiated an Entered Apprentice in the Lodge at Fredericksburg, Virginia. He is said to have paid **two** pounds and three shillings.
6. Brother Bram Stoker, Irish Novelist and author of the novel, **Dracula**.
7. Brother James Monroe, the **fifth** U.S. President,
8. Veteran's Day is celebrated on the anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I, with cessation of fighting beginning on the **11th** hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.
9. Brother Dr. James Naismith invented **basketball**, in December 1891.
10. Thanksgiving holiday aligns with core Masonic principles of **gratitude**, charity, and community service.

## December Cryptogram

The decoded **December** Cryptogram is provided below.



**"BE AT WAR WITH YOUR VICES,  
AT PEACE WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS, AND LET EVERY NEW YEAR  
FIND YOU A BETTER MAN."**

**BY: BENJAMINE FRANKLIN**

## January Cryptogram

The January 2026 Cryptogram is provided in the box below, and the decoded statement will be provided in the February 2026 Trestle board.

Freemasonry has stood as a living bridge between history and principal – teaching that,

**"AMZWK KJCZBKX BZXK QGT NQWW,  
OMK OBEK APBS PN Q JQXPG ZX OZJKWKXX:  
OP REZWT HMQBQHOKB, CBQHOZHK RBPOMKBWI WPFK,  
QGT WKQFK OMK APBWT Q RKOOKB CWQHK OMQG MK NPEGT ZO."**<sup>1</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup> Masonicquoteoftheday, Facebook, 12/26/2025, <https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/masonicquoteoftheday>



COLUMBIA BROTHERHOOD LODGE #370  
855 BROTHERHOOD WAY  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94132

First Class Mail  
Presorted US  
Postage Paid  
San Bruno, CA  
Permit No. 43

## Important Reminder from the Master

I hope you and your families enjoyed the recent holidays and that the promise for the new year is bright with opportunity and promise.

As we enter this new year, let us remember that as Master Masons, we hold ourselves to the highest standards and actively embrace harmony in our interactions.

Our Masonic ideals mandate that we navigate conflicts prioritizing the good of our Lodge and of our fellow brothers and that we use our Masonic tools and skills to return to harmonious interactions thereby making our lodge a safe, supportive place.

Bruce Lyons,  
Master, 2026

