



Columbia Brotherhood Lodge No. 370

Free and Accepted Masons

855 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco, CA 94132

VOLUME 121, ISSUE 02 FEBRUARY 2026

THIS MONTH

FEBRUARY 4

- STATED MEETING

FEBRUARY 8

- BIG GAME PARTY

FEBRUARY 9 & 23

- MASONIC FORMATION CLASS

FEBRUARY 14

- SWEETHEART DINNER

FEBRUARY 11 & 18

- OFFICER PRACTICE

FEBRUARY 19

- DSOI HOSTED BY SF 120

FEBRUARY 20

- FRIDAY FUN NIGHT

FEBRUARY 25

- DEGREE CONFERRAL

MARCH

MARCH 4

- STATED MEETING

MARCH 6 & 27

- FRIDAY FUN NIGHT

MARCH 9 & 23

- MASONIC FORMATION CLASS

MARCH 11 & 18

- OFFICER PRACTICE

MARCH 17

- DSOI HOSTED BY CAL 1

MARCH 21

- TABLE LODGE

MARCH 25

- DEGREE CONFERRAL



From the East

Worshipful Master, Bruce Lyonsl



Happy Chinese New Year Brothers, Sisters, Family, and Friends – the Year of the Fire Horse,

As we already celebrated the New Year as denoted on the Gregorian Calendar, we now move to the New Year of the Lunar calendar. We are still celebrating a new beginning, and I hope you are enjoying a great start to the year. We will celebrate with our traditional Dragon Dance and Chinese food at our February Stated meeting.

My thanks to **Brother Jimmy Fowler, Jr. Warden, Maria, Crystal,** and the rest of our event staff that served and presented our meal for our first Stated Meeting of 2026 in January. Brother Jimmy also had a quiz about US History that engaged us in conversation, and to win the prize as the best table. The new women’s committee of the lodge will sponsor a painting class after the February stated meeting. Come and paint your newest masterpiece with the other women of our lodge. Thanks to Rox Hui and the other women on the committee for their commitment to fun events after the stated meeting.

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 online at [HOME | CBL 370](#) – just click on the calendar button. Our Trestleboard is also always available on our website.

In addition to the February Stated meeting, we will enjoy fellowship at the Big Game on February 8th. Brother Jimmy plans a taco truck and other goodies, plus the usual pool of prizes for those who choose the right score. I hope you can attend and enjoy the fun. Unfortunately, the 49ers didn’t make it, but it will still be fun to root AGAINST the Rams or Seahawks.

February 14th is our Sweetheart’s dinner and dance. What a great way to -
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From the West

Senior Warden, Frank Pertierra



Greetings Brethren,

Gung Hay Fat Choy!

This year we are celebrating the “Year of the Horse” more specifically the year of the Fire Horse in the Chinese Lunar New Year calendar.

The celebration will begin on February 17, 2026 and end on February 05, 2027.

Individuals born in 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014, or 2026 are born in the Year of the Horse. People born under the sign of the Horse are usually lively, charming, and adventurous, and they tend to thrive in dynamic environments. This festive occasion gives us an opportunity to appreciate

the traditions and cultural heritage associated with the Lunar New Year.

This month, the CBL Officers are dedicating their time to practicing for the upcoming 2nd Degree conferral. Their commitment is evident as they focus on perfecting the degree work, ensuring that every aspect of the ceremony is conducted with precision and reverence for tradition. Through consistent practice and attention to detail, the officers demonstrate their commitment to maintaining the high standards expected within the fraternity. This preparation is essential for a successful and memorable.

degree conferral, reflecting the dedication of all involved.

Also, Masonic Formation Classes (MFC) are on the second and fourth Monday of this month. I invite all Master Masons to attend and support the candidates.

Please share any suggestions for improving the MFC by emailing me at fbpertierra@aol.com or calling 707-342-8770.

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

Fraternally

**Frank Pertierra,
Sr. Warden**



From the South

JUNIOR WARDEN, JIMMY FOWLER



Greetings Brethren!

We’re off to a good start to the new year. Worshipful Bruce has some great things planned for the lodge this year. I look forward to a challenging but rewarding year.

As you know, as Junior Warden I’m in charge of most meals. I would like to remind everyone to sign up early and accurately. I want to keep quality food on the table so

an accurate number ensures I can maintain our budget. For now, Sign-Up-Genius is our method of reservations. I’ve heard complaints but unfortunately it’s our current process. I believe other options are being explored but until then, please continue to use it.

I’m trying a new caterer for our Chinese buffet this February. I’m also looking at a caterer for an Irish meal

for March. Please let me know what you think. I won’t be able to please everyone, but constructive comments are appreciated.

Finally, sister Roxana Hui has taken the lead on the ladies’ projects while we are in lodge. She did a fantastic job the year before last and she’s lined up several projects this year. February is a return of the popular paint and sip, March is bingo and
Continued on Page 4.

2026 LODGE OFFICERS

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 James Gonzalez, P.M. (510) 772-7415
 Augusto Tagaro, P.M. (650) 346-4551

CHARITY COMMITTEE

Bruce Lyons, Worshipful Master Chairman
 Frank Pertierra, Senior WardenMember
 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
 Jason Yen, PM Secretary

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 Jason Hui, P.M. (415) 812-0911

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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 2028Member
 Bruce Lyons, Worshipful Master.....Ex Officio Member
 Frank Pertierra, Senior WardenEx Officio Member

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DUES ARE DUE!

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 provided in the Secretary's article on page 4, including online payments at www.freemason.org or mail checks directly to our lodge secretary.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Happy Chinese New Year!

Congratulations to our officers on the work they are doing to prepare for upcoming degrees. May their efforts cause them to be fully steeped in the significance and purpose of the degrees they help to confer thereby providing meaningful degree experiences for the degree candidates.

May each of us be granted the freedom, energy, strength, agility, forward momentum, independent thought, confidence, and hardworking ethic represented by the Fire Horse, occurring every 60 years, in the Chinese Zodiac.

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.

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celebrate your sweetheart for just \$40.00 for a prime rib dinner, dancing, and great fellowship. Please be sure to join us for this special day. **Brother Jod'I** has arranged for a nice prime rib dinner from Broadway Prime restaurant.

We are still working on finalizing the Master's trip in June/July. I hope you can join us. Look for an announcement soon.

As I mentioned last month, we are working on some projects to better serve our community. If you are interested in participating, please let me know.

- Blood Drive
- Scholarships for students related to Masons.
- Scholarships for two local schools.
- 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.

My hope is that the lodge feels like an inviting place and that you are enjoying your time at the Stated Meeting and talking to a brother to whom you do not always communicate. At the January, Stated Meeting we greeted brothers and their wives at a table next to our own table. I hope that you were able to interact with someone other than those you usually see.

One of the joys of the brotherhood is getting to know new people. Our lodge is made up of brethren and their partners who may differ from each other in politics, religion, and many other important points. Here, in Masonry, they find a meeting place where all differences are subordinated. We show the world that there are points of agreement between man and man, more important than the questions about which they quarrel and in times like the present, when the religion and political atmosphere is charged with excitement, we present the world with a very valuable object lesson. Courage, tolerance, a wide and objective judgment, a concern for new solutions aimed at general progress, a sense of responsibility – these are the things that a Freemason should strive to acquire and develop.

COLUMBIA BROTHERHOOD LODGE NO. 370

My wish is peace and harmony for all those in this world and especially my brothers and sisters in Free Masonry.

Gōng Xǐ Fā Cái (恭喜发财), wishing you prosperity and wealth,



**Bruce Lyons,
Worshipful Master**

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April will be a basic first aid and self-defense course.

We've got an exciting schedule for the year. The more participation the better the events will be. I hope to see everyone soon! Please text me at (415) 530-9779 with questions or assistance..

Fraternally,

Jimmy Fowler
Junior Warden



FROM THE SECRETARY

Dear Brethren,

I hope each of you is experiencing happiness and success, and that your heart is full of gratitude. May this year continue to 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, 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

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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 Fraternally yours,



Jason Yen, P.M.
Secretary

IN MEMORIAM

On January 10th Hundreds of our brothers gathered to celebrate our Worshipful Brother Michael Balopoulos (10/10/1932—11/21/2025). Thanks to WB Markos Balopoulos and other participants for sharing their experiences with WB Michael and his wife Anna.

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



Columbia Brotherhood (CBL) No. 370 hosted Masonic Formation Class Meetings on January 12th and 26th. Discussion topics included individual questions; planned topics of discus-

sion for 2026 MFC meetings (listed in the January Trestleboard), Masonic history, selected historical Masonic events which occurred in January, lodge

COLUMBIA BROTHERHOOD LODGE NO. 370

consolidations, processes associated with California Grand Lodge annual communication meetings, officer retreats, and Lodge Officer Roles and Responsibilities.

Prospects; Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts, Master Masons, and Past Masters participated in the discussions which took place during these meetings. One Fellowcraft Mason worked on his fellowcraft proficiency, and two Master Masons discussed and practiced rod work during the proficiency portion of the January 12th meeting.

February MFC meetings are planned for Monday, February 9th and Monday, February 23rd, and planned discussion topics include participant questions, Operative vs. Speculative Masonry, American Presidents, Etiquette, Civility, and continued discussion about of Lodge Officer Roles and Responsibilities. Selected topics discussed and selected Masonic births and events are presented below.

Selected January Births and Events

January 1, 1735

Most Worshipful Paul Revere (1/1/1735-5/10/1818) was an American silversmith, an industrialist, and Patriot who was most famous for his "Midnight Ride" on April 18, 1775, warning American colonists, particularly the "Minutemen," about approaching British troops before the Battles of Lexington and Concord, (the first military actions between the British troops and American patriots), was born in North End Boston, MA on this day. He was initiated in St Andrews Lodge (Boston, MA) on September 4, 1760, raised a Master Mason on January 27, 1761, and served three years as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

January 1, 1987-2001

The Grand Lodge of California participated in the Rose parade. This historic involvement included floats with themes of the values of our craft including education, youth, and our fraternity's history. These floats delighted millions of viewers and provided them with exposure to our craft. California Freemason Magazine covers this colorful chapter of our history. The article can be found at, californiafreemason.org/roseparade#MasonofCA #MasonicParadeFloatRose Parade

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January 9, 1599

The minutes of Aitchison Haven Lodge in Mussleburg Scotland document the conferral of Robert Widderspone to Fellowcraft Mason, and they are dated January 9, 1599. These minutes are said to be the earliest written record of an Operative Mason lodge, and it is believed that their generation was mandated by the First Schaw Statute, dated December 28, 1598, by William Schaw, King James VI's Master of the work which established regulations for Scottish Stone Masons.

January 10, 1776

Although there is no definitive proof that Thomas Paine was a Freemason, but his association with Masons like Worshipful Brother George Washington; Brother Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette; and Most Worshipful Benjamin Franklin; his essay entitled, "On the origin of Freemasonry" discussing Masonic rituals and history; and his support of Masonic principals including liberty, equality, and belief in a creator caused some Masonic groups to claim him posthumously.

Thomas Paine also authored a work entitled, "Publication on Common Sense," which was said to have been printed on January 10, 1776, in Philadelphia. It argued that colonists should control their own destiny by way of planned and rational self-governance as opposed to relying on Britain. A quote from the final section of this 47-page pamphlet reads, "A government of our own is our natural right: And when a man seriously reflects on the precariousness of human affairs, he will become convinced, that it is infinitely wiser and safer, to form a constitution of our own in a cool deliberate manner, while we have it in our power, than to trust such an interesting event to time and chance."

January 18, 1777

The Continental Congress authorized the initial printing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, immediately after its adoption. These 200 or so printed copies, known as the "Dunlap Broadside," produced by John Dunlap, did not have the delegate signatures displayed. Instead, it displayed, "Signed by Order and in Behalf of the Congress, John Hancock, President. Attest. Charles Thomson, Secretary."

On **January 18, 1777**, congress authorized an official printing of the Declaration of Independence, known as the "**Goddard Broadside**" which was printed by Mary Katharine Goddard, a prominent printer, publisher and the first postmaster in Baltimore. This version included the names of the delegates who signed declaration. It should be noted that the existence of signer's names and even the printer's name put them at risk of being charge with treason by the British.

January 17, 1706

Most Worshipful Benjamin Franklin (1/17/1706 4/17/1790) a quintessential polymath: a diplomat and founding father who signed the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Treaty of Paris; an American Freemason, scientist and inventor; author; printer; and civic leader who founded libraries, fire companies, and institutions like the University of Pennsylvania; was born on this day at a on Milk Street address in Boston, MA.

He was crucial in forging the American alliance with France during the Revolutionary War and helped draft key founding documents.

He was initiated about 1731 at St. John's Lodge in Philadelphia. He was an active Mason for 60 years, a leader in the Pennsylvania lodge, and held high-ranking offices, including Grand Master of Pennsylvania in 1734 and Provincial Grand Master in 1749, and was active in Masonry in both America and France. In 1734, he printed the first Masonic book in America, "*The Constitutions of the Free-Masons.*"

His experiments proved lightning was electricity, leading to the lightning rod, and he invented bifocals and the efficient Franklin stove.

He was a successful publisher, known for Poor Richard's Almanack, and a prolific writer. One of his several pseudonyms was, "Silence Dogood," a middle-aged-widow persona which he used when he was 16 years old to publish 14 satirical letters in his brother's newspaper, the New England Courant. These letters were his first foray into public commentary and journalism, and they mocked Boston's Social, religious and political establishment.

He played a key role in founding the Academy of Philadelphia (1749–1751). This institution was designed to educate youth in practical, contemporary

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subjects rather than just classics and later evolved to become the University of Pennsylvania.

His portrait has appeared on the \$100 bill since 1914 honoring his role in shaping America's identity, economy, and institutions.

January 17, 1936

While serving as Field Marshal to the Philippines, General Douglas MacArthur was made a "Mason at Sight" by the Grand Master of the Philippines on January 17, 1936, at Manila Lodge No. 1. He became a 32nd-degree Scottish Rite Mason in March 1936 and was later coroneted an Honorary 33rd Degree Mason in Tokyo in 1947. An "At Sight" Initiation" is a rare honor where a Grand Master confers all three degrees (Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason) upon a candidate at once.

January 23, 1737

Brother John Hancock (1/23/1737-10/8/1793): a Patriot, President of the Second Continental Congress (1775–1777) presiding over the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, the first signer of the Declaration of Independence, President of the United States in Congress under the Articles of Confederation (1785–1786), the first elected Governor of Massachusetts, a Freemason, and merchant was born on this day of the Gregorian calendar in Braintree, Massachusetts.

He has been jokingly referred to as a "first president," but his role was as president of the legislative Congress, not the executive branch established by the Constitution in 1789.

He was initiated into the craft in 1762 at Merchants Lodge No. 277 in Quebec and later affiliated with and became a devoted member of the Lodge of St. Andrew in Boston.

January 30, 1847

The community of Yerba Buena was established by Mexico in the early 19th century. On July 7, 1846, shortly after the beginning of the Mexican American War (4/25/1846- 2/2/1848), US Navy Commodore John D. Sloat claimed California for the United States. On July 9, 1846, US Navy Captain John Berrien Montgomery and US Marine Second Lieutenant Henry Bulls Watson of the USS Portsmouth claimed, for the United States, the Community of Yerba Buena by raising a flag over the site of the town plaza which was

called *Plaza de Yerba Buena*. Following this seizure the United States established Marine Barracks at Yerba Buena, and US Marine Second Lieutenant Henry Bulls Watson was placed in command of this garrison. This location is currently known as Portsmouth square in honor of the USS Portsmouth.

In August 1846, Lieutenant Washington A. Bartlett, an American surveyor and U.S. Navy Officer, was appointed as the first U.S. citizen to serve as the alcalde (mayor) of Yerba Buena. On January 30, 1847, he issued a proclamation renaming Yerba Buena San Francisco.

January 31, 2023

On January 31, 2023, United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) held an Especial Meeting, at London's Freemason's Hall, marking the 300th anniversary of the 1723 constitutions which established many fundamental principles of the Enlightenment within our craft and was entitled, "The 1723 Constitutions: Inventing the future." Over 1,600 people including international Grand Masters attended.

April 24-26, 2026



The Grand Lodge of California has planned three Leadership Retreats in 2026 with the first beginning on April 24, 2026. These retreats are planned to introduce the Keystone Initiative, described as a new and forward-looking vision for the fraternity, which is meant to strengthen the organization, improve member experiences and integrate the fraternity into the community.

In an effort to improve member experiences and officer effectiveness, the program is designed for participation by all elected and appointed officers. Programs offered will cover improvement in lodge function, simplifying the business of running a lodge, engagement in philanthropy, introducing newly developed Lodge Officer Job Descriptions, and implementing Hall Association assessments. Descriptions of these retreats can be found at <https://freemason.org/leadershipretreats26/>.

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LODGE OFFICER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Grand Lodge of California has delineated lodge officer roles and responsibilities, interactions between officers, interactions between officers and other members of the lodge, and how each officer’s duties support the various functions of lodge operation. These functions include Executive, Education, Membership, Finance, Administration, Social and Ritual and how they interact with each other, and the image below summarizes the intersection of these duties and functions.



This information is contained within a document entitled, Lodge Officer Roles and Responsibilities and it will be shared with our officers during the 2026 Leadership Retreats and discussed by MFC Meeting participants.

Please feel free to attend one or more MFC Meeting and to participate in these discussions. This document can be found at the following URL:

<https://freemason.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Officer-Job-Descriptions.pdf>

Respectfully submitted,

James Gonzalez, PM,
MFC Coach



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, or (415) 530-9779



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

VALENTINE'S DAY

Sweetheart Dinner Dance

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

FEBRUARY 14 AT 6PM
2026

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'I Cruz 707-631-8001
jodljaycruz@gmail.com

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS HAPPY BIRTHDAY BRETHREN

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Theodore Alvazian, PM | James Dillon | Alan Morante |
| Bernd Albrecht | Howard Fong | Manuel Ortiz-Luis II, PM |
| Adolfo Almanza-Padilla | Warren Hanson, Sr. | Eugene Pallas |
| Orlando Arce, PM | Jeremias Jugal | Vincent Piga, Jr. |
| Perfecto Barbosa | Robert Leon | Denis Rajic |
| Alexander Bennett | Thibatsr Lilittham | James Schaupp |
| William Botieff | Tony Man | Marc Seidenfeld, PM |
| Daniel Constantine | Steven Miller | Edward Shaw |
| Jod'l Cruz | Servillano Modesto, Jr. | Rodny Suspene |
| Danilo Dauz, PM | | Gary Westre |



FEBRUARY MASONIC BIRTHDAYS HAPPY MASONIC BIRTHDAY BRETHREN

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| Theodore Alvazian, PM | 2/16/1982 | L. Lewkowitz | 2/16/2011 | Eugene Pallas | 2/25/1986 |
| Richard Barber | 2/24/1970 | Eduard Marchese | 2/18/2006 | Ross Petersen | 2/22/1983 |
| Francis Dalog, | 2/17/1998 | Illya Mc Camant, | 2/18/2006 | Carlos Salgado, | 2/23/1989 |
| Corrado De Martini, PM | 2/9/1988 | Kaare Myksvoll | 2/24/2004 | Ronald Swanson | 2/18/1992 |
| David Leeds | 2/27/1993 | Richard Ng | 2/17/2010 | Joselito Viray, PM | 2/27/2001 |
| Richard Leung | 2/24/1966 | | | Dean Walters | 2/10/1986 |



Columbia Brotherhood Lodge #370

Table  Lodge

Saturday, March 21, 2026



Featuring Traditional Table Lodge Ritual

855 Brotherhood Way, SF

5:00 PM seating

Celebrate with toast and great evening of fellowship and rivalry

Master Masons Only, Business Attire

Members \$35.00, Non-Members 45.00 Limited seating

Rsvp by March 15th

email: WB Jason Hui
massceleritas2@gmail.com or signupgenius.com



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

CONTACT US TODAY TO ACCESS YOUR MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES:

masonichome.org
(888) 466-3642

mcyaf.org
(877) 488-6293 (San Francisco)
(626) 251-2300 (Covina)

Masonic Value Network:
Care Resources + Prescription Discounts
masonichome.org/ValueNetwork

HAVE YOU BEEN LISTENING? TRIVIA

1. The 2026 dues of _____ annum and are payable in advance on the first day of January.
2. The Chinese zodiac year of the firehorse occurs on _____ intervals.
3. _____s January 10, 1776, Publication of Common Sense: pamphlet argues in favor of independence.
4. On January 30, 1847, Lt. Washington A. Bartlett, alcalde of Yerba Buena. issued a proclamation renaming Yerba Buena _____.
5. The January 18, 1777 "Goddard Broadside" printing of the Declaration of Independence was printed by Mary Katharine _____.
6. _____ was the first elected Governor of Massachusetts
7. Benjamine Franklin was born on _____
8. Lodge functions include Executive, Education, _____ .Finance, Administration, Social and Ritual
9. General Douglas MacArthur was made a "Mason on Sight" by the Grand Master of the _____s.
10. Grand Lodge of California will discuss the Keystone _____ during its 2026 leadership retreats.

Answers to January 2026 Trivia

1. 2026 is the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence,
2. San Francisco's founding in 1776 involved the Spanish establishing both Mission Dolores (Mission San Francisco de Asís) and El Presidio de San Francisco.
3. The Senior Warden is responsible for overseeing candidate education.
4. WB George Washington was 67 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 December 27, 1813.
6. Truth is the light that guides our journey.
7. The Grand Lodge of the Philippines was officially formed on December 19, 1912.
8. In 2025, the Winter Solstice occurred on December 21, 2025.
9. On December 16, 1963, His Royal Highness, The Duke of Kent, Prince Edward, was initiated into Freemasonry in the Royal Alpha Lodge No. 16, London.
10. The Feast of St. John the Evangelist is celebrated on December 27.



January Cryptogram

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

Freemasonry has stood as a living bridge between history and principal –
teaching that, **“WHILE EMPIRES RISE AND FALL,
THE TRUE WORK OF A MASON IS TIMELESS:
TO BUILD CHARACTER, PRACTICE BROTHERLY LOVE,
AND LEAVE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE THAN HE FOUND IT.”¹**

February Cryptogram

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

QG ZGFKXOJKGO ZG SGPAWKTDK CQIX OMK RKXO ZGOKBKXO
BY BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

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

¹Gary M. Galles, "17 Benjamin Franklin Quotes on Tyranny, Liberty, and Rights," Foundation for Economic Education (fee.org),"17 January 2020, [https://fee.org/articles/17-benjamin-franklin-quotes-on-tyranny-liberty-and-rights/#:~:text=Franklin%20\(%20Benjamin%20Franklin%20\)%20's%20Inspirational,should%20remember%20some%20of%20those%20inspirational%20words.,](https://fee.org/articles/17-benjamin-franklin-quotes-on-tyranny-liberty-and-rights/#:~:text=Franklin%20(%20Benjamin%20Franklin%20)%20's%20Inspirational,should%20remember%20some%20of%20those%20inspirational%20words.,) 19 January 2026.



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Important Reminder from the Master

As we celebrate this Chinese New Year and the attributes associated with the fire horse, let us use these attributes to enhance our awareness of and embrace the practice of our highest Masonic ideals in the service of our brethren, of our lodge, and of our community.

Let us strive for transformative change in our skills and mindset by aligning with our ideals instead of embracing conflict or other harmful practices, thereby propelling our forward momentum enhancing fellowship, maintaining harmony, and being of service.

Bruce Lyons,
Master, 2026

