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1122 Magnolia Avenue, Larkspur, CA 94939 • Michael Paynter Worshipful Master 415-925-0459

T R E S T L E B O A R D

◆◆◆ MAKE THURSDAY NIGHT YOUR LODGE NIGHT ◆◆◆

January 2011

Thur. Jan. 6 th	Stated Meeting - Dinner 6:30 PM Tuscan Italian Meal-Italian Wines <i>Ladies/ Guests / Birthdays receive gradus dinner.</i>	7:30 PM
	Please RSVP to Rich Lyons JW	
Thur. Jan. 13 th	2 nd Degree Proficiency Mr. Ben Ostroff & Mr. Mylos Sonka Officers Practice- Second Degree Light Refreshments 6:30 PM	7:00 PM
Tues. Jan. 18 th	Fairfax Masonic Building Assoc. Monthly Meeting	10:00 AM
Tues. Jan. 18 th	Officers School of Instruction Mill Valley Lodge	7:30 PM
Thur. Jan. 20 th	Dinner 6:30 PM Second Degree-Mr. Donald Tokarski & Mr. Mylos Sonka	7:30 PM
Thur Jan. 27 th	Second Degree-Mr. Ben Ostroff Dinner 6:30 PM	7:30 p.m.
Thur. Feb. 3 rd	Stated Meeting - Dinner 6:30 PM French Meal Theme-Rhone Wines <i>Ladies/ Guests / Birthdays receive gradus dinner.</i>	7:30 p.m.
	Please RSVP to Rich Lyons JW	

Important upcoming events

Fairfax Lodge Crab Feed Saturday February 5th!!

St. Patrick's Day Celebration Friday March 11th!!

MASTERS' MESSAGE

This is very exciting time to be a Freemason. Our Fraternity is now experiencing a renaissance and a surge in men seeking membership. This is a great opportunity for our Craft. However it is also a challenge for our Officers to meet the many demands of making these new men Masons while at the same time pursuing our other important Lodge goals.

The California Grand Lodge Five Year Strategic Plan was just recently released. It was featured in our quarterly publication California Freemason in an article titled "Masonry for the Next Decade". The Plan outlines the strategic and tactical ways our Lodges can support the highest ideals of Freemasonry. I strongly recommend each Brother read this article. Our Fairfax Officers have committed to support the new Plan in 2011. We have already had meetings to set up tactical action committees to implement the plans objectives.

Highlights of the new Grand Lodge plan are below.

EDUCATE, ENGAGE, EXCEL

A strategic plan for our fraternity in 2010 – 2015

MISSION

A man who strives to improve himself can also improve his community and the world at large. This is the mission of the Masons of California. Through Masonic principles and tradition, we foster personal growth and improve the lives of others.

VISION

Masonry in California is a relevant and respected organization – both inside and outside of the fraternity. We make a profound difference in the lives of our members and in California communities. We are engaged in the worldwide principles and fellowship of Freemasonry.

VALUES

Our mission is guided by the enduring and relevant principles of our fraternity: Brotherly love, Relief and Truth.

Brotherly love. We value respect, freedom, kindness, tolerance, and our differences – religious, ethnic, cultural, social, generational, and educational – and strive for harmony in our individual lives, in our lodges, and in the global community.

Relief. We take responsibility for the well-being of our brothers, our families, and the community as a whole. We provide relief through philanthropy, community involvement, and delivery of excellent care.

Truth. We stay true to our personal code of conduct and ethics – honor, integrity, personal responsibility, and the continuous pursuit of knowledge.

GOAL

Working together we will increase the relevance of our fraternity and enhance the member experience.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

To achieve the goal and drive the mission, the overarching strategy is to educate, engage, and excel. Through the below strategic priorities, we will educate and engage members in all aspects of Freemasonry, and we'll create an environment in which the fraternity and our members can excel.

Membership experience. Engage and retain members and their families through an enhanced, sustaining, and relevant membership experience.

Masonic education. Educate members and communities about the fraternity's enduring history, values, practical application of principles, and relevance to society today.

Leadership and management. Strengthen our leaders and cultivate new ones; strengthen management and governance effectiveness at all levels.

Beyond the lodge. Instill a wider Masonic perspective, inside and outside the fraternity, by deepening the connection between members, lodges, and the worldwide body of Freemasonry.

Philanthropy. Make a profound difference for public education in California; significantly advance the field of care giving.

The Grand Lodge Strategic Plan will be the rule and guide of the Lodge Officers activities in the coming Masonic year.

With the increase in men seeking Masonic membership, Fairfax Lodge this year will likely have the largest number of initiations in decades. Nothing is more inspirational than seeing our wonderful Masonic ritual. We have three Fellowcraft Degree's scheduled in January. I believe the Fellowcraft Degree is particularly beautiful. I encourage all our Brothers to attend these January Degrees and to join us for our regular Stated Meetings. You will receive a warm welcome from your Master and your Brothers.

Since we have so many Brothers that will be passing to the Fellowcraft this month I wish to remind them of the importance of the first gift they received as Entered Apprentice Masons; The Lambskin Apron or the "Badge of a Mason."

Masonic teachings inform us that the Lambskin Aprons we wear are a symbol of innocence, purity and honor. In ancient times the Lambskin Apron was indeed a badge of distinction. In Antiquity only the senior, superior members of the Temple priesthood were allowed to wear the lambskin. Similarly today not all men are qualified or suitable for the honor to wear our Lambskin Apron.

As Masons we are informed that the Lambskin Apron is more ancient than the Roman Eagle or the Golden Fleece. We are also told that it is more honorable than the Star or Garter. But what exactly are these ancient honors and distinctions our Lambskin Aprons are esteemed as greater than?

The ensign of Rome "The Roman Eagle" existed a full century before the Christian era began. In the second consulship of Gaius Marius (104 BC) the four quadrupeds (The Wolf, Boar, Horse and Minitaur) were laid aside as standards-with the Roman Eagle (Aquila) being alone retained. It was made of silver or bronze with outstretched wings. In Antiquity the Romans ruled the then known world, under the ensign of their Roman Eagle.

In 1348 King Edward III King of England founded The Order of the Garter, as "a society, fellowship and college of knights". Its original statutes required that each member already be a knight (what would now be referred to as a knight bachelor).

The Order of the Star (French: Ordre de l'Étoile) was an order of chivalry founded in 1351 by King John II of France, in imitation of the Order of the Garter recently founded (1348) by Edward III of England. The inaugural ceremony of the order took place on the 6th of January 1352 at Saint-Ouen, from which it is sometimes called the Order of Knights of the Noble House of Saint Ouen.

The Order of the Golden Fleece is an order of chivalry founded in 1430 by Duke Philip III of Burgundy to celebrate his marriage to the Portuguese princess Isabel of Aviz. The Order of the Golden Fleece was modeled on the English Order of the Garter, but dedicated to Saint Andrew. In Greek mythology, the Golden Fleece (Greek: Χρυσόμαλλον Δέρας) is the fleece of the winged ram Chrysomallos. It figures in the tale of Jason and his band of Argonauts, a story of great antiquity—the time of Homer (eighth century BC).

Finally our Masonic apron is above any honor that can be conferred because it represents original innocence, which is innate in man and cannot be prostituted by any king, prince or potentate.

For those who were not able to attend our Officers Installation in early December, pictures from the event are enclosed.

Your 2011 Fairfax Lodge 556 Officers



Rear row (left to right) Jim Schultz Secretary, Michael Balopoulos PM Senior Deacon, Ray Piombo PM Chaplain, David Von Bima PM Secretary and Installing Officer. Front row (left to right) Alex McLean Tiler, Iain Scarr Senior Steward, Juan Cespedes Senior Warden, Michael Paynter Worshipful Master, Richard Davey Junior Deacon, Austin Ridley Junior Steward and Carson Weaver was the Installing Chaplin.

In thanks to the Brethren my family donated to the Lodge a large oil painting of our most famous Brother George Washington. This painting had been in our families keeping for over 60 years. Long may it reside in our Lodge as a remembrance to all who may see it, that as Freemasonry was at the founding of our Country, so Fairfax Lodge and our Brothers stand as a cornerstone of Democracy in our Community.



Left to right , Gary Towery PM, Dave Von Bima PM Secretary and Installing Officer, Michael Paynter Worshipful Master, Michael Balopoulos PM Senior Deacon and Ray Piombo PM Chaplain.

Special thanks to Michael Balopoulos PM - Master of Ceremonies, David Von Bima PM-Installing Officer and to Carson Weaver (Marin Lodge) –Installing Chaplin. I would like to thank all who came to the installation, especially the Eastern Star ladies who always do a great job with hospitality.

Lodge Officers 2011

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|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Michael Paynter | Master |
| Juan Cespedes | Senior Warden |
| Juan Cespedes | Junior Warden |
| Jim Schulze | Treasurer |
| David Von Bima | Secretary |
| | PO Box 568 Fairfax CA 94978-0568 |
| Ray Piombo, PM | Chaplin |
| Mike Balopoulos, PM | Senior Deacon |
| Rick T. Davey | Junior Deacon |
| Vacant | Marshall |
| Iain Scarr | Senior Steward |
| Austin Ridley | Junior Steward |
| Alex McLean | Tiler |

Dave Von Bima, PM Inspector 134th Masonic District

Coaches

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Michael Balopoulos PM | Officers' Coach |
| Rusty Rubinsky | Head Candidates' Coach |

Departments

Bob Ranum Building Manager
David Von Bima Auditing

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Board of Directors **Fairfax Masonic Building Association**
 Alex McLean Board President Bobby Holloway
 Vance Spencer Secretary Charlie White PM
 Andrew Filipek, PM CFO Jim Franklin PM
 Ray Piombo, PM
 Bob Newman

Board of Trustees **Fairfax Lodge Board of Trustees**
 David Von Bima PM Gary Towery PM
 Michael Balopolous PM Rick Haengi

IN MEMORIAM

BROTHER Lloyd Nicholaisen

Born April 13th, 1918
 Raised March 3rd, 1955
 Entered into Rest August, 2009

BROTHER Edward Sarge

Born March 23rd, 1916
 Raised March 20th, 1957
 Entered into Rest March 19th, 2010

*"Soft and Safe to Thee, my Brother
 be Thy Resting Place"
 "Bright and Glorious be Thy Rising from It"*



**CONGRATULATIONS BRETHERN
 Happy January Birthdays and
 3rd Degree Anniversaries**

Birthdays	Day	3 rd Degree Anniversaries	# of Years
Ray Minto	2	George Gmahling	56 Years
Charles Fuentes	7	John Casissa	44 Years
Douglas Bilsborough	8	William Schoff	26 Years
Ernest Sarneski	9	Steven Phillips	9 Years
Jon Bechtel	15		
Darryl Bellach	15		
William Shoff	15		