

The Master Mason



VOLUME CIII, Issue 4

April 2025

The Master's Message

April is upon us and the new growth on some of the trees around our house are starting to come back. I am excited the weather is warming up!

Last month was a very busy month! We enjoyed our first social event of the year bowling at Mira Mesa Lanes. That was a lot of fun! Please see the pictures in this trestle board. Thank you for all those that attended.

We also enjoyed our official inspector's visit to our lodge. Thank you, Worshipful Reyes, for joining us for our stated meeting.

On March 10th our Jr. Deacon, Brother Ray Flores, demonstrated his proficiency in the lecture of the third degree. Congratulations Brother Flores on a job well done!

We held several second-degree practices and then held a second degree for Brother Khalid Cota. Congratulations to Brother Cota for a job well done on his first-degree proficiency. We look forward to your further advancement through the degrees. I also want to thank Brother Cota for filling in as Junior Steward for a couple meetings we held on the first degree.

For our next social we are looking into a barbeque picnic near the water either at Mission Bay or a lake in San Diego County. We will send



Advance the Lodge with Purpose

Eric Fuller
Master

information out as soon as we determine the venue, date, and time.

I want to thank our Junior Warden and Stewards for all the work they are putting in to provide us with great meals at our stated meetings and events. Much appreciated Brothers!

Unfortunately, our Jr Steward has resigned due to personal reasons so we are now searching to fill the chair going forward. If you are interested in joining the officers' line please contact me.

On April 19th from 5pm to 9pm we will be celebrating the 175th Anniversary of Masons of California with a gala event at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. If you wish to attend, please visit <https://www.freemason.org/175gala> to register for the event.

I hope that you all are enjoying spring as much as I am.

See you in lodge.

Eric Fuller
Master

From The West

Greetings, brethren!

As we collectively welcome in the month of April, I want to start off by saying Happy Birthday to my beautiful wife Rhiannon! Not only is it her birthday, but as most of you are well aware, we are welcoming in our third baby into our family this month. Please keep both Rhi and baby in your prayers.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on a truly heartwarming experience we had last month. It was an honor and a privilege to have several brothers from Fidelity Lodge No. 10 again join us for our most recent 2nd degree conferral. Their presence not only enriched our gathering but also reminded us of the strength and camaraderie that exists across our Masonic family.

The visit was a beautiful example of the bond that connects us all as Freemasons. It was inspiring to hear from our brothers at Fidelity Lodge, as they shared their experiences and insights. The fellowship and the exchange of ideas created an atmosphere of unity and brotherhood that I believe every Mason can appreciate.

Looking forward, I am excited about the possibility of fostering an enduring relationship between our lodges. There is much we can learn

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From The South

Why? It is a question parents hear when children are young and begin the journey of growing up. We know **what** we do. We “*make good men better.*” We have some ideas of **how**: through ritual, education, and fellowship. But how often do we ask ourselves, **why**? Why do we as Masons accept men into our Fraternity with the possibility of making them better men?

To look deeply into this question, I think we must first look at another question. When prospects reach out to us, are we looking for members or are we looking for Masons? An individual can be a member of many different organizations and groups. Sometimes with a lot of participation and at other times with very little participation or contact with other members. But to be a Mason means something more, something different. There is more expected of you both in public and in private. And while you may not always attend Lodge, the expectations of the fraternity are always with you. Those expectations are detailed not only in our obligations but also in the respect given to Past Masters and elder brothers of the Lodge. Those expectations teach us to be better men for ourselves, our families, and our communities. Is that our Masonic **why**?

An expectation to be better is a very generalized ideal. I doubt that Masonry would draw many new Masons or would have lasted for centuries with a vague understanding that you might become ‘better.’ So, I am not sure if that is

the Masonic **why**. Possibly everyone arrives at the door with his own internalized goal and hopes Masonry can provide the tools to smooth the ashlar and uncover his **why**.

If so, that is very individualized, and the real question is, what is the ‘**Why**’ of our Lodge? **Why** is San Diego #35 here? **What** we do is make good men better, but **why**? San Diego #35 has history and heritage. While other Lodges in San Diego have lost members and consolidated with others, 35 remains. We must have a powerful ‘**Why**.’ A ‘**Why**’ that has lasted 174 years so far. I’m interested in hearing your thoughts!

Paul Chouinard
Junior Warden

(Continued from page 1)

from one another, and I truly hope to continue strengthening the bond between San Diego Lodge No. 35 and Fidelity Lodge No. 10.

I encourage each of you to consider the importance of lodge visits, not only as a way to fulfill Masonic duties but also as a wonderful opportunity to build bonds that will last a lifetime. I am hoping to attend a degree at Fidelity Lodge in May or June, so if you would like to attend with me, please let me know. I hope we can create a tradition of mutual support, collaboration, and shared experiences that will make us all better Masons.

Happy Spring! And let’s see what we can accomplish this month!

Brandon C. Schoonover
Senior Warden

The Spirit of Masonry

— by William Hutchinson (1843)
(Continuation from last month’s trestle board)

The various instruments which we of this profession make use of, are all emblematical or picturesque of the conduct of life we ought to persevere in.

The SQUARE will teach us to square all our actions by this gospel rule and line, and to make our whole conduct harmonize with this most salutary scheme. Our behaviour will be regular and uniform, not aspiring at things above our reach, nor pretending to things above our finite capacities, nor to affect things above what our circumstances can possibly bear. In our expenses, therefore, we shall neither ape those that are placed in a more exalted sphere, nor attend so much to the glitter of gold as to sink beneath our proper station but we shall observe the golden mean, *"And always to our acres join our sense, Because 'tis use that sanctifies expense."*

The COMPASSES will inform us that we should, in every station, learn to live within proper bounds, that we may, therefore, be enabled to contribute freely and cheerfully to the relief of the necessities and indigencies of our fellow-creatures. Hence we shall rise to notice, live with honour, and make our exit in humble hopes of compassing what ought to be the main pursuit of the most aspiring genius, a crown of glory.

(Continued on page 3)

To Families, Wives/Widows and Caregivers

Should the person to whom this newsletter is addressed be ill or in some difficulty, please contact the Lodge Secretary at (619) 296-0660 or email him at: secretary@sandiego35.org

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Let The Sun Shine



**Richard Bauersfeld
Michael Thomason
Jean R. Luthi**

To add names to the list, please contact the Secretary. His number is listed in the last page.

Contact the Secretary for addresses and phone numbers.

Our infirmed brethren don't care what we know if they don't know we care.

TO THE CELESTIAL LODGE ABOVE

**Name: Paul Reid Reeb, Jr.
Born: May 17, 1937
Raised: September 8, 2000
Died: March 30, 2024**

Soft And Safe To Thee, My Brother, Be Thy Resting Place

(Continued from page 2)

The LEVEL should advise us that, since we are all descended from the same common stock, partake of the like nature, have the same faith and the same hope through the redemption, which render us naturally upon a level with one another, that we ought not to divest ourselves of the feelings of humanity and though distinctions necessarily make a subordination among mankind, yet eminence of station should not make us forget that we are men, nor cause us to treat our brethren, because placed on the lowest spoke of the wheel of fortune, with contempt because a time will come, and the wisest of men know not how soon, when all distinctions, except in goodness, will cease, and when death - that grand leveler of all human greatness - will bring us to a level at the last. From hence, too, the sceptic, the shallow reasoner, and babbling disputer of this world, may learn to forbear the measuring of infinity by the dull level of his own groveling capacity, and endeavour, by way of atonement for his insults upon every thing that tends to mankind, either good or great, to vindicate the ways of God to man.

— to be continued

April Birthdays

1 Michael Stelmach	9 Jay Abbott - EA	17 Romuald Corbel	26 Charles Harris
Matthew Arnold	Victor Nicholas	Dale Martin	27 Everardo Velazquez
3 Stephen Beck	11 Jermaine Jackson, Jr. - EA	18 Ramiro Sandoval - EA	28 Richard Carlson
Karl Engstrom	Shane Brock	19 Carroll Rumpel, PM	29 John Crago III, PM
Daniel Wilson	15 Thomas Maloney	20 Edson Misener, Jr.	Richard Smith
5 Kevin De Nino	17 Mario Posada	24 A. Dale Bergen, PM	Ryan Felde
6 Eugene Yee	Trevor Lady	26 Christopher Sperry - EA	

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Second Degree for Brother Khalid Cota



Christian Moreno, PM, receiving his Past Master's apron

Raising A Reader Coming to Dewey Elementary School

Read To Achieve

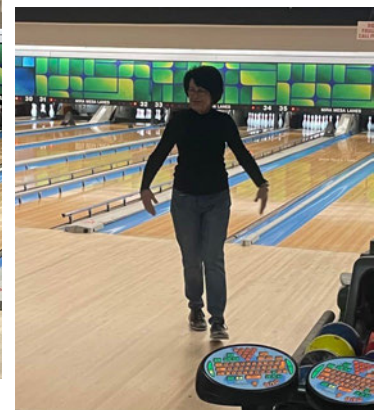
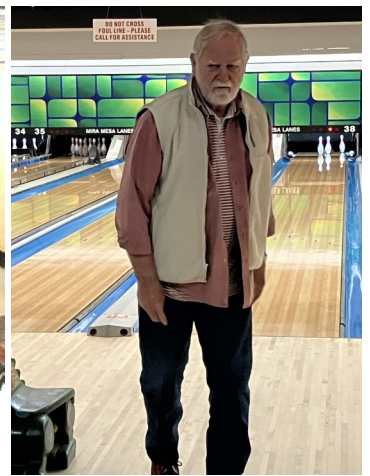
On Thursday, November 21, 2024 the Grand Lodge of California with the assistance of Mike George and Jay Sener, co-chairmen of the Grand Lodge Public Schools Committee, held a “Celebrating Public Schools” ceremony at Dewey Elementary School. Doug Ismail, president of the California Masonic Foundation and 2 members of the San Diego Board of Education were the featured speakers following performances by students of each grade.

This was the perfect opportunity for Betty Stein, wife of our very own Mel Stein, PGM, to seek (again) a commitment to bring Raising A Reader to Dewey Elementary School. Doug Ismail and Greg Cherry, director of Philanthropy of the California Masonic Foundation both agreed that our Dewey Dolphins should be the participants in the Raising A Reader program.

Jonathan Thorton, vice president of Strategic Growth & Revenue with the “Raising A Reader” program is now in contact with Tanya McMillin, principal of Dewey Elementary School, to set the course of further action.

We ask for your support and a huge turnout when “Raising A Reader” comes to Dewey Elementary School, hopefully in September 2025. Please also remember the students need our continued assistance with school supplies.

San Diego Lodge #35 Goes Bowling



San Diego Lodge No. 35, F. & A. M.
 1561 Camino del Rio South
 San Diego, CA 92108-3522

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth

2025 LODGE OFFICERS

Master..... Eric Fuller (Kelli)
 Senior Warden Brandon Schoonover (Rhiannon)....
 Junior Warden Paul Chouinard (Carie).....
 Treasurer Melvyn Stein, PGM (Betty).....
 Secretary John Goodloe, PM (Diane).....
 Assistant Secretary Richard Bullard, PM (Sharon)
 Chaplain David Vassall, PM (Amanda)
 Senior Deacon..... Hector Heredia
 Junior Deacon Ray Flores
 Marshal..... Matthew Hanafin.....
 Senior Steward..... Randy Freeman, PM
 Junior Steward TBD.....
 Organist..... Christian Moreno, PM.....
 Tiler..... Chuck Makray.....
 Lodge Ambassador Richard A. Fisher (Connie).....
 Lodge Ambassador Jay Sener IV, PM (Cindy).....

For your convenience...

Inspector, 925th: Roberto Reyes, PM (Ressa)
 Officers' Coach: John Goodloe, PM (Diane).....
 Head Candidates' Coach: TBD
 Junior PM: Christian Moreno, PM
 Editor: JoJo Quimpo, PM (Jenny).....(619) 296-0660
 San Diego Lodge No. 35 Office(619) 296-0660
 San Diego Lodge No. 35 Office (Reservations).....(619) 296-4821

San Diego Lodge No. 35 Website: <http://www.sandiego35.org>
 San Diego Lodge No. 35 email: secretary@sandiego35.org

STATED MEETING and DINNER
APRIL 4, 2025
****BUSINESS ATTIRE****
(TUXEDOES FOR OFFICERS)

Dinner at 6:00 pm
 By Reservation - **\$25.00**

Make or Cancel Reservation with Secretary by
Noon - March 31, 2025

Entrees: Chicken in Wine Sauce & Garlic Tilapia
Spring Mix Salad, Quinoa Pilaf, Grilled Veggies
Food from Bekker's Catering

Stated Meeting at 7:30 pm
 Dessert served following the Stated Meeting and the
 ladies' activity — TBD (approximately 8:45 pm).

Calendar Of Events

April 2025

4th	Friday	6:00 pm	Stated Meeting Dinner
		7:30 pm	Stated Meeting
7th	Monday	6:30 pm	Officers' Practice
11th	Friday	700 pm	Past Masters' Degree
14th	Monday	5:30 pm	Executive Committee Mtg.
		6:30 pm	Officers' Practice
18th	Friday		Dark
20th	Sunday		Easter
21st	Monday		Dark
25th	Friday	6:30 pm	Officers' Practice
28th	Monday	6:00 pm	District 921 OSI — Host is TBD

Please check the web site for updates:
WWW.SANDIEGO35.ORG

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 1561 Camino Del Rio South
 San Diego CA 92108-3522

secretary@sandiego35.org

John Goodloe, PM

Secretary (619) 296-0660

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