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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 ◆◆◆

November 2011

Thur. Nov. 3rd	November Stated Meeting - Dinner 6:00 PM <u>Ambrosia-Larkspur-All Guests \$20 (No gratus)</u> <u>RSVP to Rich Lyon JW</u>	7:30 PM
Sat. Nov. 12 th	Fairfax Lodge 556 88th Anniversary Dinner-Refreshments 5PM <u>RSVP to Rich Lyon JW</u>	6:00 PM
Tues. Nov. 15 th	Fairfax Masonic Building Association Monthly Meeting	10:00 AM
Weds. Nov. 16 th	Masonic District 121 Officers School-Marin Lodge	7:30 PM
Thurs. Nov. 17 th	Officers Practice-Second Degree. Light Snacks 6:30 PM.	7:30 PM



Happy Thanksgiving!!



Thur. Dec. 1st	December Stated Meeting - Dinner 6:00 PM <u>Tavern at Lark Creek-Larkspur-All Guests \$25 (No gratus) RSVP Rich Lyon</u>	7:30 PM
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Upcoming Events

Fairfax Lodge 556 88th Anniversary Dinner!
Saturday November 12th 2011



MASTERS MESSAGE

Elections! Our Fairfax Lodge annual Election of Officers will take place at our November Stated Meeting. I encourage all Brothers to attend this important annual election to select your new 2012 Fairfax Lodge Officers!

We also have an important Marin Election this November which involves our primary local Fairfax Lodge 2011 philanthropic effort-supporting our Marin public schools. As we discussed earlier this year, the Tamalpais Union High School District Board has a very important school parcel renewal measure on the November 2011 Marin ballot. This measure will ask voters to reaffirm their commitment to quality high school education by renewing the existing parcel measure-that was overwhelmingly approved by the community in past years. The parcel measure accounts for 15% of the District's annual budget and it is essential. I encourage all Brothers regardless of any other important matters to remember to vote on Election Day! This is our civic duty as Masons!

At this time it seems appropriate to discuss the noble Masonic tradition of democracy and equality.

Early European history records that Masonic Operative Lodges chose the Masters from their own membership. These early Lodges had a long tradition of equality among the Brothers. Freemasons had the unique ability to travel across Europe. As a result Lodge memberships often constituted men pulled from across a continent. In the search for the finest craftsmen, ethnic and religious differences were set aside. Merit and ability became the important criteria for recognition and advancement.

As Operative Lodges gradually became Speculative in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth centuries more formal elections took place to select Brothers who served as officers. After serving a "term" these men left their office and they were replaced by other democratically selected Brothers.

Masonic Constitutions were eventually written detailing rule of law for both Lodges and Brothers. The first and second editions were written by Rev. James Anderson in 1723 and 1738. The 1723 edition of the "Constitutions" was edited and reprinted by Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia in 1734, becoming the first Masonic book printed in America.

Early Eighteenth century Speculative Masonic Lodges thus evolved into the first constitutional democratic institutions in the world. These Masonic constitutions existed more than half a century prior to the writing of our United States Constitution. Early Masonic Constitutions and democratic structure were certainly not that of a national government. However thanks to Freemasonry, our American founding fathers had the basic outline of a democratic constitutional government to draw upon. Scholars note that so much of the US Constitution was based on early Masonic foundations, that the connections are irrefutable.

As we approach our November Elections, let us recognize and celebrate Masonry's contribution to democracy in America. Let us also celebrate the genius and wisdom of our Founding Fathers in guaranteeing those same privileges Masons enjoy-in our own US Constitution and Bill of Rights.

For those who were not able to attend Brother Tristram Evans recent Entered Apprentice degree ceremony pictures are enclosed (below). Congratulations to Brother Tristram Evans!

Congratulations to Entered Apprentice Mason Tristram Evans!



Rear row (left to right) Andrew Kraft, Charlie Hoyez PM Junior Warden (Chaplain Mill Valley), Jim Schulze Treasurer, Michael Balopoulos PM Senior Deacon, Kameron Izadjou Jr. Steward, Michael Paynter, Bob Lowery Chaplain (Senior Warden Marin Lodge), Iain Scarr Marshall and Rick Davey Jr. Deacon. Front row (left to right): Ray Schmalz (Treasurer, Mill Valley), Austin Ridley Senior Steward, Richard Lyon PM Master, Tristram Evans Entered Apprentice Mason, Juan Cespedes Senior Warden, Mylos Sonka, Don Tokarski and Ted Preorolos (Denver Colorado Lodge #5).

The Master wishes to express his thanks to Brother Ray Schmalz (Treasurer, Mill Valley) for his assistance in the First Degree Ceremony this past month. Thank you Brother Schmalz! Also thanks go to Brother Charlie Hoyez, who always participates in our ceremonies. Thank you Past Master Hoyez!

The Worshipful Master wishes to thank all the Officers of Fairfax Lodge 556 for their very hard work this past year. We have conferred more degrees than the Lodge has seen in many decades. The Worshipful Master especially wishes to thank Brothers Michael Balopoulos, Andrew Filipek and David Von Bima. These Brothers are also performing double or even triple duties at other Masonic bodies. All serve as senior officers at Scottish Rite. David does "triple" duties since he also serves California Grand Lodge as Inspector of the 121st Masonic District. Thank you Brothers for your service to Fairfax Lodge!

Our Treasurer Brother Jim Schulze will receive his 50 Year Award at our Fairfax Lodge Anniversary Dinner on November 12th!! Congratulations to Brother Schulze!! Please join us to celebrate Fairfax Lodges 88th anniversary and also to share Brother Schulze 50 Year Award Ceremony!

The Worshipful Master and Officers of Fairfax Lodge 556 wish the Brethren and their families a very safe and happy Thanksgiving Holiday!!

Lodge Officers 2011

Michael Paynter
Juan Cespedes
Richard Lyon
Jim Schulze
David Von Bima

Master
Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Treasurer
Secretary
Rohnert Park
Chaplain
Senior Deacon

Ray Piombo, PM
Mike Balopoulos,
PM
Rick T. Davey
Iain Scarr
Austin Ridley
Kameron Izadjou
Alex McLean
Dave Von Bima,
PM

Junior Deacon
Marshall
Senior Steward
Junior Steward
Tiler
Inspector 121st Masonic District

*If anyone has address or email changes, please send
them directly to the Secretary
Fairfax Lodge 556 F & AM
PO Box 1663
Rohnert Park, California 94927-1663*

Michael
Balopoulos PM
Rusty Rubinsky

Coaches
Officers' Coach

Head Candidates' Coach

Bob Ranum
David Von Bima
**EMERGENCY
CONTACT**

Departments
Building Manager
Auditing

**Board of
Directors**
Alex McLean
Vance Spencer
Andrew Filipek,
PM

Fairfax Masonic Building Association

Board President
Secretary
CFO

Bobby Holloway
Jim Franklin PM
Ray Piombo PM

Bob Newman

Board of Trustees
David Von Bima
PM
Michael
Balopolous PM

Fairfax Lodge Board of Trustees

Gary Towery PM

Rick Haenggi

CONGRATULATIONS BRETHERN!

**Happy November Birthdays and
3rd Degree Anniversaries**

November Birthdays	Day
Iain S. Scarr	1
Donald A. Tokarski	6
Brandon Winterhalter	14
Ernest A. Haenggi, Jr.	21
Merlin E. Johnson PM	22
Harlan E. Watkins	23
Benjamin P. Ostroff	24

November 3 rd Degree Anniversaries	# of Years
Seymour M. Lederman	49 Years
Kenneth L. Peck	38 Years
Bradley M. Breithaupt	36 Years
Richard J. Stenstrom	24 Years
Andrew D. Filipek PM	8 Years
Brandon Winterhalter	1 Year

*Fairfax Lodge 556 88th Anniversary
Dinner!*

Saturday November 12th 2011



Brother Jim Schulze will receive his 50 Year Award!!!

Name _____ # Attending _____ X \$25= Total _____

RSVP to Rich Lyon JW
ASAP!!!