

The Trestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 ☉ January 2016

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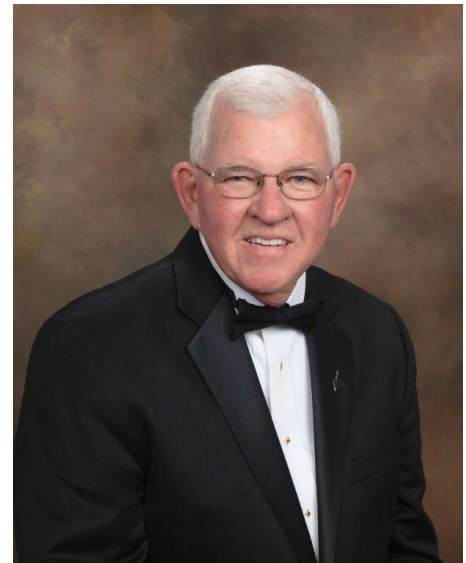
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From the East *-Worshipful Marion P. Rogers, Master*

Dear Brethren, Sweethearts, and Friends,

It will be my honor and privilege to lead The Friendly Lodge for the ensuing year. Thank you for allowing me the honor by placing your trust in me. The last couple of months for me has been rewarding but somewhat overly busy as we planned Dave Shull's memorial, Don Hoskin's Hiram Award ceremony, and then the officers' installation. If you've been a past master, then you know what I'm talking about. The support given to me has been tremendous and that's what makes it all worthwhile.



I am excited about our lodge as we move into another year. This past year was successful in so many ways, and the lodge building itself is becoming more and more attractive over time. The major rework due to termite and wood rot damage is coming to a conclusion and we are glad of that. We have a very capable line of Officers and I am looking forward to working with them. We have had several potential members visit us over the last couple of months and look forward to the opportunities this may bring. Our already capable coaching team of Wor. Tom Riley and Wor. Michael Roberts has been enhanced by the addition of Wor. Gary Sparks.

Those of us who attended the Officers' Installation ceremony on December 12 had a wonderful time. The Installing Team performed magnificently - the team consisted of Wor. Robert Whitfield, Installing Officer; Wor. Tony Yuson, Master of Ceremonies, Wor. Christopher Putnam, Installing Organist and Wor. Tom Riley, Installing Chaplain. Wor. Gary Sparks was also in the East as the outgoing Master. The event was attended by a little more than 90 members and guests with a nice dinner afterwards provided by A Tasteful Affair, located in Pleasanton. We were pleased to have the El Cerrito-Albany DeMolay present the flag at the ceremony and to have Bethel No. 247 Job's Daughters serve at the dinner.

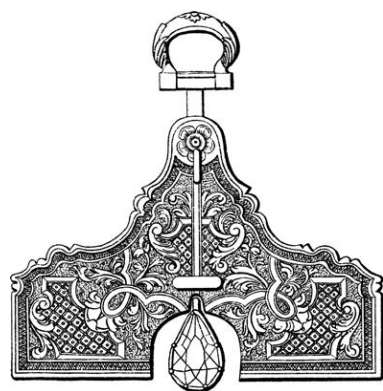


Our annual Acalanes Fellowship Lodge Crab Feed (the best crab feed of the year) is scheduled for the last Saturday in January. That is January 30 for this coming year. It will start at 5:30 with a social and dinner will begin at 6:30. This year will be a bit different from the past, as we are adjusting both the menu and the auction. [For more details read the article on page 4](#), and be sure to save the date – it will be a fun time.

From the West *-Harry G P Burt, Senior Warden*

Notable progress has been made on restoring the structure of the lodge after the ravages of termite infestation and dry rot. Such progress would not have been possible except for the tireless leadership of Worshipful Bro. Marion. What may not be so obvious is that the effort has totally drained the

coffers and left the Lodge in no position to meet another catastrophe - and we have two waiting in the wings. The roof will soon need to be replaced at a probable cost of \$25,000 and a similar impact will come from the need to repair the parking lot.



So how do we raise this sort of money? For the past several years we have gone away from auctioning donations at the annual crab feed in favor of using an auction house with pre-selected items. While this has raised significant funds, only about 20% of the money our members

spend ends up with the lodge. By means of two strategies we hope to make that figure well over 90% through a combination of a silent auction of donated articles and the sale of elegant but discrete plaques mounted on the pillars in the dining room. We intend to reveal the form this will take at the January Stated Meeting Dinner, so stay tuned.

From the Secretary's Desk *-Fred Lezak, Secretary*

Another masonic year comes to a close and a new door opens. It was a good year filled with many advances for our lodge. The New Year looks very promising. Thank you all for confidence in me as your secretary.

Dues are due. Not news, but an ongoing activity for this time of the year. For those of you who have already paid dues, thank you. For those of you who are just going to send in those checks or get on PayPal (I know you were planning on doing it soon), why not do it today. Life member cards were mailed last week. If you have not received one, please call me at the lodge. I have begun mailing regular dues cards over the past couple of weeks, and will continue to mail them as dues come in.



A reminder: If you have not been to lodge in a while, you really need to come back. The brotherhood at the stated meeting dinners is outstanding, and the food is really good, too. We miss you and I know that you will be happy to return. See you at the stated meeting.

Treasurer's Note *-Mark Williams, Treasurer*

As 2015 draws to a close, I am happy to share with you that we are now close to fully integrating the Intacct finance and accounting system as our method of managing lodge finances. Intacct is the program provided for and supported by Grand Lodge. This year has included a training session on Intacct at the Secretary and Treasurer's Retreat last March, as well as a couple of visits to Grand Lodge (and numerous phone calls and emails) for support, instruction, and training on this robust financial management platform. I would also like to share that the accounting support team at Grand Lodge has been great at helping get us "up to speed" on Intacct. I have now categorized and entered nearly all of the income and expenses for 2015. It will be much easier in 2016 as I will be entering each month rather than playing "catch up" for the year!



Once we are fully integrated we will be able to easily run and view financial reports. This will be a great tool for managing Lodge budget and finances and will support and aid tracking and communication between the Worshipful Master, Treasurer and Secretary.

2016 “Crab Feed” Update *-Harry G P Burt, Senior Warden*

The Crab feed will go ahead as planned on January 30th but with some changes.

Firstly, we are concerned that crab may not be available this year due to a high level of Domoic Acid being experienced. Furthermore many brethren have stated that they will not take crab due to lingering concerns for personal safety. On the basis of these concerns, this year’s Crab Feed will be Surf and Turf - where the surf will be whole baked salmon and the turf, as before, will be steak.



Those of you who have been shopping recently will no doubt be aware that the costs of Beef and Fish have gone up significantly and is forcing us to raise the cost per person to \$50 for surf or turf and \$60 for surf and turf. Chan Eason’s marvelous Clam Chowder will again be featured.

The next change is by choice. We are going back to an earlier format of silent auction where we will auction donated items rather than employ an auction house. We did evaluate alternative auction houses but found them to be much of a muchness - memorabilia that we would only buy as part of a good cause. When we consider that up to 80% of the take in these silent auctions ends up with the auction company, this money would be better directed to the lodge than the auction house.

Though this approach means more work on our part I hope you agree with us that it is better to direct the cash flow to the Lodge and not to a third party. There are already some great donations promised, including a guided tour conducted by Adam Kendall, Librarian of the Coil Masonic Library at Grand Lodge. Or how about gun instruction and shooting practice at a gun range under the guidance of an ex police officer? Or tickets to Giants games? Or a plate by a renowned local artist?

WM Michael Roberts will be collecting your offers of donations. Please contact him at mjzroberts@att.net with your offers of donations. Keep them coming and let’s make this a great event that reinvigorates our sadly depleted reserves.

Tickets on sale now [on the Lodge website](#), and will be available at our Stated Meeting.

*It's
in the hardest
times we grow the most.
- A Day to Remember*

*Bethel No. 247
Danville, California
of
Job's Daughters International*

*cordially invites you to
the 123rd Semi-Annual Installation of Bethel Officers*

*Saturday, January 2nd, 2016
7 o'clock in the evening*

*Danville Grange Hall
743 Diablo Road
Danville, CA*

*Gabrielle Elizabeth Healy
Honored Queen-elect*

*Emily Elizabeth Cardanini
Senior Princess-elect*

*Nataleigh Marie Denning
Junior Princess-elect*

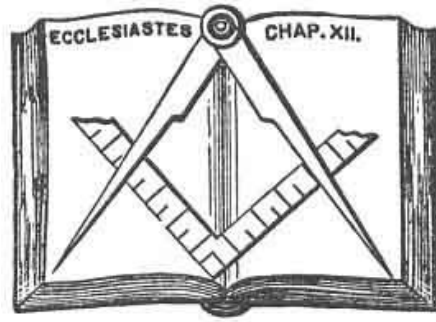
*Bridget Kathleen Farnden, PHQ
Guide-elect*

*Allison Paige Healy
Marshal-elect*

*MaryJane Taylor Bormolini
Retiring Honored Queen*

Reception and dance to follow.

Semi-formal attire. Gentleman – no jeans. Ladies – no hats or pants.



3rd Degree Anniversaries

Name	Raised	Years a MM
William Hockenberry, Jr.	January 1, 1947	68
Jack Chudley, PM	January 28, 1948	67
Robert W. Pearson	January 23, 1951	64
Otis Simonsen, PM	January 29, 1963	52
Scott E. Carter	January 30, 1971	44
Val Rodrigues	January 17, 1984	31
Kenneth J. Branch	January 17, 2004	11
Timothy L. Wilbur	January 17, 2004	11
Edward A. Stack, Jr.	January 26, 2011	4

January Birthdays

Please join us in wishing our brethren very happy birthdays this month.

Serge A. Chemia	January 4
Gary D. Sparks	January 5
Henry L. Hoffman	January 6
David E. Prichard	January 10
Howard L. Strause	January 12
Kevin S. Moore	January 19
Thomas P. Hogan	January 26
David L. Kreutzinger	January 30

Hall Association Report -Bob Smith, President, Hall Association

HURRAY! The termite and dry-rot work has been completed with only a few minor touch-ups to be completed. On Monday, December 14, the contractor painted the parking lot side of the lodge and the guard rail. We had a very good experience working with the contractor.

The Hall Association has purchased an AED defibrillator for the lodge. More information will be given at the next stated lodge meeting. We will need volunteers to learn how to operate the AED.

We will be electing board members at the next stated meeting, and if you would like to become a member please let Marion Rogers or Bob Smith know.



On the Origin of Freemasonry -Harry G P Burt, Senior Warden

Though it is clear that the modern form of Freemasonry began with the formation of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717 by four existing lodges, it is also clear that freemasonry of some form must have existed before that. The four founding lodges did not spring into being overnight.

William Hutchinson, in his celebrated book “the Spirit of Masonry,” cites a 1696 letter from John Locke to the Earl of Pembroke that refers to a document he found in Oxford University’s Bodleian library, a 160 year old copy of an earlier document said to have been in the hand of Henry 6th (1422 to 1461) which comprised the King’s cross examination of a Mason. Some of the questions and answers reveal that Masons of that time believed Masonry had descended from Pythagoras (called by the Mason “Peter Gower”) and brought to the west by the Phoenicians (called Venetians by the Mason).



For further reading, John Locke’s letter and the annotated document he refers to [can be found here](#). For further study I strongly recommend William Hutchinson’s book which can be obtained from Kessinger Legacy Reprints.

The Trestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 ☉ January 2016



January Events at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480

Jan 5, 7:30pm
Stated Meeting
Refreshments at 5:30
Dinner at 6:30

Jan 30, 5:30pm
Annual Crab Feed
Lafayette Community Center
500 St. Mary's Road
Lafayette, CA 94549