

The Trestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 ☉ December 2015

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From the East - *Worshipful Gary D. Sparks, Master*

Dear Brethren, Sweethearts and Friends,

The Masonic year is coming to an end, and I find myself looking back at the nice variety of events and activities we have undertaken this year. As is often the case, we couldn't do everything we wanted to do, and a certain band of termites didn't help matters. But overall, we've had a very successful Masonic year.



Our crab feed last January, and the introduction of Bro. Marion Rogers' clam chowder, kicked things off with a blast, and was followed by a lovely Sweethearts' Valentine Luncheon. In the Spring, our Date Night and Dinner Theater was a tremendous success, and it was terrific to watch Bro. Dick Kellogg's daughter perform in Moon over Buffalo and to meet some of the cast during our dinner. The Aloha spirit fell over all our Brethren and guests during the Summer Luau in the parking lot, with excellent Hawaiian food, beverages and fantastic entertainment. We once again hosted a charity golf tournament, and although the turnout was much lower than expected, we still had a great time and were able to raise money for Raising a Reader.

We welcomed guest speakers from both the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation and the Masonic Outreach Services of Nor. California, and also members of the Masonic youth orders. We

discussed the ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry, learned lessons in civility, and celebrated the 80th birthdays of Most Wor. Alvin Weis and Wor. Orren Rupert.

The Lodge also engaged in community outreach this year, participating for the first time in the Moraga Faire and the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival, passing out literature and discussing Masonry and the Lodge with those who stopped by to visit our booths. And, we raised two Brothers to the sublime degree of Master Mason this year.

But the year is not quite over yet. Please join us for the Annual Installation of Officers on December 12th as we welcome Bro. Marion Rogers to the Oriental Chair, and also on December 19th for our Sweethearts Holiday Luncheon as we show our appreciation for the ladies who help to make our work possible.



For my last time as Master, I extend an invitation to all those Masons who have been away from Lodge to return home to Acalanes Fellowship Lodge. No matter how long you have been away, I invite you to renew your relationship with the Fraternity. We are best able to seek Light when the past is united with the present, so that we may all look to the future.

It has been my privilege and my pleasure to serve the Lodge this year, and I thank you for your support and trust. I am certain the Lodge will be in excellent hands next year, and I look forward to what Bro. Rogers has planned for us.

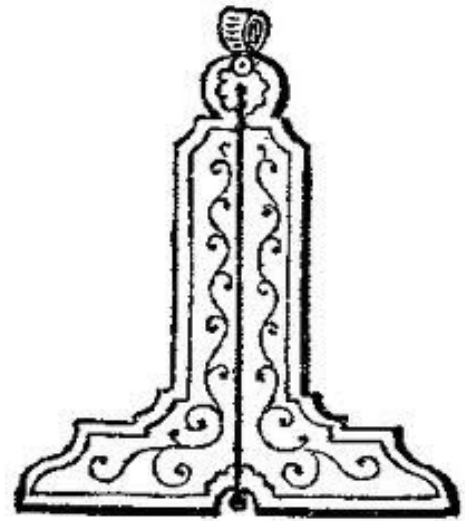
December Birthdays

Roy Couch	December 1	James V. Davey	December 25
Roland J. Turk	December 1	C. T. Watson	December 25
William C. Armstrong, PM	December 5	Lew Jenkins	December 27
Spencer M. Sealander	December 6	Kishore V. Nath	December 27
William J. Smith, Jr.	December 11	Charlie M. Wooten	December 27
Steven F. Klamm	December 15	James A. Borup	December 29
Brian R. Flannery	December 21	David R. Oyler	December 29
Timothy J. Riley, PM	December 21	Jay B. Williams, PM	December 29
William L. Whitten	December 22		

From the West

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge will install its 2016 officers Saturday, December 12th, beginning at 4:30 PM. Dinner will follow. Reservations are required although there is no charge for the dinner. Please make your reservations at www.acalanesfellowshiplodge.com/events.

We are excited about the new challenges and opportunities as we take on our new roles in the next year. As you masons remember, when we signed the bylaws of the lodge, we were told that by signing we would be subjected to its burdens and its responsibilities, as well as entitled to its benefits and its privileges. We're hoping that those of you who have not been active in the activities of the lodge for a few years will find some time to re-engage. You will find it rewarding. We need your ideas and enthusiasm. Together we can accomplish great things.



These are the officers who are committed to leading our lodge next year:

Bob Smith - Tiler	Frank Shoffner - Chaplain
Bill Smith - Jr. Steward	Fred Lezak - Secretary
Adam Hanin - Sr. Steward	Mark Williams - Treasurer
Chan Eason - Marshall	Michael Roberts, PM - Jr. Warden
David Kreuzinger - Jr. Deacon	Harry Burt - Sr. Warden
Bob Strohmeyer - Sr. Deacon	Marion Rogers - Master
David Stickney - Asst. Secretary	Officers Coach - Tom Riley

I look forward to seeing you all at our December Stated Meeting and our Officers Installation Ceremony.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Marion P. Rogers

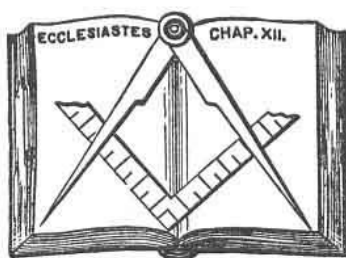
Sr. Warden

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

With Thanksgiving behind us, the holiday season is here. Also upon us are those year-end events like the installation of officers. Of prime importance for the fiscal health of the lodge is the payment of our annual dues. By now, you will have received your dues letter. If you haven't yet received the letter, please email me at fredandpat@lezak.net. I will be sure to get a new letter out to you. Once you get the letter, why not send a check right away while it is still on your mind. It would make me happy and our Treasurer Mark Williams positively ecstatic.

Speaking of dues, wouldn't be great if you could see how we spend those dues. All you have to do is come on down to a lodge meeting. We still meet every first Tuesday of the month. Social hour begins at 5:30pm with dinner at 6:30. The meeting follows at 7:30. Come any time. If you haven't been to meeting for a while I am certain you will feel the brotherhood and comradery the minute you walk in the door. If you need a ride, call one of the officers. We would be delighted to help.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.



Third Degree Anniversaries

Jeffrey D. Boeschert	December 9, 2008
Robert D. Haile	December 2, 1952
Roland J. Turk	December 9, 1971

THE MEANING OF THE WORD “BROTHER”

Have you ever given much thought
about the word “Brother?”

Have you ever truly sought
to understand its meaning, other
than to use it as a general greeting
when attending your Lodge meeting?

When you take a fellow Mason’s hand,
Do you really understand
the richness, the affection
with which the inflection
of the word should be spoken?
Or do you use it as just a token?

When you say the precious word, “Brother,”
you’re expressing a feeling that no other
word could possibly convey among men.

A feeling that is beyond the ken
of non-Masons, who know not the fealty
of our unique Fraternity.

So, when you greet a Brother, anywhere,
let him feel you really care.

Let the warmth of the greeting flow
through your hand, so he will know
that the greeting is truly none other
than straight from the heart of his Brother.

*-W.C. Armstrong, PM
Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480
Lafayette, CA*

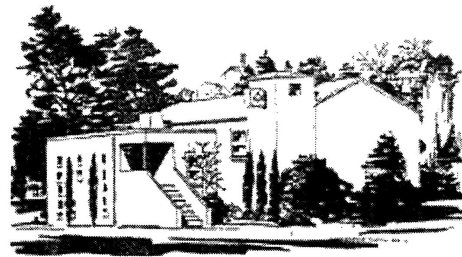
Hall Association Report -Bob Smith, President, Hall Association

This year has seen good rentals with a cooking school, church, and other new renters. The kitchen seems to be one of the favorite areas of the lodge with a children's cooking school using it for several weeks this summer.

The parking lot was used for a rummage sale by a woman's group as well as parking for the Lafayette Festival this fall. The lodge is being used by the theater group from across the street and several fraternal organizations.

Progress has been made with construction and we are now in the final phase. Corrective work has been completed and we have new windows, doors, and drainage system on the parking side of the building. Painting of the exterior will be done as soon as the stucco has leached and is completely dry. We will soon be needing help in getting the lodge back in shape for our installation. Look for an announcement soon.

The Hall Association would like to extend a THANK YOU for all who helped with this year.



Evolution of the Masonic Ritual - Annual Masonic Symposium

The symposium was a whole day event with five principal speakers (two past Grand Masters and the current California GM) which culminated in a boisterous representation of an initiation derived from a script dated 1695. Back before the Grand Lodge of England (GLE) was formed by four tavern based lodges, Masonic rituals were essentially catechisms that the initiate was expected to embrace and to learn. The ceremonies took place in an upper room, generally of a tavern, and involved a great deal of hazing that was typical of the age.

An early order of business for the GLE was to formalize the two rituals generally used at the time - the Entered Apprentice and the Fellow Craft degrees. These degrees were widely adopted, particularly in France. A few years later the GLE developed the third degree that the French Grand Lodge decided not to adopt, and in its stead invented the Scottish Rite (so named for a confusion between the French for accessories and Scottish). Much later, as part of reconciliation between the Moderns (the GLE) and the Ancients, the York Rite was formed and GLE became the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE).

For further reading, see *The origin of Masonry* by David Stephenson

XIV World Conference of Regular Masonic Grand Lodges

The Grand Lodge of California, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California, and the Grand Lodge of Iran (in Exile) recently joined forces to co-host the XIV World Conference here in San Francisco November 18-21, 2015.

For those fortunate enough to attend, we felt privileged to represent California Freemasonry and to meet with Masonic leaders from all parts of the globe to exchange ideas and build relationships. The assembly of so many Masons from different countries provided much insight into what is happening with Masonry around the world. From the official presentation of white papers and discussions during the daytime sessions to the social and fraternal interaction we enjoyed in the evenings on the dinner cruise, during the banquet and at the exquisite formal gala and closing ceremonies under the rotunda at San Francisco City Hall, those of us who attended walked away inspired and with renewed hope and zeal for the Fraternity.

While there were many topics presented during the sessions, the common theme throughout the conference, interestingly enough, mirrored much of the discussion we have had here at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge over the past several years. That is, the world is changing, and Freemasonry needs to change how it relates to this new world while still retaining all that is fundamental to our craft.

Most Worshipful Rudy Barbosa Levy, Past Grand Master of Masons in Bolivia, and the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Masonic Confederation, sketched out the major issues facing Masonry moving forward in a white paper. Freemasonry is an order with bylaws, customs, traditions, rites, rituals, symbols and often, characteristics borrowed from medieval religious orders. Yet it is also a fraternity that seems to “live more in a state of déjà vu than in the present, advancing its practice.” Freemasonry has maintained an institutional model that is 300+ year old, but it is a model that has not thus far been able to renovate itself and accompany the evolution that society is experiencing. It is a model that has remained static and is showing signs of “profound fatigue.”

He spelled out that the solutions are up to us. We must adapt to the new ways of communicating with younger generations. We need to “think differently” about Freemasonry and learn to update and adjust our old operating processes to our current needs, tools, and options as is currently happening in the fields of economics and education. We need to step out of our comfort zones and redesign the framework of Freemasonry adapted to the 21st century. None of this should come as a surprise to any of us, as this has been (and continues to be) a major topic of conversation at our Lodge. But the long and the short of it remains: we are merely the caretakers of our craft in this time, but the future of Freemasonry is in our hands.

The Trestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 ☉ December 2015



December Events at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480

Dec 1, 7:30pm
Stated Meeting
Refreshments at 5:30
Dinner at 6:30

Dec 12, 4:00pm
Installation of Officers
Dinner to follow ceremony

Dec 19, 12:00pm
Sweethearts Luncheon
All Brethren and
sweethearts welcome!