

The Trestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 ⊙ May 2016

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

The rains are letting up and it's getting warmer. Summer will soon be here. This is my favorite time of the year. I think it has to do with new beginnings as we see the flowers, trees and vegetable gardens start to flourish and grow.

I have just returned from a Master and Wardens Retreat along with Junior Warden Michael Roberts, PM. Senior Warden Harry Burt attended an earlier Retreat. They are annual conferences conducted by the Grand Lodge, with the Grand Master and most of the Grand Lodge Officers in attendance. Masters and Wardens from approximately 350 California Lodges participate in these conferences each year. We listened to several lectures and participated in breakout sessions that were designed to inform us of opportunities and strategies for improving our Lodges and making them more productive. I especially appreciated the opportunity to talk with the officers of other Lodges and to gain useful ideas.

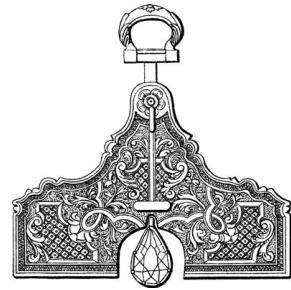


We have received two applications for degrees and three applications for affiliation into our lodge this year. On May 10th, beginning at 6:30 PM, we will be conferring the first degree of masonry upon Mr. Jonathan Groetsch in our Lodge. We are excited about the opportunity to accept another brother into our Lodge and the officers are presently honing their ceremonial skills for the event. Brother Larry Strohmeyer was also recently elected to affiliate with our Lodge and we are happy to have him back.

At our last Stated Meeting Dinner, we had the privilege to present the Golden Anniversary award to two of our members, Brothers Fred Schachtman and Tommy Thompson. It was stimulating to see several other brothers who have received this prestigious award in attendance at this event. The presence of Worshipful Otis Simonsen was especially inspiring as he served as Master of our Lodge when Brother Tommy Thompson was raised 50 years ago.

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

Since coming to the UK, I have visited four lodges. The first lodge I visited was [Monolithos Lodge](#) in Leamington Spa., where along with dignitaries from Provincial Grand Lodge, I was privileged to witness a double third degree. Afterwards I participated in their festive board, complete with the traditional loud thumping of “fire glasses” on tables. The current officers and brethren of Monolithos Lodge are keen to host us in our presentation of a California Ritual, and there is even talk of putting on a Second Degree. If we were to pull that off, it might be the first time that particular California Ritual will be presented in the UK. Thoughts are also running to having a festive board attended by families.



My next stop was Knutsford, where I attended [North Cheshire Haven Lodge](#) No. 4939 with Andrew Fraser, a particular friend of Bro. Frank Shoffner. The Lodge is a spacious and magnificent converted barn, with an attached dining room. The facility was constructed by Brother Leicester Warren and donated to the lodge. At this lodge I witnessed another third degree that was also attended by Provincial dignitaries. It was followed by a magnificent dinner, but no fire glasses were used since the tables were not designed to take the forces involved.

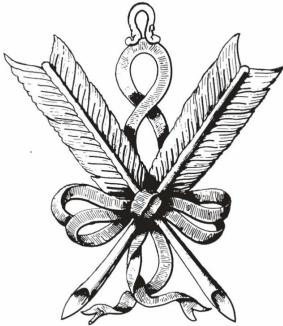
Then I backed into another event. [Marmion Lodge 1039](#) in Tamworth was hearing a lecture on Sacred Geometry given by Bro. Matthew Hargreaves, Jr. Warden. You can imagine how that opportunity attracted me. This incidentally was the first time on this trip that I had to prove I was a bona fide Mason, which was an interesting exercise in its own right. I hope that we can arrange for our group to hear the lecture during our trip next year. It is quite an eye opener for anyone who has doodled with a compass. By removing some masonic allusions, I believe the lecture can be made a family event. I hope the lecture will be followed by a trip to the local church where the sacred geometry can actually be seen.

On April 20th, I attended a second degree portrayal at [Ethelfleda Lodge 6600](#), which is the daughter lodge and shares the same premises with Marmion Lodge. At the ensuing festive board it was very clear that our visit celebrating the tercentenary is eagerly anticipated.

See you in lodge on May 3rd when I will fill you in on even more.

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

April has come and gone. One of the highlights of April is the opening of the baseball season. And with the opening of baseball comes the annual Masons4Mitts program. The Masons4Mitts program provides a little league like experience for children from underserved and distressed communities. The program in Northern California is through the Junior Giants which is affiliated with the San Francisco Giants. This program provides organization, coaching, facilities, venues and equipment to those children that would otherwise not be able to afford such a program.



The Masons4Mitts program provides mitts for this effort. You can "buy" a mitt for just \$20. Last year, California Masons donated over \$90,000 through the Masons4Mitts program. Acalanes Fellowship Lodge provided more than 30 mitts for the boys and girls

entered in the league. I ask you to, once again, step into the batter's box and donate a mitt. You can go directly to www.masons4mitts.org to donate. Be sure to note that you are donating through Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 so we get credit. You can also give your donation to me or send it to me at the Lodge. I will make sure it gets to the right place.



At our April stated meeting we had 52 people to dinner and more than 35 brothers in lodge. If you have not been to our stated meeting dinner and lodge meetings recently, you really need to come. The sharing of brotherhood, the ritual and the true essence of masonry is here. Become a part of it once again. Join us. You won't be sorry.

Hall Association Report -*Bob Smith, President, Hall Association*

It's been a very quiet month for the Hall Association.

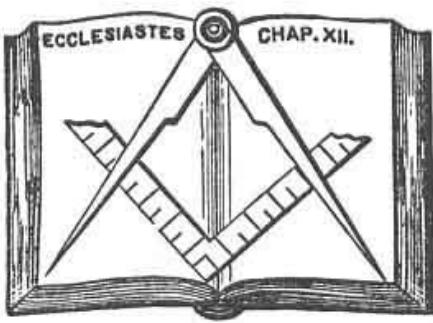
Some minor repairs were completed and Wifi was brought downstairs into the social area.

Rentals are looking good for the summer with the cooking school renting the kitchen and social area for eight weeks from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

We plan to work on our parking lot and the Moraga side of our building where there was some minor damage caused by an automobile accident.

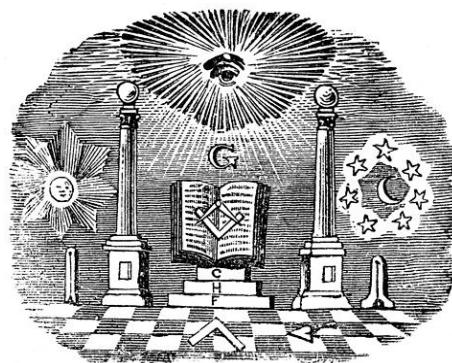
Please look for an Email for help in the next several months.





3rd Degree Anniversaries

Name	Raised	Years a MM
Kenneth R. Crone, PM	5/25/1959	57
Franklin H. Shoffner	5/25/1964	52
Frederic S. Schachtman	5/24/1966	50
Thomas C. Thompson	5/7/1966	50
Boris J. Minzyk	5/21/1970	46
Richard D. Snowden	5/31/1972	44
Richard N. Young	5/1/1976	40
Cary L. Carlson, PM	5/19/1977	39
Jeffrey R. Nott	5/30/1978	38
Serge A. Chemla	5/19/1986	30
John J. Mulhall	5/3/1997	19
Stephen P. Galop, III	5/23/1998	18
Eric T. Besag	5/15/1999	17
James P. Reno, III	5/19/2012	4



Birthdays

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

Dean D. Van Norman, PM	May 1
Gerald H. Saurman	May 4
George Atashkarian	May 5
Nicholas M Bloisa	May 7
Stephen E. Milano	May 9
Peter J. Axtman	May 10
Jack Chudley, PM	May 13
Val Rodrigues	May 16
Partha (James) S. Chowdhury	May 22
Gary B. Estes	May 25
John B. Cook	May 26

Starlight News - Diablo Star Chapter OES

The Order of the Eastern Star is alive and well in Orinda! We meet @7:30 PM on the 2nd Monday of each month. Guests are welcome to join us for pre-meeting activities.

We are excited to welcome Valerie DeShong, Allan and Kristen Ferguson, and Jami Stigliano as new members. Thinking about joining our chapter? Contact Worthy Matron Pamela Lister:

pamela.lister@yahoo.com, Worthy Patron Chris Hansford:hansfordclan@yahoo.com or our Chapter Secretary:oes214@gmail.com for a petition and details.

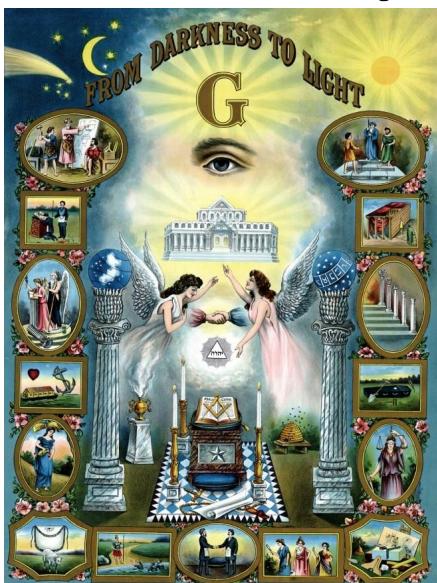


Our next meeting is May 9th. All members of the lodge and their ladies are cordially invited to join us at 6:00 PM for a "Breakfast for Dinner" potluck. Members of DeMolay, Job's Daughters and Rainbow Girls will provide the entertainment for the evening. This is our annual Memorial Day meeting where we honor our departed members.

SAVE THE DATES

- June 13th - Chapter Birthday and Awards Night. Catered dinner @6:00 PM - RSVP required.
- July 23rd - Picnic in Paradise Park. WM Pamela Lister can provide details.
- August 8th - Brothers Night Join us for a BBQ Potluck @6:30PM and fun to honor our WP Chris Hansford

1st Degree Announcement of Jonathan Groetsch



Acalanes Fellowship Lodge No.480

*Tuesday, May 10th
6:30pm*

*Come help our excellent 1st Degree Ritual Team
enter our newest member into Freemasonry*

The Trestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 ⊙ May 2016

AcalanesFellowshipLodge.com

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Upcoming Events at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480

May 3, 5:30pm Stated Meeting Reception at 5:30 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm Meeting at 7:30 pm	May 7, 10:30am Day at the Races Golden Gate Fields Gates Open at 10:00 am Buffet 10:30 am - 3:00 pm	May 10, 6:30pm First Degree Jonathan Groetsch Acalanes Fellowship Lodge	May 14, 4:00pm Alvin Weis PGM 50th Union City Masonic Homes
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