

The Trestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 ☉ May, 2017

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From the East - *Worshipful Harry G.P. Burt, Master* master@acalanesfellowship.com

It has been a busy month and a busy year for the lodge and the pace looks like it will continue. Having initiated four Entered Apprentices and raised one brother, we will be passing a brother to Fellow Craft on April 25th and are planning on raising two brothers to the sublime degree of Master Mason on May 20th and 23rd. As announced last month we have selected Otis Simonson as our Hiram Award awardee. In order to accommodate some of Otis's Guests, the Hiram Award Celebration has been moved to August 12th from the May 13th date previously announced.



The continuous improvement we have seen in our lodge over recent years has many fathers, but a consistent pressure has come from Grand Lodge through the Masters and Wardens and Secretary and Treasurers' retreats held early in the year. After several years of M&W retreats beating the somewhat introspective drum of "relevance", this year saw a move to the more positive theme of "engagement". In truth we, in Acalanes Fellowship, have recognized this as the true issue for a number of years and it is no coincidence that we are "the friendly lodge" for this is our engagement between brothers. Our focus on improving the quality of our brotherhood through excellent Stated Meeting Dinners, strong friendships outside of the lodge, a whole host of coffee mornings between different groups all underpin this progress.

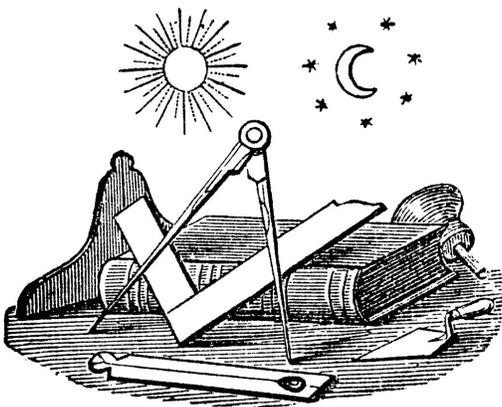
We have come away from the latest M&W retreat with a toolkit of methods to improve engagement which I hope we will have time to make a start on this year. Our Secretary and Treasurer came from their retreat with reinforced tools for efficient management, notably Intacct (now fully implemented

both in the Lodge and Hall Association) for managing finances. In addition, Grand Lodge has implemented an improved management of investigations through IMember, reducing the Secretary's and Master's burdens.

Grand Lodge is encouraging the formation of new lodges, (there were 12 opened last year) explicitly noting that lodges in California are too large to properly engage all their members. It was pointed out that Anderson's constitutions of 1723 state that "No Master shall take on an apprentice except he shall have work for him". Masonry in California (population 36 million) was compared with Masonry in Metropolitan London (population 8 million). Both Grand Lodges have the same number of members (55,000). California has fewer than 400 lodges, whereas London has over 1500. Just a thought to ponder as we move into the next century of Masonry.

From the Secretary's Desk - Fred Lezak, Secretary secretary@acalanesfellowship.com

April was Public School Month for California Masons. You may not know the history of public schools in California but the Masons, and particularly Brother John Swett, started public schools in this state. This year again, the Grand Lodge East Bay Public Schools Advisory Committee of which our own Brother Mark Williams is a member, celebrated the event at Sankofa Academy in Oakland and presented a substantial check for public schools in this area. Check out our lodge App for more information.



Acalanes Fellowship Lodge once again demonstrated its commitment to the Raising a Reader program by making a total donation of \$2171 to this worthy organization! This came in the form of a \$500 donation from the lodge, and through a matching challenge by Brother Jeff Boschert, donations of \$1671 from individual brothers of AFL 480. Well done!

There still some brothers who have not paid their dues for 2017, I know this fact is hard to believe but it is true.

Reminder notices have been mailed. If you have not yet paid dues, please do so now. You can mail them to the lodge at P.O. Box 1, Lafayette, CA. or [pay them online](#) at the Acalanes Fellowship Lodge website. Or better yet, see me at a stated meeting and pay me directly. The dues are \$172.00.

As always, you are invited to attend our stated meeting dinner and meeting on the first Tuesday of any month. The feeling of brotherly love and good fun continues to abound. Our ritual work is solid and getting better. This is the time for you to return to lodge if you haven't been for a while. Don't feel embarrassed or shy. We want you back and I can guarantee you will be welcomed. You will thank yourself for attending. If you need a ride, please call me at (925) 360-4328.

Lodge App and Website - Adam Hanin, Senior Deacon webmaster@acalanesfellowship.com

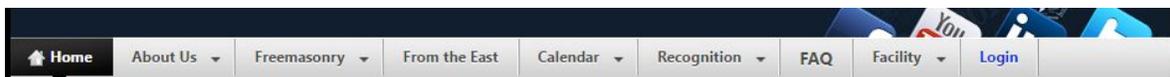
This month, I am pleased to announce that our website is now Tiled! That means that we have secure areas for each degree level. This will allow us to better serve our brethren pursuing more light in masonry, and to provide access to important materials for Master Masons that we couldn't before. Over the next few months we will fill these pages with valuable information.

To access these new sections, you first have to register. To do this, go to:

<http://acalanesfellowshiplodge.com/register>

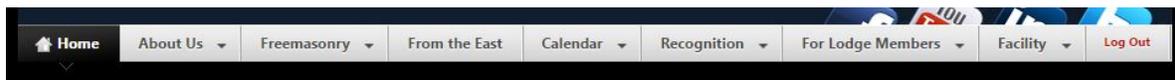
You'll be asked for your email address, a username, password, and a few other details. I will manually check each registration against our active roster, and will assign the appropriate access levels. So it may take a short amount of time between when you register and when you receive notification that you can access the new areas.

Once you ARE registered, click on the "Login" button on the far right of the site menu

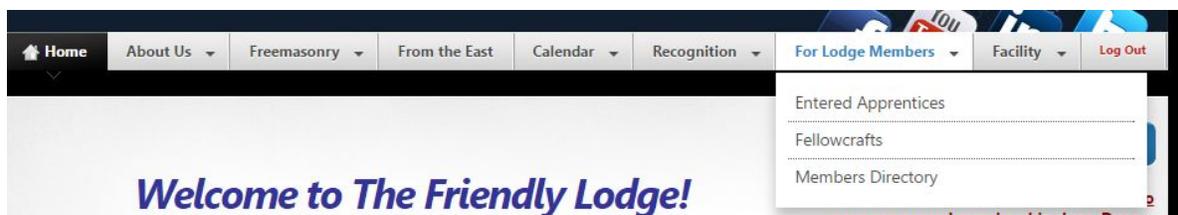


That will take you to a page where you enter your username or email address and password.

Once you log in, the menu will change:



If you move your mouse over "For Lodge Members" you will now see all the Tiled pages you have access to:



As always, if you have questions or need assistance registering for the website, I am happy to assist. I will have a computer with me at the May and June Stated Meeting dinners to help you register and to show you how to use the site.

Hall Association *Bob Smith, Hall Association*

President ballassociation@acalanesfellowship.com

The Hall Association would like to thank all the brothers that turned out for our April 8, 2017 Lodge Work Day.

We had sixteen brothers who were kind enough to spend a half day working and cleaning the lodge.

A special thanks to Terry Killgore and his fantastic crew who did an excellent job with cleaning the kitchen.

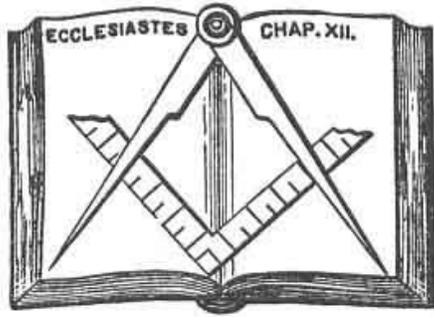


Congratulations

To our new Fellowcraft Mason, Brother John Minagro!

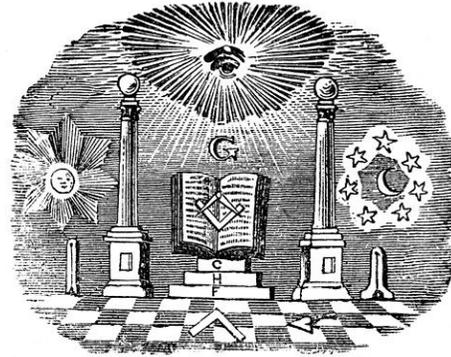
Passed April 25, 2017





3rd Degree Anniversaries

Name	Raised	Years a MM
Kenneth R. Crone, PM	5/25/1959	58
Franklin H. Shoffner	5/25/1964	53
Frederic S. Schachtman	5/24/1966	51
Thomas C. Thompson	5/7/1966	51
Boris J. Minzyk	5/21/1970	47
Richard D. Snowden	5/31/1972	44
Richard N. Young	5/1/1976	41
Cary L. Carlson, PM	5/19/1977	40
Jeffrey R. Nott	5/30/1978	39
Serge A. Chemla	5/19/1986	31
John J. Mulhall	5/3/1997	20
Stephen P. Galop, III	5/23/1998	19
James P. Reno, III	5/19/2012	5
Christopher M. Urani	5/15/2012	5
William J. Smith Jr.	5/31/2014	3



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
Val Rodrigues	May 16
Partha (James) S. Chowdhury	May 22
Gary B. Estes	May 25
John B. Cook	May 26
Terry R. Killgore	May 30

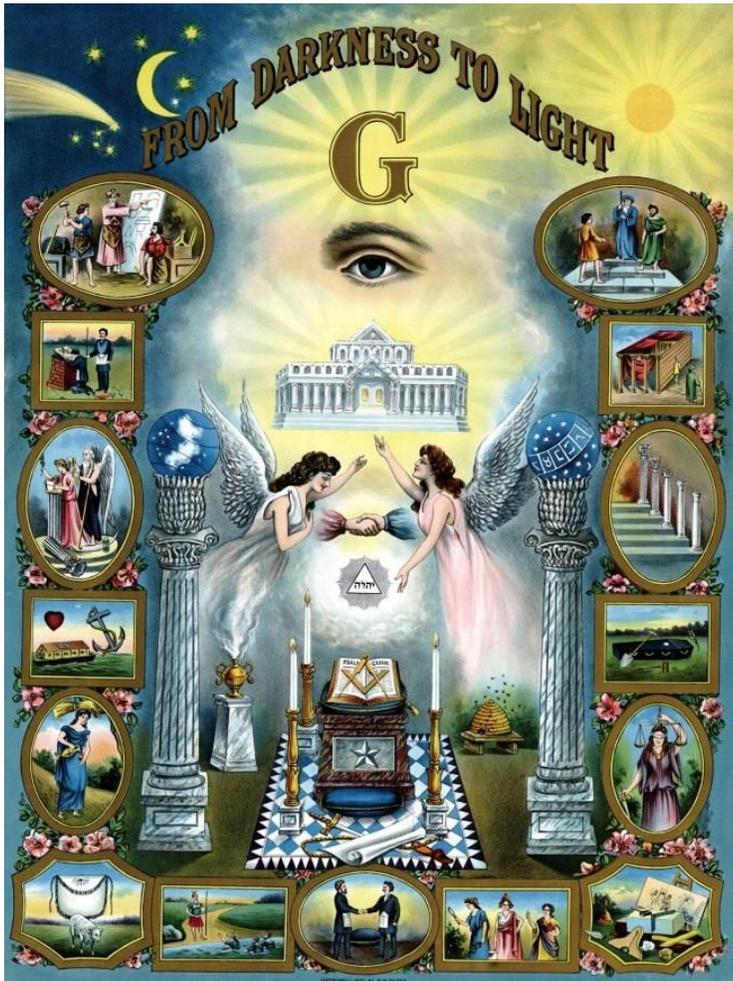
May Stated Meeting *May 2, 5:30pm*

We are very pleased to present for the subject of interest this month, David Kreutzinger's account of his visits to Lodges in Italy, Croatia and on a Mediterranean Cruise ship. Come and learn about the interesting differences between these lodges and our lodges in California. This should prove to be an eye opener for us all and further expand our understanding of Freemasonry in general.

Menu: Chicken Tamale, Pork Taco, Rice, Black Beans w/ onion & cilantro, Salad w/red onion slices, garbanzo & kidney beans (oil vinegar), Chips w/bean dip & salsa, Mexican Cookies

Click and Register

Alternatively, you may email rsvp@acalanes.org or call (925) 284-7815 to register.



*Come help our excellent
Ritual Team*

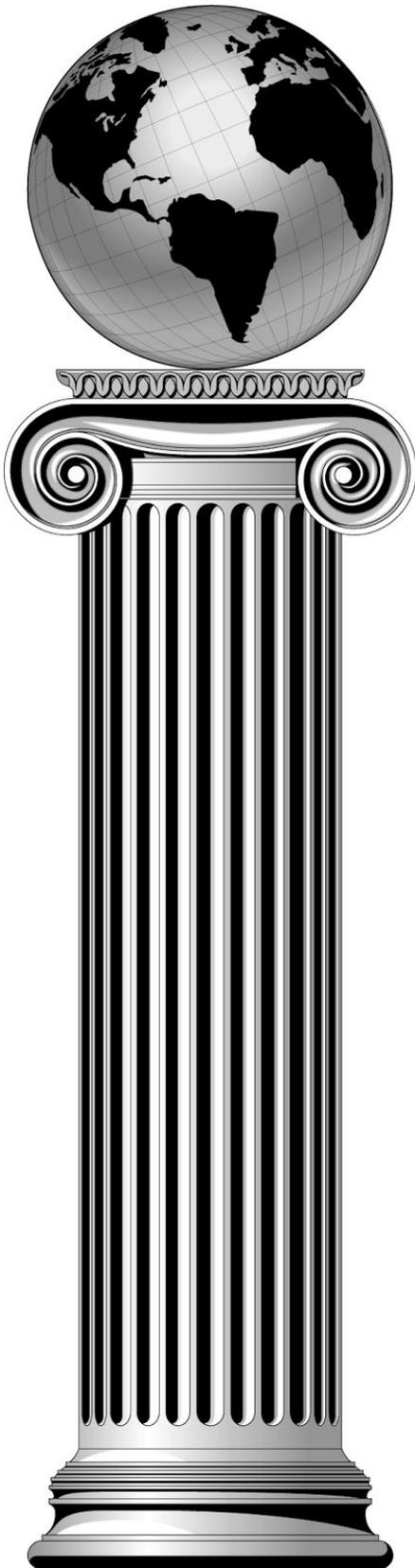
*RAISE TO THE SUBLIME
DEGREE OF
MASTER MASON*

John Minagro

*Saturday, May 20
5:00 pm
Acalanes Fellowship Lodge*

Fonathan Groetsch

*Tuesday, May 23
6:00 pm
Acalanes Fellowship Lodge*



Contact Us...

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Acalanes Fellowship Lodge

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(925) 284-7815

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AcalanesFellowshipLodge.com

Editor: Adam Hanin trestleboard@acalanesfellowship.com



Upcoming Events at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480

May 2, 5:30 pm

Stated Meeting

Reception at 5:30 pm

Dinner at 6:30 pm

Meeting at 7:30 pm

May 6, 10:30 am

**Kentucky Derby Day
Golden Gate Fields**

Buffet hours: 10:30 - 3:00 p.m.

First race: 11:45 p.m.

May 20, 5:00 pm

**John Minagro
Third Degree**

Refreshments following

May 23, 6:00 pm

**Jonathan Groetsch
Third Degree**

Refreshments following

[Click and Register](#)