

The Trestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 ☉ March, 2018

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From the East - *Worshipful Michael Roberts. PM, Master* master@acalanesfellowship.com

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge is off to a very busy schedule in 2018. Please join me in welcoming our newest Mason to our lodge Brother Reynold Barzaga Dandan who was initiated into the fraternity on Tuesday January 23rd. The annual Acalanes Fellowship Crab Feed Fundraiser was a huge success. It was highly attended with 165 guests and a profit just shy of \$10,000 which we will use to fund our lodge activities and charitable programs.



At our February Stated Meeting, our Junior Warden Adam Hanin put on an excellent presentation about the communication process we are using to advertise all upcoming lodge events and activities and the importance of RSVP'ing using the Eventbrite system we have in place.

Our communication committee will continue to send out announcements electronically via Eventbrite notifications. The lodge App is another resource you can use to see what's going on at our lodge. Finally, the Trestleboard is electronically sent monthly and you can opt in for a paper version should you not be comfortable with the electronic version. If you ever want to know what is on the calendar all you have to do is visit our lodge website at <http://www.acalanesfellowshiplodge.com> and the latest and greatest calendar can be found. This is also a place you can RSVP for all events. As we are not charging any additional fee to register and pay via credit card for all lodge events, we are encouraging pre-payment but will still collect at the door if you prefer.

On Saturday February 17th we had our annual spring Sweethearts Luncheon at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill. A great time was had by all and I encourage you all to not miss the opportunity to bring your sweethearts and significant others to these events. We were also joined by several widows of Brothers who have passed on and as always it was great to see them and find out what they have been up to since we last met. The next Sweethearts luncheon will take place shortly after Installation of Officers in December. More information to follow.

On Tuesday February 27th we held our 1st Lodge Potluck/social of the year. This is simply an opportunity for Brethren/friends and family to come together for a great shared meal, games and sometimes a little Masonic Education. All are welcome, and an RSVP helps so we know how many are bringing salads/entrees/sides and desserts.

The weekend of March 2nd through 4th I will be heading to the Master's & Warden's retreat in Monterey with our Senior Warden Bob Strohmeyer and Junior Warden Adam Hanin. This is an excellent opportunity for the three principal officers of our lodge to come together with other Lodge Leaders to share best practices and continue to develop a multi-year leadership lodge plan for 2019 and beyond.

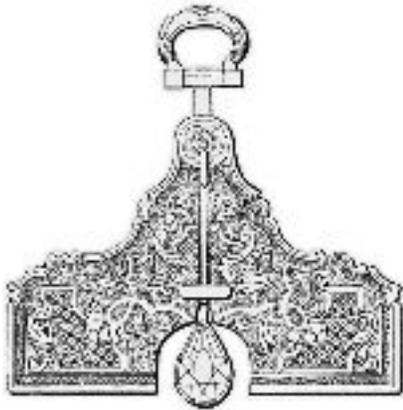
At our upcoming [Stated Meeting and Dinner](#) on March 6th the program of interest will revolve around Youth Orders and we will welcome our District Inspector Greg Thompson into our Lodge Room at the Stated Meeting for his annual Official Visit.

On Thursday March 22nd the Lodge Officers will head over to Orinda Lodge for dinner and a visitation. Our lodge officers will be conferring a 1st degree on one of their candidates. If you would like to attend this degree or serve on the degree team, please let me know. All Masons are welcome to attend. Finally, on Wednesday March 28th, Acalanes Fellowship Lodge will be the host location for an Open House/Mixer for the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Light appetizers and beverages will be served, and the event is open to all. More information to follow. Thank you all for your ongoing support of our lodge, I look forward to seeing you all again soon!

Fraternally,

Michael Roberts, Master AFL

From the West *Robert Strohmeier, Senior Warden srwarden@acalanesfellowship.com*



Masonry is often described as a journey from darkness to light. In this series of short commentaries over the coming months, I will explore the concept of darkness and light, and its relevance to Masonry and life. In the January edition, we considered the meaning of darkness in Masonic thought. In February, contemplated the symbolism of light. In this final installment, we will explore the meaning of the journey itself.

In our Masonic experience, as in our larger experience of life generally, we undergo various transformations. Chief among these for Masons, it is hoped, we experience a transformation from a state of darkness to one of illumination. By darkness, we mean various things, but principally we refer to ignorance. By light, we mean the attainment of knowledge previously hidden from our minds. What then, is it, that creates this transformation? It is the metaphorical journey at the heart of our Craft.

Masons are often referred to as travelers. One brother may meet another in life, and acknowledge him as a “fellow traveler.” Brothers sometimes refer to their experiences in the fraternity as “Masonic travels,” not all of which necessarily involve any significant change of locale.

While the symbolism of light and illumination is pervasive in our practice, it is not the light itself, but the journey from darkness to light – the act of illumination – that characterizes Freemasonry. This distinction is fundamental and important: As Masons, we are not defined by what we know; We are defined by the pursuit of that knowledge, by the attainment of it, insofar as any individual Mason might attain it, and by the imparting of it to others through our Craft.

We are, in the truest sense, journeymen – lifelong apprentices in an ever-nuanced and elusive trade. Even as Master Masons (perhaps especially as Master Masons), we are defined by our quest for understanding, even as we are charged with the sacred duty of passing the teachings of our ancient and honorable fraternity along to new Masons in our lodges.

In our pursuit of light, we become Masons. In our continual quest for more light, our Masonic journey takes us deeper into ourselves, and into the heart of life’s mysteries. Let us enjoy together, brethren, this great mystical journey into the self.

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

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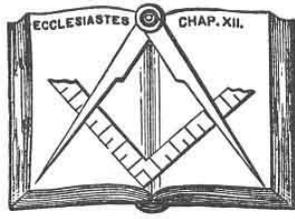
Here we are looking at March already. My, the year goes fast. Pat and I attended the first of the "Pot Luck" suppers that Worshipful Michael has scheduled. Our Worshipful Master has essentially adopted the theme "Why do we Meet?" for this year. The pot luck affair is great example. About twenty people, brothers and wives, attended. We had a marvelous evening of just sitting around getting to know one another better. By the way, the food was good as well. I strongly recommend that you attend any of the upcoming events that you can. Our lodge has a lot of very nice, charming and interesting people.



Thank you to those who have already paid dues. There is still a few who have not paid. It is very important that dues be paid on time. You are considered not in good standing until your dues are paid. This affects your rights as a mason including entrance to our lodge and other lodges as well your ability to access other masonic benefits such as Masonic Outreach and the Masonic Homes for you or your family. If you feel that you are unable to pay promptly for any reason, please call either me at (925) 360-4328 or Worshipful Michael Roberts.

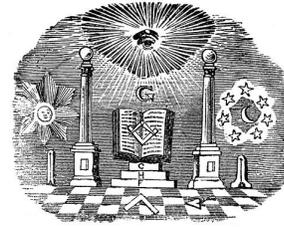
As always, you are invited to attend our stated meeting dinner and meeting on the first Tuesday of any month. The feeling of brotherly love and good fun continues to abound. Our ritual work is solid and getting better. This is the time for you to return to lodge if you haven't been for a while. Don't 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.

I will see you in lodge.



3rd Degree Anniversaries

Name	Raised	Years a MM
Walter J. Moser	3/11/1958	60
George Atashkarian	3/12/1962	56
Ralph W. Runckel	3/22/1966	52
Nicholas M Bloisa	3/19/1977	41
Brainard Platt, PM	3/22/1977	41
William J. Haynes	3/30/1978	40
Donald H. Freitas, PM	3/24/1979	39
Arne Simonsen, PM	3/27/1984	34
Roger G. Burt	3/24/1987	31
Alan J. Mac	3/28/1987	31
Brian R. Flannery	3/19/1998	20
Bradley O. Rupert, PM	3/18/2003	15
Scott D. Haile	3/16/2004	14
Dennis P. Rodgers, PM	3/23/2004	14
Lawrence W. Strohmeier	3/19/2005	13
Gary D. Sparks, PM	3/7/2009	9



Birthdays

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

Brainard Platt, PM	March 1
Clinton J. Jossey	March 4
Brian O. James	March 6
Orren C. Rupert, PM	March 6
Alvin J. Weis, PGM	March 6
David B. Stickney	March 7
Herman L. Zeller	March 9
Marvin J. Kay	March 10
Peter A. Peterson	March 13
Alan J. Mac	March 15
Frederic S. Schachtman	March 16
Larry W. Woods, PM	March 16
Jon M. Haynes	March 20

Musical Moment - John Minagro, Junior Deacon

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Throughout my life I have felt inspiration from the words of various scriptures, but I've also been profoundly moved by the words and music of songs, even Broadway songs.

Included below is a link where you can go online to listen to the piece and enjoy the marriage of word and music, which always deepens its spiritual message. I would also encourage you to read, or better yet listen to each song at least 3 times – all at once, or over the course of the month – allowing the words, music, and their effects of inspiration and joy to sift upon your mind and being.

Our song for March is a good one: **Make Our Garden Grow**. From Voltaire's magnum opus "**Candide**" (1759) Leonard Bernstein transformed it into a Broadway musical (or is it an opera?) of the same name in 1956.

"**Make Our Garden Grow**" is the emotionally thought provoking finale to **Candide**. Rephrasing and combining several comments I've read about this song couldn't be said better than this: **Candide** isn't a fairy tale about happy endings. It's a fairy tale about how to live in a world filled with injustice, horror, greed, stupidity, war, & disease. "**Make Our Garden Grow**" is a metaphor: little by little we make life - our garden - better. No magic wand, no deus ex machina finale, no knight in shining armor, only the countless individual deeds that numberless individuals will do to grow our earthly garden. The moral of the story is that the world ain't perfect or pure, but that doesn't mean you can't be happy.

Make Our Garden Grow

Music & Lyrics: Leonard Bernstein

CANDIDE:

You've been a fool
And so have I,
But come and be my wife.
And let us try,
Before we die,
To make some sense of life.
We're neither pure, nor wise, nor good
We'll do the best we know.
We'll build our house and chop our wood
And make our garden grow...
And make our garden grow.

CUNEGONDE:

I thought the world
Was sugar cake
For so our master said.
But, now I'll teach
My hands to bake
Our loaf of daily bread.

BOTH:

We're neither pure, nor wise, nor good
We'll do the best we know.
We'll build our house and chop our wood
And make our garden grow...
And make our garden grow.

ENSEMBLE:

Let dreamers dream
What worlds they please
Those Edens can't be found.
The sweetest flowers,
The fairest trees
Are grown in solid ground.

We're neither pure, nor wise, nor good
We'll do the best we know.
We'll build our house and chop our wood
And make our garden grow.
And make our garden grow!

You can listen to Paul Groves, Kristin Chenoweth,
and a pretty amazing ensemble cast singing it here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nlVD-jrq_Yk

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AcalanesFellowshipLodge.com

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Upcoming Events at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480

March 6

Stated Meeting

Reception at 5:30 pm

Dinner at 6:30 pm

Meeting at 7:30 pm

March 22

First Degree

ORINDA Lodge

6:00 pm

March 28

Open House/Social

AFL 480

5:30 pm

[Click and Register](#)