

The Trestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 ☉ April, 2018

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

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Brethren of Acalanes Fellowship Lodge for sending the three principal officers of the lodge to the Master and Wardens retreat in Monterey the 1st weekend in March. This was an excellent opportunity for us to immerse ourselves in numerous breakout sessions with Masters and Wardens of other lodges from all over California.

In these breakout sessions, we discussed best practices in such topics as long-term lodge planning, setting appropriate dues and fees, from leader to mentor, email communications best practices and lodge culture and identity. As in the past, Acalanes Fellowship Lodge was well represented by several Past Masters who are instrumental keynote speakers at these retreats, including our very own Very Worshipful Allan Casalou (Grand Secretary) and Worshipful Gary Charland who is the President and CEO of the Masonic Homes of California.



Once again Acalanes Fellowship Lodge has pledged 100% Officer contributions to the Masonic charities. In addition, Jason Harding, Entered Apprentice with Acalanes Fellowship Lodge also played an instrumental role in the successful implementation of this retreat. It was an honor to spend this weekend with your future lodge Leaders, our Senior Warden Bob Strohmeyer and Junior Warden Adam Hanin. They are already hard at work preparing for their year as Master and I am looking forward to seeing them both sitting in the oriental chair.

The month of April will be another busy month for Acalanes Fellowship Lodge. Our [monthly Stated Meeting](#) will take place on Tuesday April 3rd. After dinner we will have guest speaker Kristen Anderson giving us a presentation on the Raising a Reader program in honor of Public Education Month. On Thursday, April 26th at 9am there will be the annual Raising a Reader program event at Bridges Academy which is one of the public schools which has implemented the program. I urge you all to come and see firsthand the importance of promoting literacy to children and how this program continues to make a positive difference in the lives of these amazing students. Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Bruce Galloway, will be in attendance. On Tuesday, April 24th we will have our monthly lodge social potluck starting at 6:30pm.

Our next degree will take place on Tuesday May 22nd for our 1st degree candidate Mr. Dale Satre at 6:30pm. All Masons are welcome and encouraged to attend.

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

April is Public Schools Month *Mark Williams* mark@markwlms.com



As I am sure you are aware, April is designated as Public Schools Month, a time that the Masons of California recognize and celebrate our long standing support of public schools. This year the East Bay Public Schools Advisory Council and the Grand Lodge of California are sponsoring an event at Bridges Academy at Melrose in Oakland (1325 - 53rd Ave.) on April 26 at 9 AM. Bridges Academy is one of the schools that has implemented the Raising a Reader Program to promote literacy to children coming from challenged backgrounds and circumstances. This event will provide an opportunity to see firsthand how this program is changing the lives of these students.

Please plan to join us at this event! Our Grand Master Bruce Galloway will be in attendance and it would be great to show the support that local lodges are providing for public education by your attendance. You can RSVP directly at [the Grand Lodge website](#). You can also let me know personally or at mark@markwlms.com or 925-285-0630. I can assure you that you will find this a rewarding and inspirational experience!

I would also invite you at this time to make a personal contribution to the Grand Lodge Elementary School Literacy Fund that supports the Raising a Reader program in schools like Bridges Academy at Melrose. Studies show that if a child can't read at grade level by third grade, it's virtually impossible for him or her to ever catch up. We proudly support Raising A Reader, which helps children and their families develop strong literacy habits that impact their comprehension, vocabulary, and listening skills - breaking multigenerational cycles of illiteracy. This program can't currently reach all the kids in California who need it. Our goal is to double the program to 1,000 classrooms - and ensure more young Californians can look forward to a brighter future.

Please go to: <https://freemason.webconnex.com/contribute> to make your tax deductible contribution. On the contribution page please designate the Elementary School Literacy Fund. Again this year our brother Jeff Boschert has offered a matching donation challenge! Jeff will match the personal donations of brothers from our lodge up to \$500. Let's make sure that we match Jeff's generous offer to facilitate a total donation of \$1000 or more from the brothers of Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480. Our contributions can make a significant difference!

I am looking forward to seeing you on April 26, 9 AM, at Bridges Academy at Melrose in Oakland!

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

The other day I was watching the news and skipping through some of the news commentary channels. So much of the news and commentary is about politics and I was struck with the feeling that everyone seems to hate everyone else. And that the old values of public civility and just being kind and nice toward other people must be dead. But then I went to my local supermarket and the cashier smiled and wished me a good day. And the receptionist at the doctor's office took the time to joke with me. And the person on the stationary bike next to me at the Y struck up a conversation with me. Clearly civility stills exists in this world. I believe that it is our assignment to everyday brings civility into someone else's life. We are Masons.

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.

Hall Association *Pete Peterson, Tiler no2pete@aol.com*

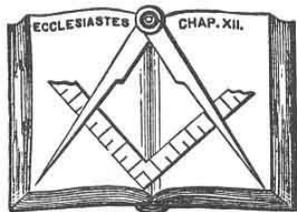
The Hall Association recently went through its annual change of members and election of officers for 2018. Our immediate past Board president, Bob Smith, has been “termed” out of the Hall Association as has Michael Weis and Fred Lezak. Your new Hall Association Board officers are: Pete Peterson - President; Worshipful Harry Burt - Vice President; Bill Smith - Secretary; and, Worshipful Brad Rupert - Treasurer. Worshipful Marion Rogers has returned to the Board for a new term. Garth Korwin and SW Robert Strohmeier return as Hall Association members.

We have been successful in the past year attracting renters and as a result our rental income has increased a bit. Our lodge will host a “mixer” with the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce at the end of the month, which we hope will lead to more prospective rental customers. The lodge gets a lot of use beyond our monthly Stated Meetings and as a result gets a lot of wear-and-tear that needs constantly monitoring.

The Board focus this year is on making improvements to the kitchen; internal modifications to the lodge to expand storage space not only for our use, but for organizations renting our facility; and, keeping up with maintenance and improvements to our lodge and property to keep it operating smoothly; no small task for an older facility such as ours.

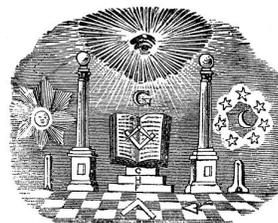
You may have noticed a much cleaner kitchen area as a result of the work done during our recent lodge clean-up day. Your Board is working to resolve a long-term hot water issue with our dishwasher. The area behind the stage area in the lodge room (in the West) has undergone major modifications, not only to make it safer to walk across, but also to add needed storage space for our facility. The fence that we share with the neighboring dentist's office has been replaced and all the shrubbery from that area has been cleaned out. Ongoing patchwork repairs to the parking lot is a constant project. We're keeping an eye on a newly discovered roof leak.

As you can see, there is a lot of behind-the-scenes activity that goes on to keep our lodge functioning. We have an unfilled vacancy on the Hall Association and encourage anyone interested to apply. Your welcoming “initiation” consists of a handshake and a glass of wine.



3rd Degree Anniversaries

Name	Raised	Years a MM
John H. Kalivoda	4/12/1957	61
Peter J. Axtman	4/23/1959	59
Donald R. Hansen, PM	4/21/1959	59
Gerald I. Hertz	4/19/1966	52
Jay J. Newman	4/20/1968	50
Gary A. Yanes, PM	4/18/1973	45
Roy Couch	4/27/1976	42
Donald B. Burnett, PM	4/11/1978	40
Jeffrey A. Fesunoff	4/30/2002	16
Russell J. Chapman	4/29/2003	15
B. Ryder Brose	4/28/2007	11
Mark A. Williams	4/30/2011	7



Birthdays

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

George H. Konstantopoulos, PM	April 6
Alan L. Sherman	April 7
Edward A. Stack, Jr.	April 7
Robert L. Polvi	April 10
Richard G. Keihner	April 11
Donald K. Chambers	April 14
Thomas E. Riley, III, PM	April 15
James R. Barley	April 16
Frederick T. Lezak, Jr.	April 17
Eldon G. Keefer	April 20
P G. Korwin	April 20
Robert D. Haile	April 22
Mark A. Williams	April 23
Timothy L. Wilbur	April 24
Otis Simonsen, PM	April 26

Musical Moment - John Minagro, Junior Deacon

jrdeacon@acalanesfellowship.com

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.

April brings us two major spiritual holidays, Passover (March 30 – April 7) and Easter (April 1), and with this in mind our song for April is one that is more overtly religious and more ecumenically spiritual. It's a simple song really, called "A Simple Song" from "MASS: A Theatre Piece for Singers, Players, and Dancers" a musical theater work composed in 1971 by Leonard Bernstein a Jewish composer who wrote a Catholic mass, and lyricist Stephen Schwartz who employed the Latin word "Lauda" (praise) along with familiar phrases from Psalm 121 in Jewish scripture.

A Simple Song

Music: Leonard Bernstein Lyrics: Stephen Schwartz

Sing God a simple song
Lauda, Laudē
Make it up as you go along
Lauda, Laudē
Sing like you like to sing
God loves all simple things
For God is the simplest of all
For God is the simplest of all

I will sing the Lord a new song
To praise Him, to bless Him, to bless the Lord
I will sing His praises while I live
All of my days.

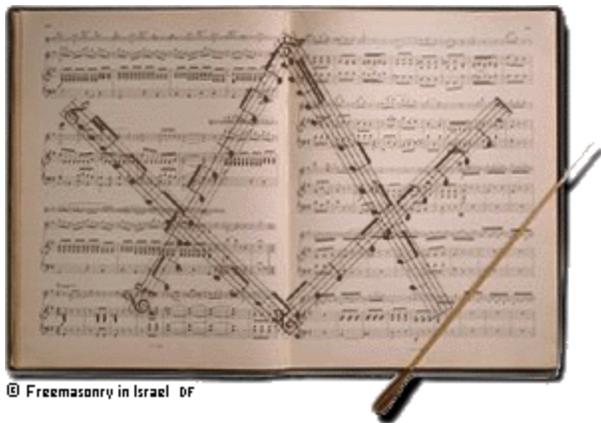
Blessed is the man who loves the Lord
Blessed is the man who praises Him
Lauda, Lauda, Laudē
And walks in His ways

I will lift up my eyes
To the hills from whence comes my help
I will lift up my voice to the Lord
Singing Lauda, Laudē

For the Lord is my shade
Is the shade upon my right hand
And the sun shall not smite me by day
Nor the moon by night
Blessed is the man who loves the Lord
Lauda, Lauda, Laudē
And walks in His ways

Lauda, Lauda, Laudē
Lauda, Lauda di da di day
All of my days.

You can listen to Alan Titus singing it here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4a4naYEHUZs>



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AcalanesFellowshipLodge.com

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Upcoming Events at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480

April 3

Stated Meeting

Reception at 5:30 pm

Dinner at 6:30 pm

Meeting at 7:30 pm

April 24

Lodge Potluck Social

6:30 pm

April 26

Raising a Reader

Bridges Academy, Oakland

9:00 am

[Click and Register](#)