

# The Trestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 ☉ May, 2018

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**From the East** - *Worshipful Michael Roberts. PM, Master* [master@acalanesfellowship.com](mailto:master@acalanesfellowship.com)

The month of April has been another exciting month for our lodge! At our Stated Meeting dinner this month we celebrated Public Schools month with a guest speaker Kristin Anderson whose program of interest was how the Raising a Reader Program is continuing to make a huge difference in the lives of underprivileged children in the San Francisco Bay area. Brother Mark Williams, who serves on the Grand Lodge Public Schools Committee, announced that on Thursday April 26th, Masons from all over California will assemble to celebrate Public Schools month at 9am at Bridges Academy at Melrose, located at: 1325 53rd Ave., Oakland CA 94601. All are encouraged to attend.



On Tuesday April 17th, Acalanes Fellowship Lodge's excellent corps of officers conducted a 1st degree on our newest Entered Apprentice Mason Sigmond Sternang. Welcome to our lodge and Fraternity my Brother! Our lodge will continue to remain in 1st degree mode as we have another 1st Degree coming up on Tuesday May 22nd for Mr. Dale Satre at 6:30 PM. Please save the date to welcome him to the Fraternity. If you would be interested in participating on his degree team please do let me know.

On Tuesday April 24th we will hold our [monthly social potluck](#) at our lodge from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. There is no cost to attend, just please bring a dish to share and enjoy the company. All are encouraged to attend. Please [RSVP via Eventbrite](#) so we have an estimate on attendance.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon!

# From the West - *Robert Strohmeier, Senior Warden [srwarden@acalanesfellowship.com](mailto:srwarden@acalanesfellowship.com)*

Brotherhood is its own blessing, and for Masons, the opportunity to teach and guide new brethren is its own reward.



As we near the midpoint of this Masonic year, it feels incredibly good to realize how fortunate we are as a lodge. Acalanes Fellowship, now 98 years in its history, has a rich legacy of fraternalism to be proud of and a bright future ahead of it. In particular, we are blessed this year, as in many years past, with an excellent complement of newly obligated brethren in our midst. I speak, of course, of the recently initiated Entered Apprentice Masons whom we have introduced to our Craft in recent months, whose names should be familiar to us all: Jason Harding, Reynold Dandan, and Andre Sternang.

The officers of AFL #480 are proud to welcome these brothers into our lodge, and our candidates coaches have been very pleased with the progress these new brothers are making in their Masonic education. It occurs to me, also, that these Entered Apprentices are quite fortunate to have at their disposal a tremendous community of Masonic teachers to guide and support them in their journey from West to East. Acalanes Fellowship is rich with Masons who love to share their knowledge of the Craft and the wisdom of their experience with new brethren.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all of us, as our Worshipful Inspector Greg Thompson reminded the officers of our district at the most recent district officers school of instruction, that coaching candidates is not just a job for our designated candidates' coach, but a duty and honor we all share together. We should all feel welcome to offer our support and good counsel to new brothers as they deepen their understanding and strive for their proficiencies.

At the same time, I wish to remind our candidates, as well as all Masons of our lodge, that they are surrounded by deep Masonic minds who yearn to share understanding and help a fellow brother along the path. Even another Entered Apprentice can help you along your journey if you reach out to one another and share your experiences and questions. We are all, truly, candidates' coaches, and we should all feel inspired to seek and share Masonic knowledge to our collective benefit.

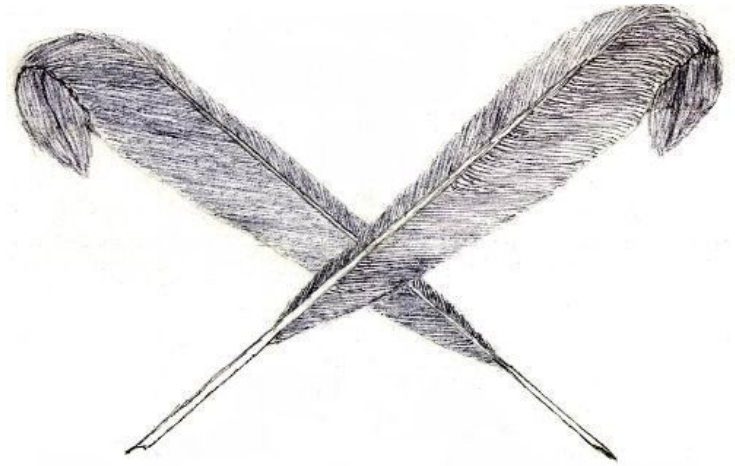
We all look forward to conferring a good number of degrees throughout the remainder of this year, and with those degrees will come a wealth of wonderful questions and opportunities to

learn, both for our candidates as well as for many of us more seasoned in this ancient Craft. Let's all embrace the opportunity to teach, and by teaching, to further our own understanding.

Fratres aeternum.

## From the Secretary's Desk *-Fred Lezak, Secretary [secretary@acalanesfellowship.com](mailto:secretary@acalanesfellowship.com)*

Many of you may know that I am a baseball fan. You may also know that I am a huge fan of the Masons4Mitts program. So you know that I am one happy Mason because both baseball and Masons4Mitts are in season. Masons4Mitts supports the work that the professional ball teams in California do with underserved children ages 5 through 18 in learning life lessons through baseball. We in Northern California work with the SF Giants. Each year we raise money by buying mitts for \$20 each. These funds go to the Junior Giant program. At the end of the season, we have the opportunity to go to a Giant game to be honored by the Giants and present them a check. Last year the check was for more than \$80,000. You can see me with the check by going to the lodge app and looking for my picture. You can give me the \$20 (cash or check) or go online to [Masons4Mitts.org](http://Masons4Mitts.org). On the menu at the top, click on "Northern California then click on East Bay Aces which is our team. Click on "give a mitt". Fill in the information and **BE SURE TO FILL IN THE LODGE INFORMATION.**



You can also sign up for the game. This year the game is September 25th (a Tuesday night). The giants will be playing the Padres. We will be buying tickets as a group. You will be hearing more about that at the next stated meeting.

Speaking stated meeting, if you have not been for a while, we miss you. 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](mailto:no2pete@aol.com)*



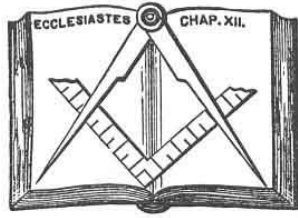
It's been an uneventful month for the Hall Association - a good thing!

Worshipful Rogers and Brother Korwin continue to spend many hours of their own time making major improvements to the stage area in the West. Their work will enable the lodge to have needed additional storage area and will make the lodge even more attractive to future renters.

One of the Hall Association's major goals this year is to make improvements to our kitchen area, which includes regular maintenance and cleaning. As I mentioned last month, we had serious issues with our kitchen dishwasher. Brother Korwin solved that problem and his improvements were immediately noticed and appreciated by our caterer: "Man, what did you guys do? The dishwasher works great." Brother Bob Smith makes several stealthy visits a month doing little clean-up jobs to keep the kitchen (and lodge) presentable. This also should help Worshipful Burt as he gives prospective tenants tours of our facility.

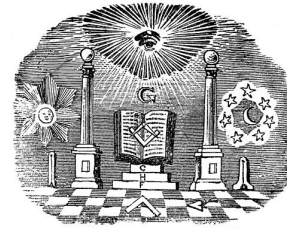
Just to show you how talented our little group is, the lodge developed a leak in the roof just above the Secretary's desk in the lodge room. And, no, the rain gods weren't angry at our esteemed Secretary Lezak! Worshipful Rogers inspected the leak to determine the extent of the problem. Apparently, he did enough growling and swearing at the roof that the wet wood expanded by itself out of fear, sealing the leak and solving the problem.

As you can see, there is a lot of behind-the-scenes activity that goes on to keep our lodge functioning. We continue to operate with a couple of unfilled vacancies 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
Kenneth R. Crone, PM	5/25/1959	59
Franklin H. Shoffner	5/25/1964	54
Thomas C. Thompson	5/7/1966	52
Frederic S. Schachtman	5/24/1966	52
Boris J. Minzyk	5/21/1970	48
Richard D. Snowden	5/31/1972	45
Richard N. Young	5/1/1976	42
Cary L. Carlson, PM	5/19/1977	41
Jeffrey R. Nott	5/30/1978	40
Serge A. Chemla	5/19/1986	32
John J. Mulhall	5/3/1997	21
Stephen P. Galop, III	5/23/1998	20
Christopher M. Urani	5/15/2012	6
James P. Reno, III	5/19/2012	6
William J. Smith Jr.	5/31/2014	4
John P. Minagro	5/20/2017	1
Jonathan P. Groetsch	5/23/2017	1



## 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



# Musical Moment - John Minagro, Junior Deacon

[jrdeacon@acalanesfellowship.com](mailto: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.*

As May blossoms into an optimistic springtime, our song for this month is also hugely optimistic. In 1969, composers Harvey Schmidt and Tom Jones (no, not THAT Tom Jones) whose off Broadway show “The Fantasticks” (and STILL running in New York after 58 years!) mounted their amazing little show “**Celebration**” on Broadway. Filled with captivating music, it is a musical fable, that explores the contrasts between youth and old age, innocence and jaded corruption, love and ambition, and poverty and wealth. It continues to be performed and loved today all over Scandinavia.

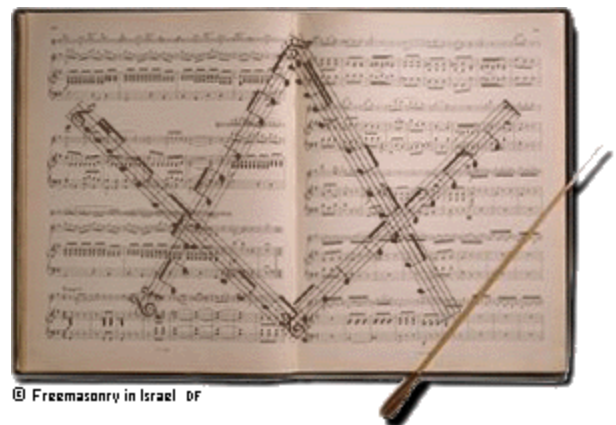
Our song for this month, “**Fifty Million Years Ago**” is certainly the best known from this show, yet still not well known by most people.

## **Fifty Million Years Ago**

Music: Harvey Schmidt – Lyrics: Tom Jones

Some people say that today is the day,  
when the cold will come and never go away.  
God made the Sun and the Sun made light,  
and the light cut in two made day and night.  
Some people say that tonight is the night,  
when the bird will fly and eat away the light.  
God had a dream and the dream came true,  
and the dream cut in two was me and you.  
Me and You.  
Me and You.

Fifty Million Years Ago, something in the sea,  
reached above the water eagerly.  
Fifty Thousand Years Ago,  
something on the land,  
suddenly decided it could stand.  
Does this lonely road just go to nowhere?



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Can it be that there's no reason why?  
When in spite of all the strife, and the endless dying,  
life keeps reaching higher for the sky.  
Fifty seconds from right now, anything could be.  
I'm the future, please believe in me.  
Anything we need, anything we long for,  
anything we dream can come to be.

(Interim Dialogue)

A: Hey. Hey! What are you so happy about all of a sudden?

B: I'm not going to leave, I'm going to stay.  
I'm going to fight him, for the girl, for the garden, for everything.  
The future belongs to me. I'm going to make a new world.  
I'm going to correct all the mistakes he made.  
I'm going to make it all perfect!

Fifty seconds from right now, anything could be.  
I'm the future, please believe in me.  
Anything we need, anything we long for,  
anything we dream can come to be.  
Believe!  
You will see.  
It can come to be!

You can listen to Michael Glenn-Smith singing it here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oHS\\_TWexpk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oHS_TWexpk)

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[AcalanesFellowshipLodge.com](http://AcalanesFellowshipLodge.com)

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## Upcoming Events at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480

### April Potluck Dinner

Reception at 5:30 pm

Dinner at 6:30 pm

### April 26

#### Raising a Reader

Bridges Academy, Oakland

9:00 am

### May 1

#### Stated Meeting

Reception at 5:30 pm

Dinner at 6:30 pm

Meeting at 7:30 pm

### May 22

#### First Degree: Dale Satre

6:30 pm

[Click and Register](#)

[Click and Register](#)