

The Trestleboard

- ACALANES FELLOWSHIP LODGE #480, F&AM -

DECEMBER 2018

FROM THE EAST

A message from our outgoing Master

Fraternal Greetings from the East!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Brethren for giving me the honor and privilege of serving once again as Master of Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 in 2018.

The theme of my year as Master was “Why we Gather”. I choose this theme because I believe it is very important that my fellow brethren, friends and their loved ones will better understand why it is so important that we as men devote so much time and energy to our gentle craft.

We as Masons share a common bond in the experience we received in our initiation into the Fraternity. During our first degree, we are taught about the three great lights of Masonry which are the holy bible, the compass and the square. These tools are constant daily reminders to all Masons.

The holy bible is given to us by God as the rule and guide of our faith. The square and compass are Masonic tools that remind us to keep our actions and behaviors in check toward all mankind.

Each Mason is then presented with a lamb skin apron which is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason. More ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle and more honorable than the star or garter or anything of value or distinction we ever will receive in life.

(continued on page 2)



Worshipful Michael E. Roberts, PM Master

IMPORTANT DECEMBER DATES

Dec. 4: Stated Meeting

All brethren are encouraged to join us for our monthly Stated Meeting. Refreshments will be served at 5:30 pm. Dinner at 6:30 pm. Meeting begins at 7:30 pm.

Reserve your dinner now.

Dec. 8: Installation

Please join us as Worshipful Greg Thompson, Inspector of the 305th Masonic District, serves as our Master of Ceremonies for the 2019 Officers.

Dinner to follow. RSVP now.

Dec. 15: Sweethearts

All Masons, their ladies, or their widows, are warmly welcome at our annual Sweethearts Holiday Luncheon. \$20 for members. No charge for ladies and children.

Reserve your spot now.

From the East (continued)

We then receive instruction on the importance of time management using a twenty-four-inch gauge as a guide. You see Masonry teaches us the importance of keeping a healthy life balance. Whereby we must divide our time into three parts. One part for service to God and a distressed worthy brother, a part for work and a part for family and rest and family.

The next teaching is about the importance of the Common Gavel. Society views the Common Gavel as a symbol of authority. But we as Masons are taught that the Common Gavel is used for breaking apart our old ways and continually building a new and better self internally.

Masons gather together not to be seen by the outside world as a secret society whose only mission is to gain wealth and political power. Nothing could be more further from the truth!

We gather together to focus on the internal development of a brother's heart and soul. To take good men and make them better through a series of three ritual degrees and ongoing mentoring and fellowship.

We gather together because our Masonic Community gives us the armor we need as we travel through life's times of joy and times of sorrow. With the end goal that someday we will join God and our loved ones in his celestial lodge above (forever).

We are a support network of friends and brothers who strive to live out the three principal tenets of Masonry which are Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. To share words of encouragement and council whether we want to hear it or not. Whether it is a phone call or hospital room visit to a brother, spouse, widow or orphan in need, the Brethren of Acalanes Fellowship Lodge are always there when you need them.

Knowledge of temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice are key elements of our teachings. The reason this is so important is that what we do as Masons in our daily lives at work, at home and at play are a reflection on our lodge and our Fraternity so we must always strive to continually improve ourselves.

I ask again, so why do we gather? Masons gather because we as human beings have an internal need for community. The bond we share in Masonry makes us not only friends but Fraternal brothers.

Have you not seen or witnessed two complete strangers meet and find that they share the Masonic bond and become instant friends?

A man he can trust to be on the level and share common values and ethics. I have personally experienced this on many occasions and it's a wonderful thing to know that no matter where I go I will ALWAYS have a friend and brother who will be there for me when I need him.

Another reason why we gather is that God who is all seeing and all-knowing desires it to be so. I have been placed in this lodge for a reason and have been called to do so.

While Masonry is not a religion, and should never be seen as one, we as Masons are implored to supplement the teachings of the holy bible with the Masonic Ritual we teach our candidates and implement the lessons through life.

I cannot tell you how many times I have been sitting in a church and heard a non-Mason Pastor present a sermon on portions of our Masonic ritual and had that aha moment! So that's where that came from. It is a beautiful thing when a Mason receives new light supported by biblical scripture written well over 2,000 years ago.

Finally, why we gather is because Masonry is as relevant to us today as it was to our three founding Grand Masters Solomon, King of Israel, Hiram, King of Tyre and Hiram Abiff, a Widows son from the tribe of Naphtali.

I am very excited about the incoming officer corps for the upcoming Masonic year, which will be under the leadership of our incoming Master Bob Strohmeyer. I wish you all very happy and prosperous 2019!

—Michael E. Roberts, Master

FROM THE WEST

Remarks from our Senior Warden and Master-Elect



*Bob Strohmeyer
Senior Warden & Master-elect*

*"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
for brethren to dwell together in unity!"*

My brethren, there is a time-worn curse, somewhat dubiously attributed to Chinese origin, but most likely born of English realism, with which we all may be familiar: "May you live in interesting times."

Interesting times are indeed upon us, and, while it may well be wondered whether there has ever been a period of human history not considered interesting by its inhabitants, many of us today find ourselves challenged to plot a sound path through the many complexities of life here in the early 21st Century. Now, as much as ever, the principles of Freemasonry should be a valuable and trusty guide to anyone — Mason or non-Mason, man or woman.

In our earliest Masonic experiences, our consciousness is raised by the admonishment of Psalm 133, which is attributed to David, King of Israel. In this brief passage, one of 15 which, taken together, are known as the Song of Ascent, David celebrates the soothing and life-affirming importance of unity: "It is like the precious ointment, which ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard."

Here David connects us to Aaron, brother of Moses, believed to have had a long beard that "went down to the skirts of his garments." And while we may read in this that Aaron's beard may have been richly perfumed with precious ointment, we must also take seriously David's effort to connect us to that legacy of brotherhood, as Aaron stood in unity with his brother as his spokesman before Pharaoh, and ultimately played a role in the liberation of the Israelites.

In these interesting times, we all face many challenges, and we brethren may find difficulty agreeing on important worldly topics while abroad in the world. But we should all take heart from Aaron's example, and King David's admonishment to embrace and cherish unity among our brethren.

—Robert S. Strohmeyer, Sr. Warden & Master-elect

NOTICE:

**DUE TO THE NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY, OUR
JANUARY STATED MEETING
WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 8 AT 7:30PM
DINNER BEGINS AT 6:30PM**

FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

A few words from our Brother Fred Lezak

December is the month of the installation of officers for the ensuing masonic year. I congratulate Brother Robert Strohmeyer on his election to be the Worshipful Master for 2019. It is the highest honor a lodge of master masons can bestow on a member. I also congratulate all of the other elected officers – Adam Hanin as Senior Warden, Terry Killgore as Junior Warden, David Kreutzinger as Treasurer and Worshipful Randy Tolerton as Secretary. As noted in my last message to you, I will be retiring this year as your Secretary. I will, however, stay on as Assistant Secretary to help with the transition. I will also continue to serve on the Life Membership and Financial Investment Committee and will rejoin the Acalanes Masonic Hall Board of Directors. In addition, Brother Strohmeyer has asked me to head up a new committee dedicated to investigating opportunities for the lodge to focus its time and money in worthy endeavors.

December is also the month when we pay our dues. Our dues for the next year will be \$176.00. By now you will have received an email from me and probably a letter as well. Please be sure to pay your dues no later than December 31, 2018 so you remain a member in good standing. If you are a life member, you may also consider paying the per capita fee that Grand Lodge charges us each year. This year the per capita is \$50.75. I assure you that paying these fees is strictly voluntary, and there is no pressure for you do so. But it will help the lodge significantly if you are able to.

I have been a mason for 57 years. I will be the first to admit that I have not always been very active. Like many of us, I had career obligations which kept me traveling and away from home and the lodge. But I have discovered a simple truth. Masonry is not a hobby. It is a way of life. We are taught the mystery of the craft and how to lead a better and more fulfilling life. Masonry's prime objective is to make good men better. It is a never ending journey filled with joy and brotherhood. We have an obligation – an oath – to make the world better. Those of us who regularly attend meetings experience that brotherly love and truth at every turn. We are challenged from that experience to go out and make a difference in the world through our words and actions. I challenge you to do the same.

For you to experience the same brotherly love, come to the stated meeting. It is THE event of each month when we can all get together and share. 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.

I will see you in lodge.

Fraternally,

Fred Lezak, Secretary



Fred Lezak
Secretary

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Join us in wishing happy birthdays to the following brethren...

Roy Couch - December 1

Roland J. Turk - December 1

William C. Armstrong - December 5

Spencer M. Sealander - December 6

Jonathan P. Groetsch - December 7

William J. Smith Jr. - December 11

Steven F. Klamm - December 15

Timothy J. Riley - December 21

Brian R. Flannery - December 21

William L. Whitten - December 22

C. T. Watson - December 25

James V. Davey - December 25

Allan J. Houlberg - December 25

Charlie M. Wooten - December 27

Lew Jenkins - December 27

Kishore V. Nath - December 27

Jay B. Williams - December 29

James A. Borup - December 29

Here are the brethren celebrating their Third Degree anniversaries this month...

Robert D. Haile - December 2, 1952, Roland J. Turk - December 9, 1971,
Jeffrey D. Boschert - December 9, 2008

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2019 ELECTED OFFICERS

Master

Robert S. Strohmeyer

master@acalanesfellowshiplodge.com

Senior Warden

Adam J. Hanin

srwarden@acalanesfellowshiplodge.com

Junior Warden

Terry R. Killgore

jrwarden@acalanesfellowshiplodge.com

Treasurer

David L. Kreutzinger

treasurer@acalanesfellowshiplodge.com

Secretary

C. Randall Tolerton, PM

secretary@acalanesfellowshiplodge.com

Assistant Secretary

Frederick T. Lezak

Chaplain

F.H. "Frank" Shoffner

Marshall

Chandler S. Eason, Jr.

Junior Deacon

Sigmond Andre Sternang

Junior Steward

Larry Strohmeyer

Organist

John Minagro

Tiler

Pete Peterson

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge

P.O. Box 1, Lafayette, CA 94549
(925) 284-7815

www.acalanesfellowshiplodge.com

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480

2019 Crab Feed

Saturday, January 26 at 5:30 PM

*Secure the legacy of
Acalanes Fellowship &
Support Masonic Charities*

\$50 adults / \$25 kids

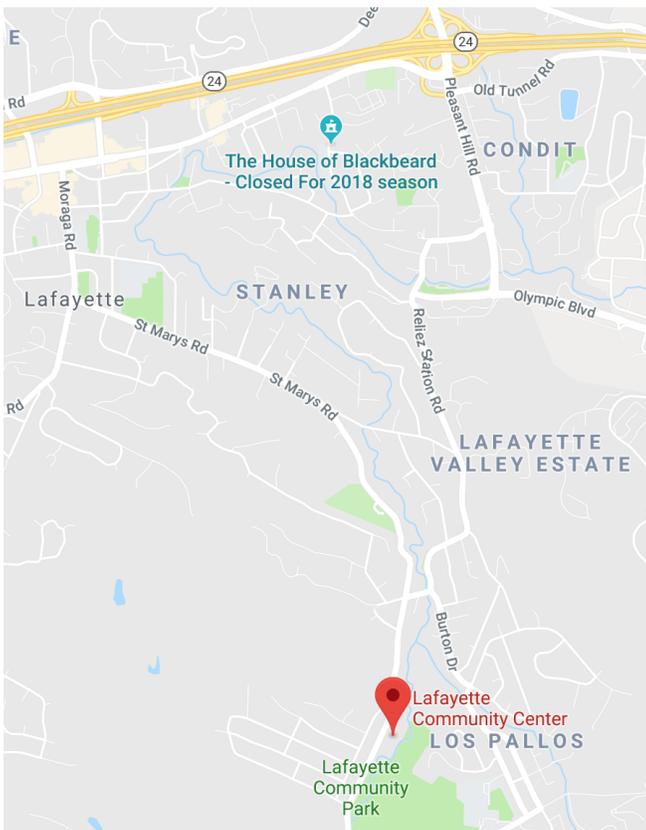
Add steak for \$10

Reserve a table and save!

Reserve your seat or table online

2019crab.eventbrite.com

Lafayette Community Center
500 Saint Marys Road



The Trestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480

P.O. Box 1 Lafayette, CA 94549

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