

# The Trestleboard

- ACALANES FELLOWSHIP LODGE #480, F&AM -

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MAY 2019

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## FROM THE EAST

*A message from Worshipful Robert S. Strohmeyer*

Fraternal greetings from the East, my brethren.

We are well into the 2019 Masonic year, and what an incredible year it has been so far. Since our first Stated Meeting of the year in January, we've initiated four new brethren into our lodge and raised Brother Noah Maier to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Now we're beginning to see the hard work of our Entered Apprentices come to fruition as several of them are now ready to perform their First Degree proficiencies. In short order, we will be passing several of these brethren to the degree of Fellow Craft — just in time for our Second Degree Lodge of Instruction, which will be held next month.

I am particularly proud of the work of one particular brother — Allan Houlberg — whose dedication and persistence has enabled him to overcome significant hardships in the course of his Masonic studies. With the phenomenal support of his coach, Worshipful Tom Riley, Brother Houlberg learned the ritual mouth-to-ear, and delivered an excellent proficiency in a special meeting in March. We are now looking forward to conferring Brother Houlberg's Second Degree on May 28, and hope to include one or more of our other current Entered Apprentices at that ceremony, pending their proficiencies.

In addition to our degree work, we continue to focus on Masonic Education in our lodge. In March, we held a well-attended First Degree Lodge of Instruction, with talks and presentations from Worshipful Cary Carlson, PM, Worshipful Harry Burt, PM, and myself. We are deeply fortunate to have the leadership of Worshipful Burt in our Masonic Education efforts this year, and his insight, creativity, and commitment to our Craft are producing an excellent program that I hope will set the precedent for future years in our lodge. I hope all eligible brethren will join us on June 11 for our Second Degree Lodge of Instruction. For more on this exciting event, see Worshipful Burt's article on page 3.

Charity, of course, is the soul of our Craft, and we have been busy building a program of fundraising to support this year's theme of Legacy & Service. Thanks to the hard work of Brother Terry Killgore, our Junior Warden, as well as the thoughtful planning of brothers Fred Lezak and Mark Williams of our Charity and Service Committee, we had a very successful Spring Pancake Breakfast last month. We had a great turnout, and raised a full \$2000 for our lodge and charities! Stay tuned for news of our upcoming fundraising events coming later in the year.



*Worshipful Bob Strohmeyer*  
*Master*

—Robert S. "Bob" Strohmeyer, Master  
rstrohmeyer@acalanesfellowship.com

# HALL ASSOCIATION UPDATE

## *A Message from Hall Association President Pete Peterson*

We've had quite a bit of activity going on at the Lodge since my last report. I'm pleased to announce our Organist – John Minagro – has joined our merry group and is now an official member of the Hall Association. Welcome, John!

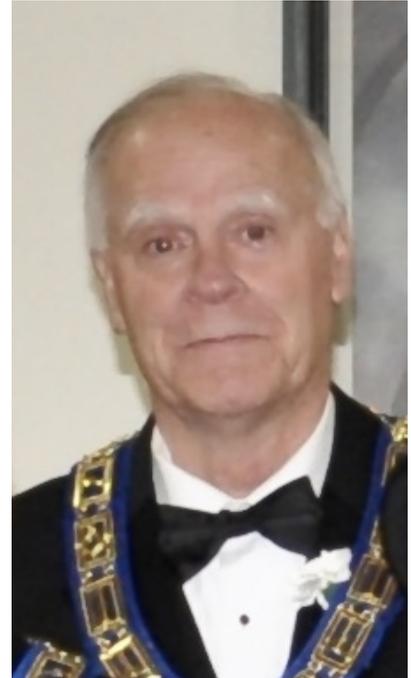
On April 6, an intrepid group of volunteers showed up to help clean and spiffy up our building. Kitchen was cleaned and floor washed, the dining room floor got a make-over in anticipation for the April 13 Pancake Breakfast (you missed a good one if you weren't there) and the Lodge room carpeting itself got a good cleaning. A lot of hard work by a dedicated group of brothers. Thanks, gentlemen! You may notice new blinds have now been installed in the Lodge. What a difference they make!

Our roof leak problem has obviously resolved itself since the rain storms have passed. Yearly, we keep ignoring the problem and the fear is the rain damage will cause major damage unless we do something about it. We have been researching methods of resolving the roof problems once and for all, but as I previously reported a new problem has cropped up that needs more immediate attention.

We have a serious problem with our sewer line, which has resulted in an occasional problem with our toilets backing up. As I reported last month, we've had plumbers out looking into the problem. There are several "cave-ins" in our line, running out the building, under the parking lot and sidewalk and towards the main which is located in the middle of Moraga Road. Our plumbing contractor made preliminary contact with the City of Lafayette and the County and found out any needed underground street work will have to wait until school is out, the City does not allow lane closures during the school year. The plumbers did complete "Phase 1" of the project, which entailed moving one of our air conditioning units, digging a 6' hole and installing a new clean out valve and a new back flow valve in the same area. We had a bit of a scare as the end of the Cast Iron sewer line under our building was partially corroded. It was feared we would have to tear out part of our kitchen floor to access that portion of the line. Fortunately, the problem was not as bad as initially feared and the plumbers were able to make the proper connection. Now we wait until summer to determine how much needs to be done to complete the project. We do have to replace our connection under the street with a 6-inch pipe. "Phase 2" will not be cheap, but our plumbers are pros and are doing what they can to get the job completed properly at a fair price. Thanks to Marion Rogers, Mark Williams, and Harry Burt for all the work they have put into this project.

As you can see, there is a lot of behind-the-scenes activity that goes on to keep our lodge functioning. We've been busy but doing our best to keep the building functioning as needed work continues.

—Peter A. Peterson, Tiler & Hall Association President  
hallassociation@acalanefellowship.com



*Pete Peterson  
Tiler & Hall Association President*



# MASONIC EDUCATION

*Upcoming Lodge of Instruction by Wor. Harry Burt*

Calling all Fellow Craft Masons:

Fellow Craft Lodge of Instruction

Tuesday, June 11

Start 6:30 pm

Following our successful Entered Apprentice Lodge of instruction, plans are well underway for the Fellow Craft Lodge of Instruction.

We have three speakers lined up:

We are very lucky to have Brother Jonathan Hirshon, 2<sup>o</sup>, of Academia Lodge No. 847 present his paper on Sacred Geometry. This is a very deep subject with many aspects. I am really looking forward to seeing which aspects Brother Hirshon will be addressing.

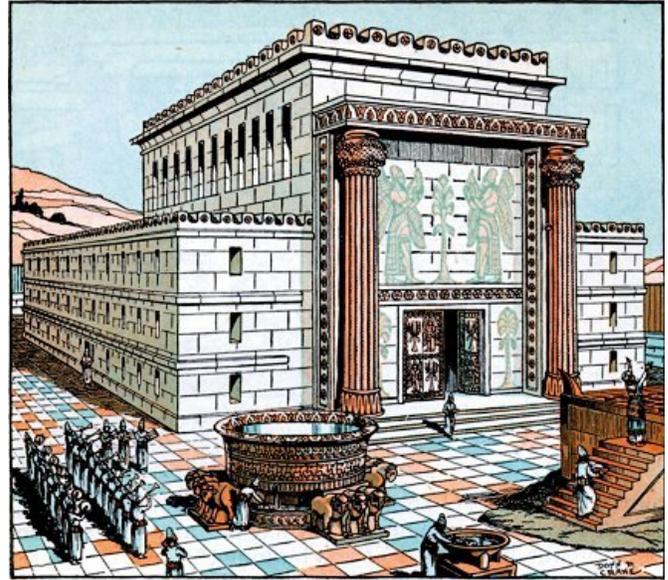
Worshipful Gary Sparks will address the ancient landmarks of Free Masonry, building on a talk he gave to our Lodge and Friends a couple of years ago which went over particularly well, with calls for more talks like it.

Brother David Kreutzinger is busy researching the importance of secret signs and handshakes going back to early Mesopotamian society. For those of you who have not been exposed to David's talks, you are in for a real treat. I just can't wait to see what he comes up with

I will top and tail the LOI by providing some opening remarks tying the progressive Science of Masonry to the development of Wisdom, and ending with a reading of 1st Corinthians 13 with its "through a glass darkly" view of Wisdom.

After the event we will go downstairs for a light meal and appropriate beverages, to discuss what we have heard and how it fits into our personal Masonic Journeys. This was a particularly successful part of the EA LOI which we hope you will repeat and improve on.

—Harry G.P. Burt, PM



*King Solomon's Temple*



*"The Seven Liberal Arts" by the painter Giovanni di Ser Giovanni Guidi, circa 1460*

# MUSICAL MEDITATION

## *Harmonious reflections from our Organist, John P. Minagro*

*Music & song can and often is as inspiring as Sacred Scripture. Included below is a link where you can go online to listen to the song and enjoy the marriage of word and music. I'd also encourage you to read AND listen to each song at least 3 times — in one sitting, or over the course of the month — Enjoy!*

*REQUEST: If any brother has a song in mind that they feel has been especially meaningful to them, please write me and let me know about it — [organist@acalanesfellowship.com](mailto:organist@acalanesfellowship.com)*

Music is a chief Masonic principle with numerous elements. The same song could sound like a dozen different song by emphasizing a different element. Example: this month's song is about marital love. Imagine what it would sound like if the element of tempo were sped up. Would it still evoke love, gratitude, introspection? Rhetoric is another chief Masonic principle. Would this song have nearly the same emotional impact and depth if it didn't call upon the scriptural reference of the 23 Psalm of Jewish scripture? In verse five we read, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runneth over."

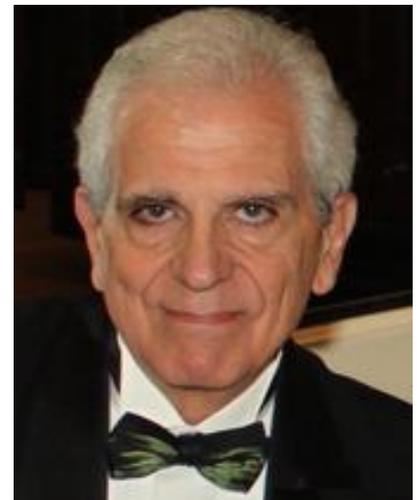
In honor of Mother's Day in May, and all our Mothers and our Wives, our Musical Meditation this month is taken from the Broadway Musical "I Do! I Do!" Book & lyrics by Tom Jones and music by Harvey Schmidt. Based on the Jan de Hartog play The Fourposter. The two-character story spans fifty years, starting on their wedding day as it focuses on the ups and downs experienced by Agnes and Michael throughout their marriage. The set consists solely of their bedroom, dominated by the large fourposter bed in the center of the room.

A personal recommendation: purchase the original cast album, give it to someone you love, listen to it together, and hold back neither laughter nor tears.

### **My Cup Runneth Over — from the musical "I Do! I Do!"**

Music: Harvey Schmidt ~ Lyrics: Tom Jones

Sometimes in the mornin' when shadows are deep  
 I lie here beside you just watching you sleep  
 And sometimes I whisper what I'm thinking of  
 My cup runneth over with love  
 Sometimes in the evening when you do not see  
 I study the small things you do constantly  
 I memorize moments that I'm fondest of  
 My cup runneth over with love  
 In only a moment we both will be old  
 We won't even notice the world turning cold  
 And so, in this moment with sunlight above  
 My cup runneth over with love — with Love!



*John P. Minagro  
Organist*

You can listen to the great and incomparable Mary Martin & Robert Preston singing it here: <https://youtu.be/Zgx1wyTdjJg>



# MORAGA COMMUNITY FAIRE

*Our Junior Warden Invites You to Our Pancake Breakfast on April 13*

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge will have a booth at the Moraga Community Faire on Saturday, May 11, 2019. The hours are 10Am to 4PM. This will be the first community outreach event of the year and we should make a solid showing. A table, chair and booth covering will be set up for us by the event staff. We will bring our own display material. Volunteers are needed. Please call or email Fred Lezak at (925) 360-4328 or Lezak1000@gmail.com. This an important way for us to tell our communities who we are and what we do. Let's keep the spirit of the lodge alive and show what a friendly lodge looks like.

—Fred Lezak, Assistant Secretary  
Lezak1000@gmail.com



Frederick T. Lezak  
Assistant Secretary

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



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

### 3rd Degree Anniversaries

Kenneth R. Crone, PM - May 19 (60 years)  
Franklin H. Shoffner - May 25 (55 years)  
Thomas C. Thompson - May 7 (53 years)  
Frederic S. Schachtman - May 24 (53 years)  
Boris J. Minzyk - May 21 (49 years)  
Richard D. Snowden - May 31 (46 years)  
Richard N. Young - May 1 (43 years)  
Cary L. Carlson, PM - May 19 (42 years)  
Jeffrey R. Nott - May 30 (41 years)  
Serge A. Chemla - May 19 (33 years)  
John J. Mulhall - May 3 (22 years)  
Stephen P. Galop, III - May 23 (22 years)  
Christopher M. Urani - May 15 (7 years)  
James P. Reno, III - May 19 (7 years)  
William J. Smith Jr. - May 31 (5 years)  
John P. Minagro - May 20 (2 years)  
Jonathan P. Groetsch - May 23 (2 years)

# LODGE CONTACTS

**Main Phone Number: 925-284-7815**

Role	Contact	Email	Phone
Master	Robert Strohmeyer	master@acalanesfellowship.com	925-284-7815, ext 5
Senior Warden	Adam Hanin	srwarden@acalanesfellowship.com	
Junior Warden	Terry Killgore	jrwarden@acalanesfellowship.com	
Treasurer	David Kreuzinger	treasurer@acalanesfellowship.com	
Secretary	Randy Tolerton	secretary@acalanesfellowship.com	925-284-7815, ext 4
Chaplain	Frank Shoffner	chaplain@acalanesfellowship.com	925-284-7815, ext 8
Hall Association (Building Rentals, Maintenance, etc.)	Pete Peterson	hallassociation@acalanesfellowship.com	925-284-7815, ext 7
Masonic Education	Harry Burt	masoniced@acalanesfellowship.com	
Charity & Service Committee	Fred Lezak	charity@acalanesfellowship.com	
Webmaster	Andre Sternang	webmaster@acalanesfellowship.com	
Trestleboard	Robert Strohmeyer	trestleboard@acalanesfellowship.com	
Organist	John Minagro	organist@acalanesfellowship.com	

## Street Address

**Acalanes Fellowship Lodge  
925 Moraga Rd.  
Lafayette, CA 94549**

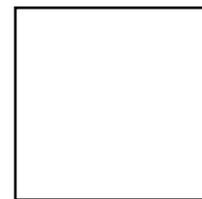
## Mailing Address

**Acalanes Fellowship Lodge  
P.O. Box 1  
Lafayette, CA 94549**

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## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

### *May 7: Stated Meeting and Dinner*

Be sure to join us for our monthly Stated Meeting.

Refreshments will be served at 5:30 pm.

Dinner at 6:30 pm.

The Stated Meeting begins at 7:30 pm.

### *May 28: Past Masters 2nd Degree*

Join us as the Past Masters of Acalanes Fellowship confer the Second Degree of Masonry upon Brother Allan Houlberg, and possibly one or more other of our brethren who have been working hard on their proficiencies.

### *June 11: Fellowcraft Lodge of Instruction*

Following on the heels of our well-attended EA Lodge of Instruction in March, we will be holding a Fellowcraft Lodge of Instruction in June. A variety of speakers from Acalanes Fellowship and other lodges will be presenting enlightening perspectives on the 2nd Degree of Masonry.