

What is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry is the oldest fraternal organization in the world, and is based on the belief that each man has a responsibility to help make the world a better place. We promote a culture of philanthropy and are devoted to the welfare and happiness for all mankind. Our members are taught that kindness, forbearance and charity are a blessing and provide their own reward.

In addition to its charitable and philanthropic pursuits, Freemasonry instills morality and leadership in its members. We believe this serves to benefit our fraternity and the communities that we serve.

In the 17th and 18th Century, Masons in England defined their fraternity as ***“a system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.”*** Today we might define it as “an organized society of men that symbolically applies the tools and implements of architecture and ancient stone masonry to the modern science and art of character building.”

Freemasonry endeavors to improve the moral character and reliability of its members. We often say we ***“take a good man and make him better.”*** What we teach is not secret, but we do use ritual to enhance the teaching process. In accordance with our traditions, some of that ritual remains private to the fraternity.

AcalanesFellowshipLodge.com

We Look Forward to Meeting You!

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 Free and Accepted Masons is a composite of three Masonic Lodges dating back to 1920. Fellowship Lodge #480 and Fortitude Lodge #624 merged in 1970, with Fortitude giving up its name and number; Acalanes Lodge #723 merged with Fellowship Lodge #480 in 1978 with the resulting lodge combining both names and retaining the original number. We have been meeting in the same location at the corner of Brook Street and Moraga Road since 1960, after purchasing the building from Lafayette Covenant Church.

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Masons
of California

Welcome to Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 F&AM



“The Friendly Lodge”
AcalanesFellowshipLodge.com

When you visit Acalanes Fellowship Lodge you will immediately feel welcomed. As a fraternity of men dedicated to personal growth, community development, and charity, we truly enjoy our time together and look forward to meeting other like-minded men.

We regularly assemble for monthly “stated” business meetings, dinners, social events, and charity work activities. We also frequently celebrate the sweethearts and widows of our Brethren, as without them we could not truly fulfill all of our duties as Freemasons.

Our Principles

Our Masonic mission is guided by the enduring and relevant principles of our fraternity:

> **Brotherly love.** We value respect, freedom, kindness, and tolerance. It is our belief that religious, ethnic, cultural, social, generational, and educational differences can enrich us. We strive for harmony in our individual lives, our lodges, and in the global community.

> **Relief.** We take responsibility for the well-being of our Brothers, our families, and the community as a whole. We provide relief through philanthropy, community involvement, and delivery of excellent care.

> **Truth.** We stay true to our personal code of conduct and ethics. The first lesson we are taught in Masonry is to be good and true. We aspire to incorporate honor, integrity, personal responsibility, and the pursuit of knowledge into our lives.

All Masons are expected to live by these principles. Every Masonic lodge should be a place where worldly divisions are left outside, so we can engage in activities that unite us rather than those which separate and divide us. One of the basic rules of Freemasonry forbids discussion of religious and political matters during Masonic meetings and functions, as these topics could lead to personal arguments.

Our Members

Our members and their diversity are what make attendance at our lodge so special. We have Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Buddhist members. They come from all walks of life and professions such as police officers, teachers, salespeople, realtors, doctors, engineers, accountants, lawyers, actors, and musicians. Our membership includes Brethren who served our country from World War II through the present. Some of our Brothers are newly-minted Masons and others have been Masons for over 50 years. Many of our brethren have served Freemasonry in larger ways. Our Lodge is proud to count two Past Grand Masters of California, the Grand Secretary of California, and the President of the Masonic Homes of California among its membership.



Our Events

Lodge events range from formal to casual, but they are all fun! Each year we hold exciting activities such as our annual Crab Feed, a Hawaiian Luau, and a Dinner and Theatre night. We also host monthly “stated” meetings which begin with socialization and a catered meal, and then move into the lodge room for official business.

Becoming a Freemason

There are three primary qualifications required by the Grand Lodge of California for membership in its Masonic lodges:

> **Age.** You must be a man at least 18 years old.

> **Belief in a Supreme Being.** Masonry is open to members of every religion provided that they believe in a Supreme Being and a “future existence.” No atheists may become Masons. Beyond this singular restriction, Masonry is not concerned with a member’s faith. We seek tolerance and adhere to our principles in religious, social, and political matters.

> **Character.** You must be known to be of good character. Just as a job applicant must provide a prospective employer with certain information and professional references, Masonry requires that candidates provide certain information and character references. Masonry does not expect men to be perfect, but we collectively aspire to be more honorable. We have a responsibility to ensure that the men who find their way through our lodge doors and apply for membership are good people and share that belief.

Application Process

Complete details on the process for application are available on our lodge website.