

The Trestleboard

- ACALANES FELLOWSHIP LODGE #480, F&AM -

SEPTEMBER 2020

FROM THE EAST

A message from Worshipful Adam J. Hanin

On October 14, 1920, Fellowship Lodge received its charter from Grand Master Charles Albert Adams. Their first official meeting place was the Masonic Hall at 8th and Jackson Streets in Oakland, and their first Master was Worshipful John Maguri, a Unitarian minister. Thus began a century of fellowship, self- and community-improvement, charity and fraternity.

In a “normal” year, we would have a blow-out celebration to mark our Centennial Anniversary. But of course this year is anything BUT normal. As much as we’d love to celebrate this auspicious event in our lodge’s history, unfortunately the celebration must wait until we can safely gather again, whenever that may be. Sometime next year, hopefully, we will gather to honor the past and begin our next century of Freemasonry.

When we DO gather, one of the things we will do is dedicate a time capsule for our brethren to open in 2120 as they celebrate the bicentennial of our Friendly Lodge.

So now is the time to begin collecting items for it. Think about what would be interesting to you if we had received a time capsule from our brethren of 100 years ago. What would give you an idea of who they were and what life was like for them?

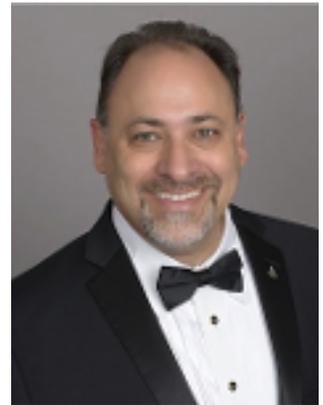
Please start gathering SMALL items that might answer those questions for our future brethren. As you gather them, send me a note with a photo of what you’ve collected, and then set it aside. When we can safely gather again, I’ll collect the items, and then the pedestal officers will narrow them down (there’s only so much room in a time capsule), document them and fill the capsule. We will then have a rededication and cornerstone ceremony for our lodge building.

In the meantime, if you’d like to reflect a bit on the past history of our lodge, I encourage you to visit our website at AcalanesFellowshipLodge.com. Read the history of our lodge in the “About Us” section, and honor the men who have led us through our remarkable history by visiting the “Past Masters” section under “Recognition.” You can search by name, and under “Select Tag” you can choose just the masters of the various names and numbers our lodge has had during its 100 year history.

In the meantime, we have lots of events and activities in the works for our virtual lodge experience. We recently announced upcoming “Intro to Freemasonry” educational sessions that our Assistant Secretary and Hiram Award Winner, Fred Lezak, will lead for interested men. Additionally, we will be having a Masonic trivia night in the near future, as well as more guest speakers.

As for our lodge calls, thank you to all who’ve been regular attendees. If you haven’t joined us, why not?

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*Worshipful Adam J. Hanin
Master*

From the East (continued)

You don't have to travel anywhere, there's no ritual to be concerned with (in case your trowel might be a bit rusty) and you can catch up with your brethren. If the technology is daunting to you, PLEASE contact me directly and I will work with you to help you get connected. We really do want to hear from you and use this as a time to strengthen our bonds. Plus, it's just great to see old friends.

Our meetings are held every Tuesday evening at 7 pm, and are easy to access.

If using a Computer or Smartphone, visit this URL:

<https://bit.ly/AFLWeeklyCall>

Password (if asked): AFL480

If Dialing in by phone:

(623) 404-9000

Meeting ID: 149 408 7025

Password: 738710

In these pages you'll find an article about iMember 2.0. PLEASE read it, install it on your mobile device and make sure your data is accurate. We will start using iMember for lodge communications including phone call and text reminders. I think you'll find it to be easy to use. It's also the only way to get your dues card next year!

Also, and this is VERY IMPORTANT, please add 925-481-5433 to your contacts list, and note it as Acalanes Fellowship. This is the phone number that texts and reminder calls will come from. Adding it to your contacts will ensure it is not treated as spam.

As always, I'd like to remind you all that even though our Lodge activities are on hold, that doesn't mean our Masonic activities must stop. In fact, this is an ideal time to practice memory work. Call a brother and work together. Learn one of the charges. Work on your degree proficiency (or if you are a Master Mason and have never done it, learn the Third Degree proficiency). Officers - work on your proficiency for NEXT year's role. We should use this time productively, so we come out of the quarantine ahead of where we were when it started. Finally, I once again remind you that the lodge is here for you in time of trouble. Please let me know if any of our brothers are ill during this time, if anyone needs assistance getting groceries, or if someone just needs to talk. Together, we will come through this experience stronger.

My continued healthiest wishes and regards to you and your families.

Worshipful Adam J. Hanin

IMEMBER 2.0

A month in, nearly 85 percent of California lodges have already begun to access their portals in iMember 2.0, the new membership platform—one of the highest adoption rates of any grand lodge jurisdiction on the system. Yet with so many new features just a finger-swipe away—and many more being prepped for launch this fall—there are still lots of questions left to be answered, starting with some of the most basic.

How Do I Get to iMember 2.0?

iMember 2.0 is designed to work on any mobile phone, tablet, or desktop or laptop computer with an internet connection. Simply visit freemason.org and click the “For Members” button in the upper-right-hand corner of the screen. If you haven’t logged on yet, you’ll need to create an account, so have your email address, membership number, and a unique password ready to go.

Can I Download iMember 2.0 on My Phone?

Yes. Whether you have an iPhone or an Android phone, you can add a home screen shortcut to access iMember 2.0 quickly and easily. To install, use your web browser to visit the site, and select “Add to home screen.” The exact placement of the button will depend on your web browser (Safari, Chrome, or Firefox). See detailed instructions [here](#).

Are There More Features in the Works?

You bet! Here are a few we’re most excited about developing and introducing over the next several months:

1. Digital Dues, Reminders, and Payment Plans

In the past two years, lodges across the state suspended more than 1,000 Masons for failing to pay dues. Yet, when reached by Grand Lodge staff, 82% of those suspended didn’t even realize they had failed to pay their dues—and two-thirds didn’t even know they had been suspended. With iMember 2.0’s digital dues, these types of failures will be a thing of the past. With just a few clicks, lodge secretaries will be able to send out reminders of upcoming dues to all registered members, using those members’ preferred communication medium. That includes email reminders, text messages, or even automatic phone calls. From there, members will be able to log onto iMember 2.0 and pay their dues online—either all at once or on an installment plan. For more information about digital dues, check out one of the virtual seminars designed for lodge officers, especially secretaries.

2. Expanded Social Networks

Masons are all about fellowship, and iMember 2.0 will offer them unprecedented opportunities to connect. Just as you have access to your lodge profile on the new platform, iMember 2.0 will soon offer members the ability to join special-interest groups through a social media-style portal. So motorcycle enthusiasts can join “Hiram’s Hogs,” for instance, or snowbirds can join the “Solomon’s Skiers.” A beta version of this feature is already live, and members are clearly excited about it. In just four weeks, Masons have viewed posts in some of these affinity groups more than 25,000 times.

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iMember 2.0 (continued)

3. New Ways to Share Resources

Just about every lodge has a back room full of extra aprons and officers' jewels. A new feature in development will give members a chance to donate or swap certain Masonic regalia on a virtual marketplace akin to Craigslist or Nextdoor. The new platform is called Solomon's List. Details are still being worked out, but imagine if newly formed lodges were able to take advantage of surplus regalia cluttering up older lodges.

4. One-Stop Shop for Hall Associations

You probably already know about the challenges of operating a joint hall association with another lodge. This fall, iMember 2.0 will help relieve some of that burden by releasing a new Hall Association dashboard where members can store documents, communicate with their association across different lodges, and work with Grand Lodge to submit requests and reports.

5. Keeping Track of Attendance

A virtual tiler's register is another feature in the works for iMember 2.0. Using this feature, members can scan a QR code at lodge through their phone to digitally check in to the meeting. For members, it's a fun way to track how often they visit lodge (either their own or while traveling); for lodge leaders, it's a useful tool to keep track of how active their membership is—and to act quickly when attendance flags.

For questions on iMember, contact Member Services at (415) 292-9180 or memberservices@freemason.org.



Masons of California

MASONS 4 MITTS

In baseball, the slide is a key—and exciting—part of the game. But when it comes to childhood education, stopping the slide is a home run.

This year, our Masons4Mitts captains, teams, and lodges are focused on minimizing the effects of a “COVID slide,” an accelerated version of what’s normally referred to as the “summer slide.” Research shows that for many students, academic achievement slows or even declines over the summer months. With the pandemic disrupting schools and all aspects of students’ lives, kids need our help now more than ever before.

That’s why this season, Masons4Mitts is proud to introduce the Super Summer Book Bag: A one-stop goodie bag filled with expertly vetted and age-appropriate reading and math material, compiled by the literacy experts at the national nonprofit Raising A Reader. Our Major League Baseball partners will distribute the bags to kids throughout the state—all in addition to the classic leather baseball mitts that have defined Masons4Mitts for more than a decade.

If you have given in the past, please consider repeating and increasing that donation. And if you have never contributed to this important cause before, this is a great time to start!

To help create an amazing summer experience for underprivileged kids across the state, visit our site here: <https://bit.ly/Masons4Mitts>, and click the box under the words “Give a Mitt.” This will take you to a donation page, pre-filled to ensure our East Bay Aces team gets the “credit” for your donation.

Using this online site is HIGHLY preferred for ease of processing and accounting of donations. But if you need to contribute via check, please make your check out to Masons4Mitts and put “East Bay Aces” in the memo line. This is important because it is the only clear way that Grand Lodge will know that the check should be coming to our team!

Please mail your donations directly to:

Masons4Mitts

1111 California Street

San Francisco CA 94108

Whether you donate online or by mail, if your company has a donation matching program, this should qualify (depending on your company’s program, limits, etc). If your company needs it, the CA Masonic Foundation’s Tax ID Number is 23-7013074.

No matter how you choose to, PLEASE DONATE! This year the East Bay Aces want to crush our competition, and show that the East Bay has the biggest hearts of any Masons in California. I know we do - this is how we prove it!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

S. Andre Sternang - September 2
Ernest R. Everett, PM - September 3
Arne Simonsen, PM - September 3
Jeffrey D. Boschert - September 6
Frank P. Essert - September 12
Robert L. Smith - September 16

Richard D. Snowden - September 19
Sheldon Winnick - September 20
William B. Simpson - September 25
Kris J. Wainscott - September 27
Dennis P. Rodgers, PM - September 29



THIRD DEGREE ANNIVERSARIES

Marvin J. Kay - September 27 (72 years)
Gerald H. Saurman - September 24 (63 years)
George H. Konstantopoulos, PM - September 22 (59 years)
Alvin J. Weis, PGM - September 20 (54 years)
Gerald E. Patchen - September 30 (53 years)
Alan L. Sherman - September 10 (52 years)
Harvey A. Uhl - September 19 (52 years)
Howard L. Strause - September 24 (52 years)
Jay B. Williams, PM - September 26 (50 years)

Spencer M. Sealander - September 25 (49 years)
Harvey K. Syversrud, PM - September 8 (39 years)
Larry W. Woods, PM - September 15 (36 years)
James A. Borup - September 13 (34 years)
Thomas P. Hogan - 10 (18 years)
Richard A. Kellogg - September 22 (11 years)
Kishore V. Nath - September 10 (9 years)
P. Garth Korwin - September 8 (8 years)

LODGE CONTACTS

Main Phone Number: 925-284-7815

| Role | Contact | Email | Phone |
|--|-------------------|--|---------------------|
| Master | Adam Hanin | master@acalanesfellowship.com | 925-284-7815, ext 5 |
| Senior Warden | Bob Strohmeyer | 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.) | Marion Rogers, PM | hallassociation@acalanesfellowship.com | 925-284-7815, ext 7 |
| Masonic Education | Harry Burt | masoniced@acalanesfellowship.com | |
| Charity & Service Committee | Fred Lezak | charity@acalanesfellowship.com | |
| Webmaster | Adam Hanin | webmaster@acalanesfellowship.com | |
| Trestleboard | Derek Walter | trestleboard@acalanesfellowship.com | |
| Organist | John Minagro | organist@acalanesfellowship.com | |

Street Address

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

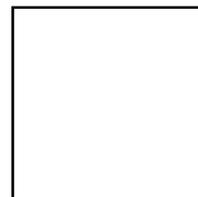
Mailing Address

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

The Crestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480

P.O. Box 1 Lafayette, CA 94549



- ACALANES FELLOWSHIP LODGE #480, F&AM -

SEPTEMBER 2020

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Every Tuesday

Virtual Meetup

Connect with the brethren during our weekly video chats! Every Tuesday at 7:00 pm.

Join at this URL:

<https://bit.ly/AFLWeeklyCall>

Password (if asked): AFL480

If Dialing in by phone:

(623) 404-9000

Meeting ID: 149 408 7025

September 1st:

'Non-Stated' Meeting

Join us virtually to get caught up on all the news with the lodge and to stay connected to the brethren.

Start time is 7:00pm

Join at this URL:

<https://bit.ly/AFLWeeklyCall>

Password (if asked): AFL480

If Dialing in by phone:

(623) 404-9000