

The Trestleboard

- ACALANES FELLOWSHIP LODGE #480, F&AM -

JANUARY 2021

FROM THE EAST

A message from Worshipful Adam J. Hanin

Brethren All, Friends and Family:

On behalf of the entire new officer line, thank you for being part of the beginning of Acalanes Fellowship Lodge's Second Century. I am honored to have been once again elected Master for this important year, and look forward to serving you all to the absolute best of my abilities.

When we gathered last year for the 2020 Installation, we had a full agenda of activities, community involvement, fundraisers and events already in planning, with our 100th Anniversary Celebration taking center stage. I know myself and all the officers were excited about the great set of men we had degrees planned for, and those who had begun to join us as friends and hopefully ultimately brothers.

In January, we introduced Masonic Education into our Stated Meetings, as a way to remind ourselves of the lessons and symbols we hold so dear. And at the end of that month we held our most successful Crab Feed ever, raising more than \$1500 for the Raising a Reader charity, and giving our lodge a very nice cash inflow to offset our operating expenses.

February arrived, and with it we held a Double First Degree, and our first Lodge of Examination which was an Open Lodge dedicated to delivering proficiencies. And in February, we welcomed Job's Daughters Bethel 247 into our building as an affiliated Youth Order.

And then we had to throw out all the plans and adapt.

And we did.

In March we started weekly Zoom calls for anyone - lodge member, sweetheart, prospect or guest - to check in. These calls became the center of our lodge activity. We also did a complete outreach effort to speak to every member of the lodge and every Widow we could reach to let them know the lodge was here for them, to check on their wellbeing, and to ensure they had access to groceries and other personal needs.

We produced a thank you video for the staff at the Masonic Homes, and even sent the workers there 40 pounds of Ghirardelli chocolate to let them know they were in our thoughts as they worked to keep the residents safe and healthy.

As the summer began and it became clear there was no end in sight for the Pandemic, we launched a Speaker Series, which featured 4 distinguished speakers with unique perspectives. We discussed the Possible Future of Freemasonry in the era of COVID with Right Worshipful Mark Koltko-Rivera. Most Worshipful Russ Charvonia shared his perspectives on Civility, with special focus on COVID and racism.

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*Worshipful Adam J. Hanin
Master*

From the East (continued)

Worshipful John Bennett Williams, a Prince Hall Mason, gave an incredibly deep discussion on racism and how Freemasonry can help address it.

The discussion following his talk was very powerful and moving. And we ended the series with Worshipful C. Douglas Russell who discussed the Esoteric Art of Memory.

Finally in December, we held our first Introduction to Freemasonry seminar developed and led by our Hiram Award Winner and new Marshal, Fred Lezak. Six interested men joined us for the session, and we are looking forward to getting to know each one of them and hopefully call them brother someday soon.

I'd like to think that our Lodge's efforts this past year were well recognized, as we received featured callouts in the California Freemason Magazine in April and December, and an article for Lodge Leaders in Grand Lodge's aptly named "The Leader" blog.

And yet, 2020 brought sadness and loss to our Friendly Lodge as well. In the latter months of this year, we had a car accident that destroyed our front stairway and will require significant demolition and construction work to resolve. And in October and November alone we lost 5 Past Masters, 2 of whom, Worshipful Bill Armstrong and Worshipful Harry Burt, were particularly central to my own personal development as a Mason and as Master of the Lodge.

So where do we go from here?

Well like last year we have lots of plans and lots of ideas, but this time it's a bit more amorphous. Many of the things launched this past year will continue in 2021, including the Zoom check-in calls, the Speaker Series, and Masonic Education in our stated meetings, whether virtual or in person. We will hold the Intro to Freemasonry seminar again. and we will do more outreach to our members as we did when the Pandemic started.

But beyond that, we are going to look for new ways to use the tools and technology available to us to keep the lodge relevant and important for all we touch. We will look for new ways to serve the community virtually. We will hold more fun online social events. And we will look forward to the day when we can once again return to the lodge.

Our theme last year was Honoring our Past – Building our Future. And as we begin our Second Century, there's no reason that focus should change. In fact, if anything it's even more relevant, because this year will be one of building and rebuilding on a successful past to position us even better for the future.

If possible, we will celebrate our 100th Anniversary in the coming year. I am still very hopeful we will be able to recognize this incredibly important time in our lodge's history with the honor and celebration it deserves.

So, let's get this year started. Let's Honor our Past and Build our Future. Let's continue our reputation as the Friendly Lodge. And let's grow and have fun while we are at it.

Thank you for your continued trust in me, for your support, guidance, insight, recommendations and Brotherly Love. I'm honored to kick off our next 100 years.

Worshipful Adam J. Hanin,

Master

2021 DUES

Brethren:

2020 has been a year unlike anything anyone can imagine. And yet Acalanes Fellowship Lodge and Freemasonry has been there for you all the way through.

We started this year like so many others, full of hope, plans and excitement. And while we did get a few degrees in and had our most successful Crab Feed ever, COVID interfered. But we didn't stop our efforts. Starting in March we did a member outreach to ensure that every brother and sweetheart we could find was contacted directly, asked about their health, safety and quarantine support, and reminded that the lodge is here for assistance. Following those calls, we began WEEKLY calls to check in, see each other "face-to-face", and just have a sense of so-called "normalcy."

Those calls turned into a Masonic Education speaker session, a Masonic Trivia night, and a general opportunity to relax and unwind with your Masonic family. Our activities have been publicly recognized in both California Freemason Magazine (May/June and LIKELY Nov/Dec issues) and in The Leader, a monthly Grand Lodge email for Lodge leadership. And there are more plans underway to ensure that whether we meet in person or virtually, Acalanes Fellowship Lodge is as-or-more-important in your life than ever.



Which is why, as we come upon the end of this year and start looking to next year, it is important to pay your 2021 dues to ensure the lodge stays financially sound. Although we didn't meet in person, we still had many utilities to pay, and of course a major auto accident on our front steps leaves us trying to determine what our costs, if any, will be to bring our hall back to its former condition. We have plans to paint and upgrade our downstairs dining hall, and are developing plans to redesign and "professionalize" our kitchen. And while we had PLANNED for our 100th Anniversary Celebration in 2020, it unfortunately has to wait.

This year's total dues are \$180, which is composed of lodge dues of \$124.75 and \$55.25 per capita. The lodge dues have not increased in several years - only the per capita from Grand Lodge has. Our annual dues are lower than those for almost any similar Fraternal Organization. We have purposely kept dues low in our lodge to ensure that all our members can afford to STAY members.

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2021 DUES (continued)

IF YOU ARE HAVING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY and do not believe you can pay your dues this year, please reach out ASAP to Worshipful Tolerton. There's no need for embarrassment... your request will be treated on the level and we will do all we can to work out something that works for everyone.

IF YOU CAN AFFORD IT, PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING EXTRA. Because we haven't raised our dues for quite awhile, our budget each year becomes more and more reliant on successful fundraising activities. If you can spare even an extra \$20 it will go a long way to help ensure we have the best possible year next year.

The absolute simplest way to pay your dues quickly and easily is with a credit or debit card on our website or via iMember. You can, of course, also send your dues in to our Secretary, Worshipful Randy Tolerton, at:

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge

Post Office Box 1

Lafayette, CA 94549

Dues cards will no longer be sent to you. You can access your current (and your new membership card when we log your dues payment) through iMember either online or on your mobile device. And if you really want a printed version, you can print right from the app.

One last thought — each year lodge officers spend MANY hours tracking down late dues payments. PLEASE do what you can to pay next year's dues this year, so we can focus more effort on lodge events and activities, and less on bugging our members for funds. Do it now so you don't forget!

Thank you for your support for the lodge during the past year, and in advance for your prompt dues payment!

Adam J. Hanin

Master

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Hello Brethren,

In December, we started our our annual dues collection cycle. This year Grand Lodge has sent out dues notices. Letters as invoices have already been mailed to those brothers who are not Life Members. Dues may be paid by sending a check to our mailing address found on our website at www.acalanesfellowshoplodge.com. Dues may also be paid online at our lodge website via PayPal on the home page. Lastly, dues may be paid through your personal iMember 2.0 account electronically. When your dues payment is processed dues cards can be printed from your iMember 2.0 online account. Life Member cards will also be available to print from iMember 2.0 as well. If you have not received a dues letter notification please give me a call at the lodge. It probably means we have an issue with your proper contact information.



Let's get brothers engaged

Our online Installation of Officers served as a good moment to bring brothers back to the lodge that have not been attending. In fact, **any time** is a good time to bring back brothers whom we have not seen recently. We are also trying to bring back our not-so-old brothers who have not attended lodge for a while. If you know of such a brother, please make an effort to bring him to one of our online stated meetings or weekly call-in zoom meetings. As always, brethren are invited to attend our online stated meetings held on the first Tuesday of any month. The feeling of brotherly love and good fun continues to abound even in these challenging times. This is the time for you to return if you have been away 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 have any questions regarding our dues or getting brothers engaged please call me at (925) 818-8033.

Respectfully,

Randall Tolerton, PM

Secretary

DEC/JAN BIRTHDAYS

Roland J. Turk - Dec. 1
Spencer M. Sealander - Dec. 6
Jonathan P. Groetsch - Dec. 7
William J. Smith Jr. - Dec. 11
Steven F. Klamm - Dec. 15
Brian R. Flannery - Dec. 21
Timothy J. Riley - Dec. 21
William L. Whitten Dec. 22
James V. Davey - Dec. 25
C. Thomas Watson - Dec. 25
Allan J. Houlberg Dec. 25
Kishore V. Nath - Dec. 27
Charlie M. Wooten - Dec. 27

Lew Jenkins - Dec. 27
Jay B. Williams, PM - Dec. 29
David R. Oyler - Dec. 29
James A. Borup - Dec. 29
Serge A. Chemla - Jan. 1
Gary D. Sparks, PM - Jan. 5
Henry L. Hoffman - Jan. 6
David E. Prichard - Jan. 10
William H. Hastings - Jan. 11
Howard L. Strause - Jan. 12
Kevin S. Moore - Jan. 19
Thomas P. Hogan - Jan. 26
David L. Kreutzinger - Jan. 30



THIRD DEGREE ANNIVERSARIES

Edward A. Stack. Jr. - 10 years
Jeffrey D. Boschert - 12 years
Roland J. Turk - 49 years
Timothy L. Wilbur - 17 years
Val Rodrigues - 37 years
Scott E. Carter - 50 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	Terry Kilgore	srwarden@acalanesfellowship.com	
Junior Warden	Bob Strohmeyer, PM	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	Randall Tolerton, PM	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**

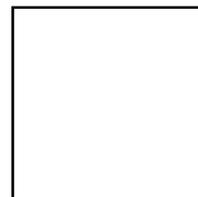
Mailing Address

**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 -

JANUARY 2021

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/AFLMeeting>

Meeting ID: 821 5632 1137

Passcode: AFL480

or

Dial 669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 821 5632 1137

Passcode: 581490

Jan 5: Virtual Stated Meeting

Join us virtually for our first stated meeting of 2021! As this is a stated meeting, only Masons may attend.

Join at this URL: <https://bit.ly/AFLMeeting>

Meeting ID: 821 5632 1137

Passcode: AFL480

or

Dial 669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 821 5632 1137

Passcode: 581490