

# The Trestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 ☉ March 2022

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## From the East

*A message from Worshipful Terry Killgore*

We're moving into March and the start of Spring, which means love will be in the air. Let's keep Brotherly Love in our minds as one of our tenants. For me, once Spring arrives, the year moves quickly. As they say, March winds bring April showers which bring May flowers. This saying comes from a short poem meant to remind us all that even the most unpleasant things can have a pleasant outcome. I felt this appropriate to share as we move through the pandemic and hopefully put it behind us this year. Many changes have come about since the pandemic started. Masonry, and our Lodge in particular, has once again stood strong.



Our 2022 Crab Feed was a success! “But Worshipful, how do we know it was successful without having the final numbers in yet?”, you might ask. Well brethren, it's not about the money. It's about fellowship, getting together and breaking bread again, laughing and telling stories. All of which occurred and are priceless.

Special thanks go out to two groups. First, our servers the Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls and Demolay! Good job getting hot, and cold food, out on the tables. Second to Cary Carlson, our Junior Warden, for making the suggestion to hold the Crab Feed at the Orinda Masonic Hall. Also, to Katie Pintado, who helped coordinate everything and get us setup.

Excellent effort and execution on the part of all that helped make this event a good time from venue setup to kitchen staff to front of the house coordination. Thank you all for your help and I look forward to the 2023 Crab Feed.

We have several upcoming events that are to be scheduled. First and foremost, a number of Entered Apprentice degrees. We have quite a few young men joining our fraternity in the upcoming months. We also have a couple of Fellow Craft degrees to get going on. Please make every effort to attend. The sideliners make the event memorable!

Look for a Sweetheart's Dinner that will be held at The Greenery. We also want to hold a Springtime Brunch.

On that note, we need a Dinner Committee. Brothers or others, that would be interested in cooking or arranging meals for the Stated Meeting Dinners. Caterers, food trucks, restaurants and home cooked meals are all options but we need a team to coordinate and execute. Please contact me if interested at 904-923-9028 or terry.killgore@gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing you all soon at one of the events. Stay safe, brush up on your memory work and we'll talk soon.

Fraternally yours,

*Terry Killgore*

*Master*



## **February & March Birthdays**

Noah Maier	Feb 2, 1991
Ralph Runkel	Feb 14, 1927
Brainard Platt, PM	March 1, 1938
Brian James	March 6, 1928
Alan Mac	March 15, 1957

# **From the West: *Symbolism of the Square and Compass***

*Commentary on the meaning of a common Masonic emblem*

*By Robert Strohmeyer, PM, Senior Warden*

No image is more widely recognized as an emblem of Freemasonry than that of the intersecting Square and Compass. No person with even the most casual awareness of Masonry in society is unfamiliar with this symbol, though most who view it are entirely unaware of its multiplicity of symbolic meanings. While I will not endeavor to examine all of the many implications of this symbol within the scope of this brief commentary, I would like to share a few of its connotations here, in the hope that some among our brethren may feel compelled to study further on their own, and to contemplate the greater implications to which it points.

The emblem of the Square and Compass can be seen in a variety of configurations. At a minimum, it consists of two components: the compass and the square, presented with the hinge of the compass pointed upward, with the points of the compass extending just below the square, the compass opened to represent a triangle. Typically, these elements are accompanied by the letter G in the center space between the two instruments. In some instances, the letter G is substituted by the Hebrew letter Yod (י), an eye, the moon, the sun, or a number of other symbols. It is also common to encounter just the Square and Compass with no accompanying third symbol.



Because some of the meanings of this symbol of our Craft are explained within the content of our ritual, I will not delve into those explanations here. I will instead focus just on the square and compass and their presentation with no other elements included. Before I do that, though, I remind the reader that emblematic Freemasonry derives from the Western Esoteric tradition of Hermeticism, a spiritual philosophy composed of a variety of esoteric disciplines including Kabbalah, alchemy, and sacred geometry. Deeper exploration of the various fields of Hermeticism constitute a lifetime of study in their own right, and are beyond the scope of this article. The reader is encouraged to explore these topics independently.

For the purpose at hand, it is important to note that the principal axiom of Hermetic philosophy, which should be well known to any person of any spiritual inclination, even without knowing its source, is “As above, so below.” By this phrase, we are to understand that the macrocosm

of the Divine is also to be found within the microcosm of any one man or woman. In other words, as any of us might have heard from childhood, the Great Architect of the Universe created humanity in His image. This is no trivial statement, and contains within it a wealth of esoteric meaning worthy of extended contemplation.

The great Hermetic symbol of this axiom is also one that should be familiar to any among our ranks. It consists of a pair of intersecting equilateral triangles—one pointing up, as if to the heavens, the other pointing down, as if to the earth. This symbol is generally known in the Western world as the Star of David or Shield of Solomon, and it represents the Divine presence of God in all directions, as well as representations of the four classical elements: air, fire, water, and earth, as well as the four directions, east, west, north, and south. All of these representations are common to Hermetic philosophy.



Above: Hermes Trismegistus, progenitor of the Hermetic tradition, represented within a Star of David.

Below: While the angle of the square is distorted here for effect, the correspondences between this arrangement of symbols and the Star of David are easy to see.



Returning to the square and compass, we note with interest that in many jurisdictions, the compass is open to an angle of 60 degrees, emblematic of the angle of an equilateral triangle, wherein the sum of all interior angles is equal to 180 degrees. This is by no means consistent in all jurisdictions, and in some instances Masons of varying rank are represented by the compass open to other angles. While the square is, of course, an angle of 90 degrees, it is suggestive of a second triangle intersecting that represented by the compass. With a minimum of imagination, the viewer can readily see the similarity of form between the arranged Square and Compass and the Star of David.

It would be reaching too far to assert that the Square and Compass are intended within Freemasonry to represent the emblem of the Star of David specifically, but the clear implication is the same as that found in the emblem of Judaism and the Hermetic tradition: As above, so below.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that this view of the meaning of the Square and Compass is disputed by some scholars as mere correlation of shapes, and it is by no means canonical Masonic lore. With that said, a deeper study of Hermetic philosophy in light of Masonic symbolism renders the correspondences too uncanny to dismiss as mere fantasy. The operative uses of the tools that these symbols represent, do themselves have correspondences with their Hermetic meanings. The compass is a tool used to trace the arcs of circles and measure the objects and movements of the

heavens, while the square is a tool for rectifying the angles of earthly construction. Viewing the compass pointing heavenward and the square pointing earthward, we are further reminded of the central axiom of our tradition: As above, so below.

The interested student of Freemasonry can find a wealth of deeper exploration of this and other lesser-known meanings behind our well-known emblem in books such as *The Secret Teachings of All Ages* by Manly P. Hall, Albert Pike's *Esoterika*, and *The Kabbalah of Freemasonry* by Eliphas Levi and William Wynn Westcott, among a great many others.

## **Third Degree Anniversaries**

Chan Eason	Feb 16, 1961
Michael Kenny	Feb 16, 2010
Terry Killgore	Feb 18, 2017
Noah Maier	Feb 26, 2019
Brian James	Feb 25, 2003
Gerald Walker	Feb 28, 1989
Gary Sparks, PM	March 7, 2009
Walter Moser	March 11, 1958
Scott Haile	March 16, 2004
Bradley Rupert, PM	March 18, 2003
Nicholas Bloisa	March 19, 1977
Brian Flannery	March 19, 1998
Ralph Runkel	March 22, 1966
Brainard Platt, PM	March 22, 1977
Dennis Rodgers, PM	March 23, 2004
Don Freitas, PM	March 24, 1979
Roger Burt	March 27, 1987
Arne Simonsen, PM	March 27, 1984
Alan Mac	March 28, 1987
William Haynes	March 30, 1978

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## Upcoming Events at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480

**March 1, 7:30pm**  
**Stated Meeting**

Social Hour starts at 5:30p  
Dinner will be served at 6:30p

**March 29, 6:30pm**  
**First Degree**

Join us for a double initiation!