

fundraising event supporting Shriners Children's Hospitals. Five of your Past Masters, including myself, Worshipful Terry Killgore, Worshipful Adam Hanin, Worshipful Brad Rupert, and Worshipful Gary Charland, enjoyed the opportunity to meet up for a little fellowship during the game. It was incredibly fun to spend time with these brothers and reflect on the good times we've all enjoyed while serving this lodge.



We had a very successful Crab Feed on February 18, with more than 120 attendees, and we raised proceeds on par with the past two years. A portion of those proceeds will go to Masonic charities to be identified pending a vote at our next Stated Meeting.

All Master Masons in good standing are invited to join us for a Master Masons Festive Board on Saturday, March 11, at 7PM at our Acalanes Fellowship dining hall. Together with visiting brethren from Orinda Lodge #122, we will recognize the achievements of our newly raised Master Masons and enjoy some good food, fellowship, a little Masonic Education, and a few refreshments in uniquely Masonic fashion. Register at [MasterMasonsFestiveBoard.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-masons-festive-board). This event will be catered, so we'll need all orders in by Monday, March 6.

Finally, the members of Acalanes Fellowship should all have received a survey via email in the past week or so. We've received a good response so far, but hearing from as many of you as possible helps your officers to plan activities and events that you're most likely to enjoy. I look forward to sharing the results of this survey in April.

Fraternally yours,

Bob Strohmeyer, PM

Master

From the South

Notes from Peter A. Peterson, Junior Warden

It's been quite an adventure and journey since my December installation as your Junior Warden (some would say "beloved" Junior Warden). As some of you know, I had to drop out of the line a few years back but again got that urge to sit in the East and it only took a little arm twisting from our Worshipful Master Strohmeyer to get me back in.

In this short period of time, I am coming to better understand the responsibilities of the position and realizing I have much more to learn and experience to better prepare me for the opportunity to serve our membership and move towards the East. I have an even more profound and deep respect for the men who before me joined the line and moved into leadership positions in our noble fraternity and Lodge.

This is a very exciting time for Acalanes Fellowship Lodge. You know from 2021-2022 Trestleboards that under the leadership and guidance of Worshipful Masters Adam Hanin and Terry Killgore, our Lodge was very successful in attracting new members. Under their leadership, those were busy years bringing new candidates through their Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft degrees. Worshipful Strohmeyer has continued that work, overseeing a triple Entered Apprentice degree ceremony in early March and by the end of this month (February) will have raised six Master Masons. We hope to see our new Entered Apprentices advanced to Master Masons by the end of the summer. It's truly been a pleasure watching the enthusiasm these new members bring to our Lodge and Masonry in general. Many have already jumped into the line and others are waiting for positions to come open. They have eagerly volunteered to assist with lodge activities, such as preparing meals for our Stated Meetings and helping at our annual Crab Feed. One has volunteered to serve on our Hall Association. These men are the future leaders of our Lodge and I ask you to help support and encourage them through their Masonic journeys. We've had Past Masters filling line seats waiting for newer members to step up and take leadership roles. Looks like that's happening!

Most of you are unaware of the behind-the-scenes duct tape work our most recent and current Masters performed, and are performing, to keep our Lodge functioning. Along those lines, this country's economic situation has trickled down to our lodge. The prices of food, beverages, and



labor has impacted what we can provide our members to enhance their experience at our monthly Stated Meeting Dinners. Catering costs have increased to the extent they are getting prohibitive. Caterers can't break even, much less make a bit of a profit, unless their food costs and other expenses are passed on to us. Most require a commitment for a minimum number of meals. We were losing money catering meals last year. We had a choice between raising prices for meals to cover costs or coming up with new and novel ways of providing a joyful evening for our members.

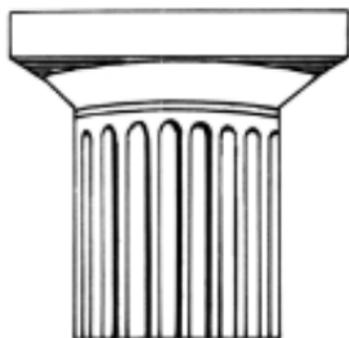
Worshipful Strohmeier and a small band of volunteers have been preparing meals for the past few months. Going forward, we are hoping to recruit volunteers to take over meals for a particular month. Worshipful Riley and Nancy Thomas will be preparing an Irish meal for our March Stated Meeting dinner. Maybe someone has a knack for Mexican cuisine and can volunteer for our May dinner. Perhaps someone has a favorite German brat recipe and can "host" the meal in October. You get the idea. All costs would be reimbursed, and we would find volunteers to assist you. We would fill in with caterers for certain special events, such as the upcoming Festive Board, but it is hoped we can keep costs down and still provide a meaningful experience to our members and guests.

Lastly, as a reminder. Wives, Moms, daughters, widows, and significant others are always welcome at our monthly dinner meetings. We try to host special events for them as an expression of our appreciation for their support of our fraternal activities. Our December Sweetheart dinner was a success, and we are planning to hold a similar event mid-April. Please pay attention to future announcements and plan on attending and bringing that special person in your life. All are invited, with or without a guest! Contact me if you have any suggestions or a desire to help in any way.

Fraternally,

Pete "the Tiler" Peterson

Junior Warden



Degrees A-Go-Go!

We've been busy conferring degrees at Acalanes Fellowship. Here are the degrees we've conferred since the start of the year!



Above: Triple First Degree for Brothers Robert Kaleta, Igor Drizik, and Mark Collins on January 7.



Above: Third Degree for Christopher Benz on January 28. Chris is now serving as our Sr. Steward.



Above: Third Degree for Robert Seitelman on January 31. Rob will be installed as Jr. Steward.



Above: Third Degree for Mick McNulty on February 4. Mick is now serving as our Tiler.



Above: Third Degree for Weston Wheatley, raised with help from his father, Greg Wheatley of Morning Star Lodge #19, on February 11.



Above: Third Degree for Cody Wilbur, raised with help from his father, Tim Wilbur, and grandfather, Bill Boaman, on February 25. Cody is wearing his great-great-grandfather's apron in this photo.



Above: Third Degree for Raymond Franklin on February 28.

Hall Association Update

Peter A. Peterson, Hall Board President

It is again my pleasure to serve as your Hall Association President (having served in 2019). My predecessor - Worshipful Adam Hanin - provided you with a year-end report at the January Stated Meeting. During the February Stated Meeting, he presented a list of 2023 HA Board candidates for your approval and vote. The vote was unanimous, and we have since been busy completing work begun during 2022.

2022 was a very busy year for the Hall Association. Among other things, and as reported, new signage was completed on our venerable facility, making us much more visible to the public. You have certainly noticed the damage to the front of the building as the result of an automobile running into the Lodge. The 2022 HA Board - in particular Worshipfuls Hanin and Riley - along with Lodge members Reese and Wilbur, worked tirelessly with insurance companies, the City and County, contractors, and the weather gods to get our building in order. That work will soon be complete. Our Hall Association Treasurer - Mark Williams - began researching a new door lock system, which among other things, will provide us with greater flexibility and security to our Lodge.



This clearly isn't the same brother from that previous article.

We've hit the ground running for this year. We purchased a new ice maker for the lodge, which was installed by our in-house MacGyver, Garth Korwin. We're researching new fire and CO₂ monitor-alarm systems. Big on our near-term agenda is purchasing an outside storage unit. Our immediate goal is to inventory our storage room, get rid of what's unneeded and store "seasonal" or seldom-used items in the shed, leaving more space for our monthly supplies inside.

Part of that storage process will be the reinstatement of an annual Lodge tradition halted at the beginning of the pandemic. Every spring, we would have an all-hands cleaning of the lodge. This involved a deep kitchen scrubbing, floor mopping and waxing, rug shampooing, landscape/weed work, etc. We hope to have a storage shed in place in March and plan to schedule the all-hands "spring cleaning" in April. Part of that cleaning day will include the storage inventory and organization. All-hands means all members are "invited" to come help, not just our small Hall Association group. We need your help, brothers!

Pete "the Junior Warden" Peterson
Hall Board President

Upcoming Events at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480

<p>March 7, 5:30 pm</p> <p>Stated Meeting & Dinner 50-year pin presentations!</p> <p>5:30 pm social hour 6:30 pm dinner 7:30 pm meeting</p> <p><u>RSVP NOW!</u></p>	<p>March 11, 7:00 pm</p> <p>Master Masons Festive Board</p> <p>Co-hosted by the officers of Orinda Lodge #122, event to be held here at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge in Lafayette</p> <p>All Master Masons Welcome</p> <p><u>RSVP NOW!</u></p>
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50-year Golden Veterans Award



Brother Rick Snowden
&
Worshipful Jay B. Williams PM, PP



Tuesday, March 7th 2023

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge
925 Moraga Road Lafayette, CA 94549

Social Hour 5:30pm

Dinner 6:30pm

Ceremony 7:30pm

Stated Meeting to begin immediately after ceremony

Menu: Corned Beef, Vegetables, Cake
Dinner Cost \$20.00 per person Kids 10 & under eat free

RSVP REQUIRED by Sunday before the event
RSVP: <https://acalanesmarchgoldenveterans.eventbrite.com>

No Fee for Purchasing Online!

Questions Email: master@acalanesfellowship.com