

# The Trestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 ☉ November 2023

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## Upcoming Events at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480

Nov 7, 5:30 pm

### Stated Meeting & Dinner

5:30 pm social hour  
6:30 pm dinner  
7:30 pm meeting

Nov 11, 8:30 am

### Third Degree

All Master Masons in good standing are encouraged to attend the raising of brother **Derek Walter** to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

Nov 14, 6:30 pm

### Third Degree

All Master Masons in good standing are encouraged to attend the raising of brother **Mark Collins** to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

Nov 18, 8:30 am

### Third Degree

All Master Masons in good standing are encouraged to attend the raising of brother **Deepen Sapra** to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

Nov 28, 6:30 pm

### Third Degree

All Master Masons in good standing are encouraged to attend the raising of brother **Sunil Awasti** to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

Dec 9, 6:00 pm

### Installation of 2024 Officers

All Masons, family, and friends are invited to the Installation of our 2024 line of officers. Banquet to follow ceremony.

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## From the East

*A message from Worshipful Robert S. Strohmeyer, PM*

Greetings from the East, my brothers. The 2023 Masonic year is nearly at its end, and this month we will elect our new line of officers for the ensuing Masonic year. Freemasonry has been a standard-bearer of electoral process since time immemorial, and our method of representative leadership has served as a model to the world for



centuries. I look forward to passing the gavel to my successor next month at our annual Installation of Officers on Saturday, December 9.

It has been my great pleasure and honor to serve once again as Master of Acalanes Fellowship Lodge, and I'm very proud of the work our lodge has accomplished in the past year. By year-end, we will have raised 11 Master Masons and conferred 25 degrees in all – a tremendous achievement that earned special mention from our Grand Master, the Most Worshipful Randall L. Brill, in his remarks last month at our Grand Lodge's Annual Communication. This work continues throughout the month ahead as we raise five brothers to the degree of Master Mason. For details, see the Upcoming Events section of this Trestleboard.

I am incredibly grateful to the officers and brethren of this lodge for all their efforts across all of our events this year as we have worked to fully rebound from the legacy of the COVID pandemic. We kicked off the year with a very successful Crab Feed, have had strong turnouts at all of our meetings and dinners, had a beautiful and well-attended Luau fundraiser for Hawaii relief, and continue to raise the bar for the lodge. I know that Worshipful Brad Rupert and the rest of the officer's line will continue to serve this lodge well and keep building upon the strong foundation of fellowship and fraternalism that characterizes this friendly lodge.

Fraternally yours,

*Bob Strohmeyer*

*Master*

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## From the West

*Bradley O. Rupert, PM, Senior Warden*

Hello from the West. There is plenty going on in the Masonic west in the month of November. First up, we turn our clocks back at 2am on November 5th, which happens to be my birthday by the way :^) Then the lodge will hold elections on November 7th at the Stated meeting. The lodge will vote for elected officers: Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Secretary and Treasurer. The rest of the



officers are appointed by the incoming master and will be announced after the election.

This year's officers line, I am excited to say, is excellent from top to bottom, full of energy and have good new ideas for the future. This is the result of the help and support of our current and Past Masters who continue to stay involved and support the line officers. Especially but not limited to Robert Strohmeyer, Adam Hanin, Michael Roberts, and Randy Tolerton. Next year's line has only one PM in the progressive line. It happens to be me as incoming Master, which means that in 2025, if all goes to plan, we will have a PM-free progressive line. Which is a good goal for every healthy growing lodge like we have now. Our goal for 2024 is to continue to grow and support new and old members. Please also remember to come to Installation of Officers on Saturday December 9th at 6pm. Hope to see you there!!

One last thing to remember: The sun always sets in the west and it will be earlier and earlier in November so drive safe!

*Brad Rupert, PM*

*Senior Warden*

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## From the South

*Peter A. Peterson, Junior Warden*

Busy, busy busy...but, fun busy. We've been practicing for five (5!!) Third Degree ceremonies occurring during the month of November. It's a pleasure and honor for us to be able to bestow this degree on our Fellowcraft brethren. We're not keeping score, but I'm pretty sure Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 is close to having initiated, passed and raised more brethren than any other Lodge in the area. (Probably going to get some feedback on that "challenge" statement!)



Please make sure you make it to our November Stated Meeting. We're having elections of your 2024 officers that evening. It's okay to vote early and often (wink-wink). There's a rumor your

beloved JW wants to become your beloved SW. I thought about bringing leftover Halloween candy as a bribe, but I've been informed eating during a meeting is not permitted.

It's not too early to begin thinking about our Crab Feed, which will be held on January 27, 2024, at Orinda Lodge. This is our biggest fundraiser and requires a lot of effort on the part of volunteers to get things done. There are several tasks that can be completed before, during and after the event and I will be reaching out to you for help. Contact me and let me know how you can help or just want to know what it all entails. Like most things we do: Lots of fun – lots of work.

Quick reminder regarding our scholarship fund: If you previously pledged, now would be a good time to get your donation in. Checks can be made out to AFL#480 with "Scholarship Fund" on the memo line. If you haven't pledged and wish to donate, that would be great as well. We're actively working with Acalanes High School developing guidelines for scholarship recipients and the time to give out the scholarships will soon be on us.

Finally, on the Hall front. The Board has decided to replace, and not just try and repair, eight upper windows that have sustained weather damage over the years. We're still in the bid analysis phase. We've received four bids and now need to select one to review with Grand Lodge for approval. The goal is to get this work completed before the next rainy season.

Participating as a Hall Association Board member is a very satisfying and fulfilling service to our lodge. Our Board has a couple of members "terming out" at the end of this year and we are looking for members to fill those seats. Let me know if this is something you would consider. You can ask any of us questions regarding the position.

*Pete Peterson*

*Junior Warden*

