

The Trestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 ☉ December 2023

Upcoming Events at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480

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 5, 5:30 pm

Stated Meeting & Dinner

5:30 pm social hour
6:30 pm dinner
7:30 pm meeting
[RSVP](#)

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.
[RSVP](#)

Passing the Gavel

A message from Worshipful Robert S. Strohmeyer, PM

Brethren and friends, our annual Installation of Officers is set for Saturday, December 9, and I will proudly pass the gavel to Worshipful Brad Rupert, Past Master of this lodge, who has been elected to lead once again as Master for 2024. As I look ahead, I know the year before us will be another great one for Acalanes Fellowship, as we continue to build upon the foundation laid by those who came before us.

Worshipful Rupert has a great lineup of events planned, including a visitation, which is a tradition we had hoped to restore in 2023. Thank you to all of the brethren, particularly this excellent line of officers, for all of your support and contributions in 2023. You should be very proud of the achievements we've made together. I look forward to pitching in as a volunteer and sideline in 2024.

Fraternally yours,

Bob



From West to East

Bradley O. Rupert, PM, Senior Warden, Master-Elect

Well 2023 went by fast and 2024 is approaching fast! This has been an exceptional year for degrees. AFL#480 was acknowledged by the Grand Master at ACOM this year for total degrees and 3rd degrees done in 2023. Worshipful Bob Strohmeier has done an excellent job keeping us all organized and on point for degrees this year. We plan to confer our 5th 3rd degree this month on Tuesday Nov. 28th at 6:30pm.



I am very excited about this year's line of officers to be installed. They are all special men and masons: Senior Warden, Peter A. Peterson; Junior Warden, Mark A. Williams; Treasurer, David L. Kreutzinger; Secretary, C. Randall Tolerton; PM; Chaplain, Franklin H. Shoffner; **Assistant Secretary, Gary D. Sparks PM**; Senior Deacon, Kaveh Astaneh; Senior Steward, Robert M. Seitelman; **Marshal, Sunil K. Awasti**; Junior Deacon, Christopher D. Benz; Junior Steward, Michael A. McNulty; Organist, John Minagro; and **Tiler, Mark Collins**. (Officers joining or rejoining the line in 2024 are in bold.)

I want to give a special shout out to brother Fred Lezak who is taking a sabbatical from the officer line in order to take care of his health and wife Pat. The whole team of officers is looking forward to a fun and busy 2024. We are planning multiple visitations in 2024, BBQ's with district, Orinda lodge meet up nights, Hula Night will be back, Dinner Theater Nights will restart, EA & FC meet up nights, Couple Movie Nights and much more to come. Also, don't miss the 1st social event of the year, the **Steak & Crab Feed on Jan 27th**. Tickets will go on sale shortly and we plan to sell out this year, so make sure to get your tickets early. Anyone wishing to volunteer to help should reach out to Pete Peterson, SW-Elect, ASAP. Finally, I wish to thank all the Past Masters and past officers of AFL#480 without you we would not be here.

Brad Rupert, PM

Master-Elect

Moving Westward

Peter A. Peterson, Junior Warden, Senior Warden-Elect

Forgive an old man's musings as I look forward to the year ahead. Are you ready for a poor analogy?

I was in church this past Sunday observing the kids' excitement during Children's Message. Lots of giggling, playing, hugs and just enjoying each other's company before Sunday School (EA's). Young middle schoolers (FC's) were helping the Youth Director trying to keep the kids under control. As they were leaving, high schoolers (MM) left as well to assist the Youth Director (WM) give Sunday's lesson.

(I told you it was a poor analogy.)

We had completed our fourth consecutive Third Degree the previous day. It struck me then, how, on each degree ceremony to date, brothers willingly stepped in to fill seats when another officer or participant couldn't make it. We even had the visiting Master from Orinda Lodge assisting us. A lot of different brothers came together to make sure each degree ceremony was meaningful for our newly raised Master Masons.

After the Saturday raising, while we were celebrating with our new Master Mason, Worshipful Strohmeyer presented the brother with the usual Masonic tool and a cipher, which was to be used to assist him in learning his Third Degree proficiency. (As most of you know, this proficiency takes more time and effort to learn.) Worshipful Bob explained that, while the new Master Mason's usual candidate coach would be working with him, he could reach out to any other Master Mason for help and that help would be freely given.

I thought about Worshipful Bob's comment that a Mason just had to ask, and another Mason would willingly help and assist. It made me think about my Masonic journey to date and reflect on all the aid my brothers have willingly provided me over the years. I appreciate, and learn from, the counsel I hear whispered in my ear when I continue to make my usual bumbling errors and missteps. I'll never be a perfect Mason, but that counsel has made me a better Mason.



Back to the metaphor: It has been an absolute pleasure to have participated in so many Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason ceremonies this past year. I so look forward to helping bring these younger (in Masonic years) brothers further in their journeys. It's been fun to watch these younger Masons form bonds that will last a lifetime. It's been a joy to work with them as they jump in to fill seats in the Line or assist and participate in our many Lodge activities.

Those of us who have been a long-time part of Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 talk amongst ourselves. A frequent conversational theme is how confident we are we will be leaving our beloved Lodge in great hands. We are so blessed to have you in our lives.

Pete Peterson

Sr. Warden-Elect

Approaching the South

Mark Williams, Junior Warden-Elect

As incoming Junior Warden this will be my first submission to the Trestleboard! After 13 years as a brother at Acalanes Fellowship #480, I am very much looking forward to my upcoming role as a pedestal officer in 2024. Since being initiated in 2010 I have been active in the Lodge as a Steward, Treasurer, and Junior and Senior Deacon, and on the Hall Association, but feel like I really “fully engaged” a couple of years ago by seriously stepping into the line. As I become even more involved, I am realizing the truth in the axiom of “getting out more than you put in!”



One of the things that I have always valued about Freemasonry is that you can find the roles and opportunities that are right for you as a brother at that time. This self-directed characteristic — coupled with unlimited opportunities to learn, grow, and contribute as a Mason — is a special aspect of our ancient and honorable institution.

I also am very excited about the energy and enthusiasm that is now pervading our Lodge. The addition of several new brothers over the past 1-3 years has re-energized us all! A Masonic Lodge is a living, changing organism, and our wonderful (and friendly) Acalanes Fellowship Lodge is in a healthy and thriving place! I look forward to working with our Past Masters, current line officers, and many new brothers in the coming years and years ahead.

Mark Williams

Jr. Warden-Elect



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January 27, 6:00 pm

Annual Steak & Crab Feed Fundraiser!

Bring your family and friends along to enjoy a feast of dungeness crab, steak, clam chowder, and salad at our annual crab feed. Bid on fine collectibles or one of our officers' cakes in our silent auction. This is one of our biggest events every year, and we hope to see you there!