

The Trestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 ☉ February 2024

Upcoming Events at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480

Feb 17, 6:00 pm	Feb 20, 5:30 pm	Feb 27, 6:00 pm
Sweethearts Luncheon Zio Afraedo's	DOSI 305 District Hosted by AFL#480 All Mason Welcome	2nd Degree Brothers Joseph Parra & Ehsan Shafae
12:00 pm Lunch \$60 for Members Free for Sweethearts \$20 per Kid who eats	Dinner 6:15pm DOSI 7:00pm RSVP NOW	6:00 pm Opening 6:30 pm Degree 9:00 pm Snacks

From the East

A message from Worshipful Bradley O. Rupert, PM

Hello from the East. We had a busy Jan and plan to be busy the rest of the year.. We had **triple 1st degree** in Jan for our newest brothers **Chris Martin, Ehsan Shafae, and Jakub Stetz**. The officers did a great job and congratulations to **JW Mark Willams** gave his first 1st degree lecture in Lodge. Coming up in February we have a double **2nd Degree** planned for **Tuesday 2/27** for **Joesph Parra and Ehsan Shafee**. Please make sure to attend if possible. ALF#480 will also be hosting a **DOSI(District officer school of instruction)** for **305th district** of masons on



Tuesday Feb 20th at 6pm all mason's are welcome to attend. We will be covering the receiving of Grand Lodge officer in lodge. We just need your RSVP with JW. Finally DJ from **Orinda lodge will be having first degree on 2/29 and invites us to attend.**

Now for a report on last month's fun events and activities. Again, my theme this year: Fun, Fellowship, and Delegation. We started off with **Crab Feed Jan 27th**, it was an excellent event put on by an excellent committee headed by **SW Pete Peterson**. Also each sub-chair did a great job: **W. Bob S on Chowder, W. Terry Kilgore on kitchen crew, W. Randy T on Registration and Tim & Cody Wilbur** with the bar. Also special thanks to **EA Joe Parra** and family for staying to help clean up. Many hands make light work. We raised between 3K to 4K for the lodge this year. Final number will be read at the stated meeting. The same day, at lunch, my Father **Orren Rupert PM** received his **50 year golden veteran award** in masonry, at Diablo Valley Lodge #448 in Pacheco. Orren is also a member of AFL#480 serving as treasurer in 2012-2013. Special thanks to the members of AFL#480 who attended the event. My mom and dad were very pleased and happy to see you. **Pictures of both events are below** at the end of this month's trestle board.

Make sure to RSVP via eventbrite for **Sweethearts Luncheon on Feb 17th at Zio Afreados** restaurant in Pleasant Hill, Ca. JW Pete Peterson is Chair for events call him with questions.. We also are planning a **Pancake Breakfast March 23rd**, more details to follow,

We plan to get a group together to volunteer at **Contra Costa Food Bank** serving food, and participate in **Lafayette Art & Wine Festival** September 21 & 22nd. Please reach out to the officer if you are willing to help.

Fraternally yours,

Brad Rupert -

Master 2024



From the West

Peter A. Peterson, Senior Warden

We're off to the same fast start as last year. We have just conducted three EA degrees and with the two from last year, we should have a bunch of FC degrees coming up soon. I encourage one-and-all to attend these degrees. Not only do you support our newest members but you also see your new line officers in action!

Our 2024 Crab Feed was a huge success! I can't thank the many volunteers who helped make this evening enjoyable for our many guests.

The event wouldn't have happened without help from crews setting up the venue, the crab crew, the auction crew, the kitchen crew, clam chowder makers and cleanup group. The officer cakes were a huge success as well.

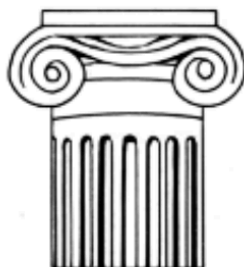
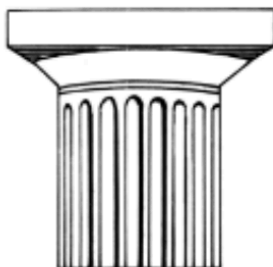
As you can see, it takes a lot of folks to make this major fundraiser a success. I'm hoping we continue to get a great group of brothers to help next year - it's fun work and good fellowship.

Lastly, and as a reminder, the **Sweetheart Luncheon will be held at Zio Fraedos on February 27. Tickets are available through the Eventbrite link and we ask that you select your menu choice in advance** as the restaurant needs that information ahead of time. You pay for your meal but Sweethearts eat free. You determine who your Sweetheart is: wife, significant other, Mom, daughter, granddaughter, etc.



Pete Peterson

Senior Warden



From the South

Mark Williams, Junior Warden

So February (already!) has us reflecting on a great Crab Feed event last month and looking forward to our February Stated Meeting/dinner and our annual Sweethearts Luncheon. We are looking forward to a busy year with many more degrees, and some additional events are being considered to make being a Brother at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge a more meaningful and more fun experience! Watch for updates on new events here in the Trestleboard and in emails and announcements at Stated Meetings.



There is an issue that has been apparent to me for some time... many of our Brethren whose participation and company we have enjoyed in the past have seemed to “drift away” a bit. People do get busy with work, family, etc. but sometimes they may just fall out of the habit of coming to Stated Meetings and other events. They may not realize how much we enjoy seeing them and how much their presence contributes to the Lodge for everyone. Is there a “missing” Brother that you know and would love to see? Someone who hasn’t been to Lodge in a while? Why not give him a call or send an email or text reminding him that we would love to see him? And if there is an Entered Apprentice or Fellowcraft Brother who may have “stalled” on their proficiency or just not been around, let’s all make an effort to let them know that we care about them and would love to help them move forward in their Masonic experience?

And as always, if you have a friend, business associate, or someone else who you think would be interested in Freemasonry, and would make a good Mason, invite him to a Stated Meeting dinner so that he can learn a little about our Lodge and we can get to know him. Just please let us know in advance so that we can accommodate him for our meal.

Happy Valentine’s Day to all!

Mark Williams

Jr. Warden

MASONIC EDUCATION

God bless the Old Tyler! How
Long has he truded
Through sunshine and storm
With his “summons due”
No pain nor fatigue the Old
Tyler has grudge
To serve the great Order,
Freemasonry, and you.

This is the opening paragraph to a poem - *The Tyler* - written by a Masonic poet, Rob Morris. The office of Tyler is near-and-dear to my heart having served in that position for seven years. In my case, I guess it's appropriate the poem references the “Old” Tyler.

Did you know the Tyler is one of the officers allowed to wear their apron and badge of office prior to the opening of a Lodge? The others being the Worshipful Master and Organist. A Tyler must be a Master Mason in good standing, though not necessarily a member of that particular Lodge. A Lodge cannot be properly opened without the presence of a Tyler. As you are aware, one of the first orders of the Worshipful Master is to ensure the Lodge is properly tiled before the meeting can proceed. A lot of literature and study has been conducted on the origin of the Tiler (Tyler), some of it still clouded in history. The medieval crafts closely guarded their trade secrets and often posted a guard outside their meeting to ensure the uninitiated did not gain entrance or overhear meeting discussions.

The Masonic Tiler continued this tradition. One article mentions the 1723, *First Book of Constitutions*, where a brother was required to guard the door to those first Masonic meetings. Apparently at that time, that “guard” could not be a lodge member. In 1728, the English Grand Lodge put a little more importance to the position, describing him as an “officer who kept the door.” The first specific mention of the title “the Tyler” was in the minutes of the June 8, 1732 meeting. (and no, I was not present at that meeting!). The first official codification of the Tyler rank was in new Regulation XXVI of the 1738 “Second Book of Constitutions. The requirement was “another brother and Master Mason, should be appointed to Tyler, to look after the door.”

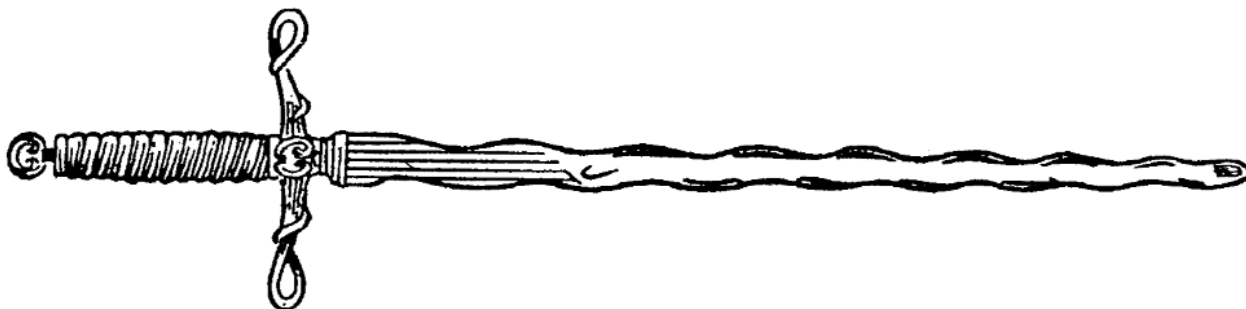
Our ritual today tells us the Tiler is a “brother without the door.” He is traditionally armed with the proper instrument of his office, not only to ward off intruders but also to symbolically guard the Book of Constitutions from being altered.

The Tiler must possess a lot of qualities as he is the first Lodge member to officially greet brothers and visitors. He ensures brothers are duly qualified for admittance, which includes making sure brothers are not inebriated to the point they would be disruptive to the meeting. He will refuse entry to anyone he does not personally recognize or who cannot be properly vouched for by another visitor. The Tiler has a book listing all Masonic lodges world-wide and, among other means, uses that book to help verify a visiting brother is who he says he is.

Once a meeting begins, the Tiler will refuse late comers entry until an appropriate time when he will signal by a special knock, the “alarm at the door” notice to the Junior Warden.

The Tiler specifically makes sure cowans and eavesdroppers are not allowed in or near the Lodge. There are many interesting theories written about the origin of those terms. My favorites include: dog, wretch, silly fool. There are suggestions the terms were from the sixteenth-century - terms of contempt given to the ignorant or partially instructed laborer.

I could go on-and-on about this subject, but I hope this leaves you with the knowledge that the Tiler is a critical and important officer of the Lodge. There may be a time when you get a tap on the shoulder to sit as Tiler, take that as an honor - otherwise, the Lodge could not be opened as it would not be “duly tiled.”



MASONIC Phun Photos

Orren Rupert 50 year Golden Veteran Award



Crab Feed 2024

