

The Trestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 ☉ March 2024

Upcoming Events at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480

March 5th, 6:30 pm

Stated Meeting

Social Hour 5:30

Dinner 6:30

Meeting 7:30

March 19, 6:30 pm

Traveling 1st Degree At Martinez Lodge #41

Arrive 6:00 pm

Degree 6:30 pm

March 21, 6:15 pm

DOSI 305 District Hosted by Oakland Lodge

Dinner 6:15 pm

DOSI 7:00 pm

[RSVP NOW](#)

From the East

A message from Worshipful Bradley O. Rupert, PM

Hello from the East. We had a busy February and we continue to stay busy. We completed the rarely done or seen **Quad 2nd degree** in February for brothers **Joseph Parra, Patrick Labit, Ehsan Shafae, and Chris Martin**. The officers did a great job and we were done by 9:20 pm. Special congratulations to **SW Pete Peterson** who did four obligations and 2nd degree lecture in one night, also **Keveh Astaneh** who did the staircase lecture. Coming up in March we are planning a Traveling **1st Degree** for **Tuesday 3/19 at Martinez Lodge #41**. We are looking forward to sharing fellowship and ritual with our brothers in Martinez. Please make sure to RSVP if you plan to come out.



Aahmes Shrine in Lafayette is having a Divan Pancake Breakfast on March 23rd in Livermore.

Please come out and support the Shrine and me as part of the Divan. Wives, Kids and friends are welcome. The cost is \$20 per adult and \$5 for kids. See flier for instruction on how to RSVP.

Plenty more to come for the rest of the year. Quick FYI - SW **Pete Peterson** will be running the March Stated Meeting for me. I will be on a short, much needed vacation to Maui. I think we may need to have an early Hawaiian shirt night when I get back!!

Fraternally yours, Aloha and Mahalo,

Brad Rupert -
Master 2024



From the West

Peter A. Peterson, Senior Warden

Fun, fun, fun! Four 2nd Degrees in one night. Our SD - Kaveh - really shined. I had the privilege of doing a triple FC Degree when I was SD, but I didn't come close to the quality of Kaveh's ritual work. Now if we could just get him to come out of his shell 😊.

Not sure if you read the article, but there is an excellent write-up in the most recent edition of the *Masons of California 2023 Fraternity Report* regarding membership since the end of the pandemic.



The article discussed what some lodges have done and are doing, to not only get membership back to “normal” since the end of the pandemic, but also their efforts to maintain and grow their lodges. Guess what?!! Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 is front-and-center as an example of what to do. Worshipful Brad is quoted in the article on how we live up to our reputation as the Friendly Lodge when it comes to welcoming guests and new members into the fold. We’ve been truly blessed with the work our Worshipful Masters have done during the pandemic, and after, keeping us above ground and growing. Kudos to them all!

We’ve got degrees scheduled in March and others coming up soon. Come out and see your degree teams at work. We had visiting members from four outside lodges as side-liners during our recent FC degrees and it was ego-boosting (just a bit 😊) to hear their comments afterwards.

Finally, in keeping with Worshipful Brad’s desire to provide you with a variety of Masonic education topics, you get a “two-fer.” Our JW discusses the historical link between Masons and education, and we have our own Travelling Man (SD Kaveh, of course) discussing proper procedures a member must follow when visiting other lodges, both in State and elsewhere.

Pete Peterson

Senior Warden

From the South

Mark Williams, Junior Warden

At our recent “Quad” Second Degree the topic of Masonic commitment to education came up as a visiting Past Master awarded education pins to our new FellowCraft Masons. It seemed like a good time to do a “refresh” on Masonic public education history and initiatives. Many of our newer Brothers may not be aware of this education commitment, and many of our longer-term Brothers may benefit from an update! Freemasonry in California has deep roots in public education.

San Francisco Mason John Swett was elected as California Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1862 and made many significant contributions to public education; so much that he is often referred to as the father of the California public school



system. Our Public Schools Months have been a part of Masonic contributions since 1920 when Grand Master Charles Adams first declared Public Schools week (now Public Schools Month). Many of us have helped raise money for the amazing Raising a Reader Program; an initiative supported by the Grand Lodge to place books into the hands (and homes) of underprivileged students. This program has proven that it can make an amazing difference in young students' lives to get a head start on reading ability. It has been said that you need to "learn to read, so that you can read to learn". Additionally, the Investment in Success Scholarship Program, California Teacher support initiatives, Public Schools Advisory Committees, and the work of individual Lodges add up to a tremendous boost to education in our state.

And as you know, Acalanes Fellowship Lodge is now instituting our own scholarship program for deserving students from Acalanes High School. You will be hearing more on that as we move forward towards awarding our first scholarships later this year!

Mark Williams

Jr. Warden



MASONIC EDUCATION

Kaveh Astaneh (The Friendly Senior Deacon)

I joined Freemasonry for several reasons but the main reason was to meet as many good men and their families as I could. One of the best ways to do this is to “Travel” to other lodges.

First a quick history:

“The habit of Freemasons to travel and visit other lodges, is one of the oldest and most widely practiced customs of the Craft. In operative times, well before the emergence of Speculative Craft as we now know it, masons were itinerant workers who were forced to travel to renew their employment as each building project was completed. This fluid nature of the Operative Craft led to the formation of trade societies, known as Lodges, to protect the professional integrity of their occupation, and to enhance the moral and social practices of their members.” - www.freemasons-freemasonry.com.

Did you know there are more than 330 Lodges in California and more than 13,000 lodges in the United States! Over 19 countries have Masonic Lodges you can visit too!

First and foremost when you visit another lodge you are representing Acalanes Fellowship, so be on your best behavior, dress appropriately and be engaging.

Only Master Masons, in good standing, can travel to another Lodge’s Stated Meeting or Degrees without a guide (more on that later); the following are some best practices for traveling within your Jurisdiction:

1. Email the Secretary of the Lodge beforehand with your intentions to visit; share your iMember# and lodge name. Ask who the WM is; wait for a response and then correspond accordingly.
2. Ask them what their dress code is and follow it; do not overdress or underdress.
3. Show up early and seek out the Secretary or WM and introduce yourself. If you have a name tag, wear it; bring a valid ID like your Driver’s License, have your dues card handy.
4. Be prepared to be examined.
5. Thank them for having you and for their hospitality.
6. Write a letter and *mail* it to them; they’ll love reading the correspondence at their next Stated.

Traveling outside your Jurisdiction requires a little more planning:

- Contact “Member Services” and let them know what Jurisdiction(s) you are visiting and specifically what dates; they want to know this at least a month in advance. This is because our Grand Lodge will communicate with their Grand Lodge and the Lodges you’ll be visiting on your behalf, ensuring a warm welcome.
- If you are not yet a Master Mason you can still travel through the Avouchment Process found in the CMC (808.030).
- In conclusion, Traveling is amazing and I highly recommend every Brother do it - be curious, ask questions about their Masonic experiences and thank everyone you talk to. Show the world why we are The Friendliest.

MASONIC Phun Photos



Quad 2nd Degree 2/27

Kaveh brought wages of Corn Wine and Oil for our new Fellowcrafts

Chris Martin, Patrick Labit, Ehsan Shafaei, and Joseph Parra

AAHMES SHRINE DIVAN BREAKFAST



New Beginnings Church
170 Lindbergh Avenue, Livermore
Saturday, March 23, 2024
Breakfast served at 10 a.m.

50/50 "Ears or Tails" Raffle
Gin Fizzes and Bloody Marys
Games and Egg Hunt



PLEASE RSVP TO THE SHRINE OFFICE 925-373-4880