

The Trestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 ☉ July 2024

Upcoming Events at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480

July 9th, 6:30 pm

Stated Meeting

Social Hour 5:30
Dinner 6:30
Meeting 7:30

July 20th, 5:00 pm

Orinda #122
Bloom-A-Palooza BBQ
Golden Veteran Doug
Bloom

6:00 pm to 9pm

July 24th, 7:00 pm

AFL Lodge #480
Masonic Education

Social Hour 6:00 pm
Program starts 7:00 pm

From the East

A message from Worshipful Bradley O. Rupert, PM

Hello from the East. Please note that **our stated meeting has been moved from July 2 to July 9th.**

I have been getting calls daily and don't want anyone to show up on the wrong date. We had another busy June with 3rd degrees. We had three 3rd degrees for our lodge in June on, 6/1 Joe Parra, on 6/8 Patrick Labit, and then on 6/15 Eshen Shafae. Please welcome AFL#480's three new 3rd degree master masons next time you see them.

In addition to our own third degrees we hosted a DOSI on the 3rd Degree 2nd section, and we assisted with a 3rd degree at **the new Seven Hills Lodge #881** in San

Francisco Grand Lodge. We were invited by **Worshipful Bob Strohmeyer** who is a joint member and current Master of Seven Hill #881. It was a beautiful degree and in a beautiful lodge room and dining



room. Our 3 new Master Masons Joe Parra, Patrick Labit, and Eshen Shafae were in attendance and thoroughly enjoyed the evening.. A good time was had by all and a special thank you to the members of Seven Hills #881 who hosted a dinner for everyone.

Worshipful DJ of Orinda Lodge #122 and Greg Bloom have invited members and family of AFL#480 to celebrate **Worshipful Greg Bloom's 50 years in Masonry**. The festivities will kick off with a Social at 6:00pm, followed by a Country BBQ Feast, prepared (against our protestations) by Wor. Bloom himself, with the able assistance of Wor. Sean Mergy. Presentation of the Golden Veteran's Award and 50-Year Pin to follow. **At Wor. Bloom's request, all proceeds will benefit our Masonic Youth Orders. Suggested Donation \$25 for Adults, \$15 for Children, Masonic Widows are Free.** You may also sponsor a Masonic Widow or make an additional donation to the Youth Orders with your RSVP. Look for details on the ticket order form. **Dress is Western Attire and there is a contest for best dressed.**

July is a dark month for degrees, but the lodge will be hosting our **1st Masonic Education night** at our lodge on **Wednesday July 24 at 7pm**. The committee **Kaveh Astaneh SD, Sunil Awasti Marshall, and Worshipful Michael Wilson PM** have been working diligently to come up with programs going forward. The first program will be on the origins and meaning of the "Walk About" lecture sometimes given to Hiram Award winners. Other ideas include demonstrating and discussing long form 1st and 3rd degree lectures, learning how to tie a bow tie and many others. If you have an idea or would like to see some specific masonic education please let one of the committee members know. Stay tuned, plenty more to come for the rest of 2024.

Fraternally yours, Aloha and Mahalo,

Brad Rupert - Master 2013 & 2024



From the West

Peter A. Peterson, Senior Warden

History! History! History!

We had the honor of assisting Seven Hills Lodge #881 raise one of their members to the 3rd Degree of Masonry. In addition to AFL#480, I counted three other lodges actively participating in one form or the other. What an outpouring of brotherly love and affection not only for the opportunity of working with Seven Hills Lodge, but also demonstrating to a newer Mason what those terms really mean.

The next evening, several of us were guests of La Parfaite Union No. 17 at their annual Feast of Saint John held at Grand Lodge. Reading in the program, I learned La Parfaite Union, “The French Lodge,” is the first non-English-speaking regular Masonic Lodge in California, receiving its charter in 1852. A beautiful event with more than 100 Masons from various lodges around the state in attendance.

Being a former eagle-eyed detective, I thought I found a misprint on their program. The brochure listed Friday, June 28, 6024 A.L. as the date of the event. I discreetly asked a French Lodge member about it and was informed the entry was correct and reflected the “Masonic calendar year,” which goes back millennia. .

I was a bit taken aback about the recognition of that ancient history and tried to put it in context of how long “Masonry” has existed and how it has survived the passage of time. Duh!!! I even gave a lecture on this sitting in the East.

Think about it. Civilizations have risen and fallen since our ancient guilds began building pyramids, Greek architecture, Roman roads, cathedrals, private and public works that have survived the ages. Contemplate all that has occurred in the world since the early 1700’s when Masonry began a transition from Operative to Speculative Masonry. We’ve weathered wars, political and religious upheaval, famine, pestilence, plague, and various and sundry natural disasters. **MASONRY HAS STILL SURVIVED!**



All that long Masonic history ultimately brought a few good men together from at least four Masonic lodges to help raise a brother to the sublime degree of Master Mason on June 23, 2024. And also brought good men from Masonic lodges throughout the State to enjoy fellowship with other good men on June 24, 2024, Saint John the Baptist Day.

To get there, think of the links that have occurred just since the early-1700's. One Mason at a time being raised and then assisting another good man getting raised. What a tradition! What a collection of ordinary and extraordinary men forming the bonds of true friendship and brotherhood over the decades, centuries and millennium.

A tradition that continues on and will carry on through Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 as new members join our fraternity - an example of which you will find under Masonic Education.

Pete Peterson

Senior Warden

From the South

Mark Williams, Junior Warden

Greetings from the South, Brethren! This month I would like to get a bit philosophical and personal about Freemasonry.

There is a phrase that we have all heard and probably shared... especially with prospects considering applying for the degrees of our Craft. "Freemasonry takes good men and makes them better!" I have been pondering this recently with some concern and frustration that we may not always observe this improvement occurring with all of the men that we initiate. It occurs to me (with respect to the tradition) that we may in fact

not "make good men better," but we do provide them with countless *opportunities* for these good men to improve *themselves* in Masonry. The men that I observe benefiting most in both our Lodge and other lodges and Masonic bodies are those who are seizing these opportunities. In fact, it is an important facet of our Craft that each man must embrace those opportunities of his *own free will and accord* and to strive to improve himself in Masonry and in life. Whether it is through contributions to the functioning and harmony of our Lodge, through personal education and participation in



concordant and appendant bodies, through charity work through Masonry or in the community, or just via the principals that he hears, studies, and integrates into himself, all of these (and many more) avenues are available to the man who becomes a Mason. But none is forced upon him. Personal initiative, desire to improve oneself, and commitment to the work must come from within each man. And to he who recognizes the vast resources and opportunities made available to him through his association with our gentle craft, the results can and will be life changing!

Cheers!

Mark Williams

Junior Warden

MASONIC EDUCATION

(Part 1)

The following is an example of how Masonry has survived over the centuries and will continue to survive into the future. One brother Mason asks a question, the answer to which may bring another good man into the fold. I've copied and pasted a message we received from one of *our* most recently raised Master Masons and a couple of the responses.

"Brothers, I got a question. Just crossed my mind and wanted to see your thoughts. Story is my wife went out with a friend yesterday and saw that I had a Freemason emblem on my car . She mentioned that her husband has always wanted to be a mason. Now my question is , I know we have our own investigation committee, but when you ever meet someone do you do your own questioning first ? Do you have a drink or meal and talk about their interests or do you let them find out for themselves ?"

Great question, and the wisdom to ask first for guidance on a subject many of us have asked about in the past. A couple of responses:

"Brother Joseph...good question and you'll probably get a better answer than this. He has to find his own way, but that doesn't mean you can't help him. You're not doing an investigation, you're just having a discussion and generally answering his questions regarding Masonry. (Remember your obligations.) We have a brochure you can give out. After that, it's up to him to decide if he wants to proceed."

and,

"Bro. Joe, good questions. Not only do you have an obligation to "keep the secrets" of Masonry confidential, you also have an obligation never to recommend anyone to a participation in our privileges unless you have reason to believe he would also be faithful to his obligations and ultimately reflect honor on our fraternity. It is often misunderstood that we cannot discuss Freemasonry with others. That's not the case at all. You have every ability to discuss your experiences with Freemasonry, what it has brought to your life and made you a better man. You can discuss the Craft's goal to make the world a better place, each one of

us, that it was when we came into it. You can discuss the vast majority of things about Freemasonry, aside from modes of recognition and other private matters. That includes all those things in our ritual and ceremonies that are “in the clear” (plain English, not cypher).”

Our website, as well as the Grand Lodge website, provides guidance on this subject. As mentioned above, we have brochures and pamphlets we can provide to those who have questions regarding Masonry in general. They also provide some guidance on membership. With a few restrictions, we are free to discuss our experiences in Masonry and how it has affected us and made us better men.

Our newly raised brother asking this question is an example of how Masonry has survived centuries and millennia of upheaval, unrest, and all the good and bad that has befallen us. One good man asking how he can help another, hopefully, good man become better! Maybe, decades or centuries into the future, that new good man’s Masonic descendent will be sitting in a Grand Lodge somewhere contemplating the history of how he got there.

(Part 2)

Worshipful Brad mentioned something new coming to our Lodge. Brothers Kaveh Astaneh and Sunil Awasti, mentored by Worshipful Mike Wilson PM, are developing what is hoped to be an ongoing Masonic Education program in our Lodge. Mark July 24, 7:00 pm, on your calendars for the first of many sessions. This “Walkabout” will feature explanations of officer roles in the lodge (we don’t just sit there and look pretty!), talk about various Lodge furnishings, and discuss basic Lodge etiquette. A light meal will be furnished to those attending, beginning at 6:00 pm, so please RSVP so we have an idea of how many to plan for.

It’s been many years since we’ve had brothers step up to take on this fun project and we’re looking forward to seeing you in attendance. This event is open to all Masons, especially newer brothers still feeling their way around Masonry, those who may be considering a larger role in our Lodge, and those who may have become inactive for whatever and are looking for a non-threatening way to get reacquainted with Masonry and Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480.

MASONIC Phun Photos

Joint 3rd Degree with Seven Hills Lodge #881 in San Francisco



Don't Miss - Saturday July 20th BBQ at Orinda Lodge

Celebrating Greg's 50 Years in Masonry

BLOOM-A-PALOOZA

WESTERN BBQ & GOLDEN VETERANS AWARD PRESENTATION

-HONORING WOR. GREG BLOOM - PROCEEDS BENEFIT OUR MASONIC YOUTH-

Officers AFL#480 2024

Master Bradley O. Rupert, PM	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	Marshal Sunil K. Awasti
Senior Deacon Kaveh Astaneh	Junior Deacon Christopher D. Benz
Senior Steward Robert M. Seitelman	Junior Steward Michael A. McNulty
Organist John Minagro	Tiler Mark Collins

2024 AFL#480 Committees

Executive Committee

Brad Rupert, Master PM - Chair
Pete Peterson, Senior Warden
Mark Williams, Junior Warden
David L. Kreutzinger, Treasurer
Randy Tolerton, Secretary

Charity Committee

Brad Rupert, Master PM - Chair
Pete Peterson, Senior Warden
Mark Williams, Junior Warden
Randy Tolerton - Sec PM

Auditing Committee

Pete Peterson, - Senior Warden - Chair
Gary Sparks, Assistant Sec PM
Keveh Astaneh, Senior Deacon

Member Retention Committee

Randy Tolerton, Secretary - Chair
Tom Riley, PM
Fred Lezak, Marshal

Sunshine Committee

Frank Shoffner, Chaplain - Chair
Tom Riley, PM
John Minagro, Organist

Dining Committee

Mark Williams, Junior Warden - Chair
Chris Benz - Junior Deacon
Rob Seitelman, Senior Steward
Keveh Astaneh, Senior Deacon

Life Membership Committee

Randy Tolerton, Secretary - Chair
Ryder Brose - President
Paul Crawford - VC Chair
Tom Reilly - Member
Fred Lezak - Member
Mark Williams, ex-officio
Brad Rupert, ex-officio
Pete Peterson, ex-officio

Endowment Committee

Randall Tolerton - Secretary/Chair
Adam Hanin - Chair
Ryder Brose - President

