

The Trestleboard

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 ☉ February 2025
925 Moraga Road
(Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1)
Lafayette, CA 94549

Upcoming Events at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480

February 4th 7:30 pm

[Stated Meeting](#)

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

February 16th 10:00 am

Lodge Work Party

February 26th 6:00 pm

[Masonic Education](#)

Light Refreshments 6:00 pm
Program 6:30 PM

From the East

A message from Worshipful Peter A Peterson

Still in one piece, and not going to quit! Pretty full of myself sitting in the East as Master for the first time. Gavelled when I should have and didn't gavel when I shouldn't. Things were going well until I muttered the words: "All Masters and Past Masters..." My many bumps and bruises have healed after that friendly assault.

I'm blessed and continue to marvel at our many brother's dedication to the Craft. Our JW Kaveh led our efforts, in coordination with Orinda Lodge No 122, supporting Martinez Lodge No 41's charity drive in support of fire relief efforts in Los Angeles.



Many brothers from Acalanes Fellowship Lodge and Orinda Lodge responded to the call of help to sort, and donate, supplies to be sent to a Masonic Lodge down south for distribution. You'll see some photos below. I know we had one or two other brothers assisting other lodges as well.

Our annual Crab Feed will be over by the time you read this. What an incredible evening! Our SW Mark worked tirelessly the past couple of months putting teams together to make sure the event would be a success. A lot of unseen and unappreciated work goes on behind the scenes to make this annual fundraiser successful. Many, many brothers volunteered to assist. Many donated items for our auction.

We had youth from DeMolay, Jobs Daughters and Rainbow Girls on hand to assist. These three youth organizations are composed of exceptional young men and women. You might want to look into these groups if you have younger kids who want to gain leadership, and other skills, which will help them become successful in life.

Our JW Kaveh and our Tiler Joe have been talking about putting together a monthly family night, involving spouses and kids. Many of our younger brothers work and have families, and can't always get away to join us in our monthly meetings or other events. We don't want to lose them and this idea was proposed as a way to keep them involved. Plans are evolving, but suggestions include having games set up, show a movie, card games, board games, etc. You get the idea. Pencil in on your calendars Saturday, March 1 for our kickoff event.

Junior Deacon Sunil (also Hall Association Vice President) has scheduled a Lodge cleanup day on Sunday, February 15, at 10:00 am. There's a lot of little things - cleaning, minor repairs, etc. - that needs to be done to keep our building in good shape. This work doesn't happen on its own. Big jobs-little jobs, we can use your help.

A continued shoutout to JW Kaveh, JD Sunil and PM, Worshipful Mike Wilson for their ongoing Masonic Education nights. We had three prospective members sign up to attend the January 29 meeting. These events are open to all, and all are encouraged to attend!

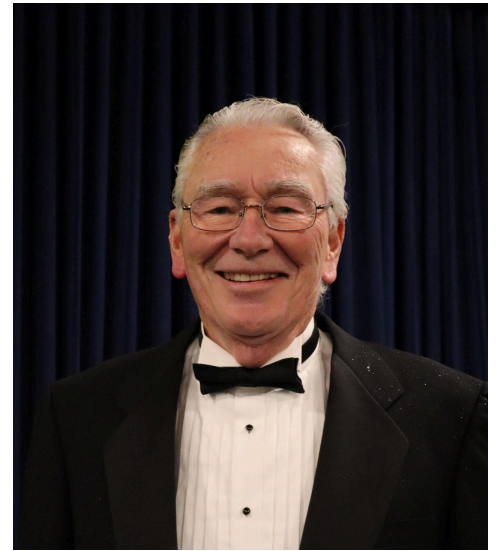
Fraternally yours,

Pete Peterson - Master 2025

From the West

Mark Williams, Senior Warden

Greetings from the West! As I write this we have just completed a very successful Crab Feed event evening... and I think everyone in attendance had a great time and enjoyed a wonderful crab and/or steak dinner, good fellowship, and a fun silent auction. This is a “signature” yearly event; one that had been going on for many years before I joined the Lodge 15 years ago. Tradition is a big component of Freemasonry, and our Crab Feed is certainly a tradition of Acalanes Fellowship Lodge!



But I particularly want to share my experience and observation of the incredible teamwork, cooperation, and contribution of so many of our AFL 480 Brothers. Many of our Brothers started Friday evening, and then from Saturday morning until late that evening to make sure that all aspects of this event went off smoothly and that all of our Brothers, family, and friends had the best experience possible. It is a part of Masonry (and our Lodge) to be willing to step up and work tirelessly for the benefit of all. We even had some Brothers who, due to conflicts could not attend the event, but found a way to contribute ahead of time! And at this event we even saw family and friends step up and pitch in. It seems our “contribution ethic” runs so deeply that it is difficult to be around us without jumping in! Many of our “newer” Brothers (some not really that new to us anymore) responded and cheerfully took on any and every task requested... and even if they had never done it before they did not hesitate to do the job. And they did it well! Many, many thanks to all who contributed.

It was just very personally rewarding to me to see the Brothers of our Lodge demonstrating the principles and qualities that we espouse and value so much. Often the greatest bonding experiences that we have as Masons is when we all work together for a common goal. This year’s Crab Feed event was an outstanding example of that. Thank you all again!

Fraternally -

Mark Williams, Senior Warden

From the South

Kaveh Astaneh, Junior Warden

The Tenet of Relief

My Brothers, one of the most fundamental tenets of Freemasonry is Relief—the duty to aid and support those in need, be they our Brothers, their families, or our wider communities. Relief is more than just charity; it is the active expression of our Masonic obligation to lighten the burdens of others through acts of kindness, service, and generosity.

In our lodge, we have seen outstanding examples of Masonic relief in action. Several of our brethren gathered donations to support Martinez #41 in supporting those who lost everything in the fires down south, ensuring that much-needed assistance reached those who required it most. Brother Joseph Parra took it upon himself to personally drive down to Los Angeles, with the Brothers of Martinez, to complete the final leg of the donation drive—an act of dedication and selfless service that embodies the spirit of Relief.

Brother Tim Wilbur, exemplifies Relief in another way. Each year, he dons the red suit of Santa Claus and visits the children at the Shriners Children’s Hospital in Sacramento. His presence, bringing joy and comfort to those facing medical challenges, is a powerful reminder that Relief is not only material but also emotional and spiritual.

Brother Frank Shoffner demonstrates yet another form of Relief—companionship. He makes it a priority to regularly meet with our Brethren for lunch and on Sundays at the Canyon Club, ensuring that no Brother feels disconnected or forgotten. Loneliness can be as heavy a burden as any other hardship, and through his efforts, Brother Frank offers the relief of Brotherly Love and Fellowship.

As the weather improves, I will be organizing a “garden crew” to help maintain the lawns and yards of our Masonic community who are unable to do so themselves. Whether due to age, illness, or other circumstances, some of our Brothers and widows struggle with this simple task, and we, as Masons, have the ability to offer Relief by giving our time and labor to ease their burdens.

How can you provide Relief?

Supporting Masonic Widows and Families - Many Masonic widows and families may struggle in silence. A simple visit, assistance with errands, or offering a helping hand can make a significant impact.

Mentoring - whether guiding new Masons in their journey or volunteering time to mentor local youth in need, sharing our knowledge and experience can provide invaluable Relief.

Food and Shelter Assistance - We can organize food drives for local shelters, volunteer at soup kitchens, or even help build and repair homes for those in need through Masonic or community-based programs.

Disaster Relief Efforts - In times of crisis, Masons have always stepped forward to aid those affected by natural disasters. Whether through donations, rebuilding efforts, or logistical support, we can stand ready to assist.

Organizing a Lodge Charity Event - Hosting a fundraiser, charity dinner, or auction to support a local cause or Masonic charity can be a great way to make a broader impact.

Brethren, Relief is at the core of who we are as Masons. It is not just a word, but a way of life—an obligation we willingly take upon ourselves. Whether through grand gestures or small daily acts of kindness, every effort to provide Relief strengthens our Brotherhood and our community.

I look forward to any and all of your ideas that will produce Relief and together we can show our communities and the world who we are and what we are capable of.

“Knowing is not enough, we must apply; Willing is not enough, we must do.” - Brother Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

Fraternally

Br. Kaveh, Junior Warden

Fraternally - *Kaveh Astaneh, Junior Warden*



Calendar of Events

2025 February

**Acalanes #480
Birth & Raised Date
Calendar**

B: Birthday
R: MM Raised Date



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	01 Crab Feed B: Robert Seitelman
02 B: Noah Maier	03	04 Stated Meeting R: Michael McNulty	05 B: Russell Kenndeg B: Robert Uffens	06	07	08 B: John Osborne
09	10	11 B: Robert Kaleta R: Weston Wheatley	12 B: Harvey Uhl	13 B: Fraser Marshall	14 B: Daniel Argueta	15 Sweet Hearts Luncheon
16 Lodge Work Party R: Chandler Eason R: Michael Kenny	17	18 DOSI: Bay Cities B: Gary Charland R: Terry Kilgore	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 R: Cody Wilbur	26 Masonic Education R: Noah Maier	27 B: Jared Huddleston B: Robert Knebel	28 R: Gerald Walker R: Darren Fanelli R: Raymond Franklin	01
02	03	Reminders: Crab Feed on 2/1/2025 Next Months Stated Meeting: 3/4/2025				

Links to register for events (click to register)

[Stated Meeting, February 4th](#)

[Masonic Education, Masonic Education, February 26th](#)

MASONIC Phun Photos

Fire Relief Efforts



Whole bunch of donations at Martinez Lodge to be sorted. Many hands at work.



**Acalanes Fellowship Lodge & Orinda Lodge - Working together!
Weston, Westley, W. Carey, Brandon, Kaveh, Sunil, Joseph - Great job!**

ACALANES FELLOWSHIP LODGE #480 MASONIC EDUCATION NIGHT 01/29/2025



“THE IMPACT OF MASONS IN CALIFORNIA”

PRESENTED BY:

BROTHERS KAVEH, SUNIL
AND G. MICHAEL

VISIT [HTTPS://FREEMASON.ORG/](https://freemason.org/) FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ARE YOU A MASON? LOG IN TO YOUR [MEMBER](#) ACCOUNT AT
FREEMASON.ORG > RESOURCES



Taking a brain break! Thanks for your efforts Kaveh, Sunil & Worshipful Mike.

Crab Feed 2/1/2025



Don't argue W. Terry, the woman is always right!



Crab feed crew hard at work!



Officers baked goods for the auction.



Third helpings!



Officers AFL #480 2025

<p>Master Peter A. Peterson 925-487-2725</p>	<p>Senior Warden Mark A. Williams 925-285-0630</p>
<p>Junior Warden Kaveh Astaneh 925-437-6016</p>	<p>Treasurer Rob Seitelman 415-310-8563</p>
<p>Secretary Gary D. Sparks, PM 707-803-9385</p>	<p>Chaplain Franklin H. Shoffner</p>
<p>Assistant Secretary C. Randall Tolerton, PM</p> <p>Senior Deacon Christopher D. Benz</p> <p>Senior Steward Eshan Shafae</p>	<p>Marshal Cody Wilbur</p> <p>Junior Deacon Sunil Awasti</p> <p>Junior Steward William P. Labit</p>
<p>Organist John Minagro</p>	<p>Tiler Joseph Parra</p>

2025 AFL #480 Committees

Executive Committee

Pete Peterson, Master - Chair
Mark Williams, Senior Warden
Kaveh Astaneh, Junior Warden
Rob Seitleman, Treasurer
Gary Sparks, PM, Secretary

Auditing Committee

Mark Williams, Senior Warden - Chair
Kaveh Astaneh, Junior Warden
Sunil Awasti, Junior Deacon

Sunshine Committee

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

Life Membership Committee

Randy Tolerton, PM, Asst. Secty - Chair
Ryder Brose - President
Paul Crawford - Vice Chair
Tom Riley, PM - Member
Fred Lezak - Member
Pete Peterson - Ex Officio
Mark Williams - Ex Officio
Kaveh Astaneh - Ex Officio

Charity Committee

Pete Peterson, Master - Chair
Mark Williams, Senior Warden
Kaveh Astaneh, Junior Warden
Randy Tolerton, PM, Asst. Secretary

Member Retention Committee

Gary Sparks, PM, Secretary - Chair
Tom Riley, PM
Kaveh Astaneh, Junior Warden

Dining Committee

Kaveh Astaneh, Junior Warden - Chair
Chris Benz, Senior Deacon
Eshan Shafae, Senior Steward
Patrick Labit, Junior Steward

Endowment Committee

Randall Tolerton, PM, Asst. Secty - Chair
Adam Hanin, PM - Vice Chair
Ryder Brose - President

Prospect Committee

Gary Spakes, PM, Secretary - Chair
Mark Williams, Senior Warden
Kaveh Astaneh, Junior Warden