

The Trestleboard

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

Upcoming Events at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480

October 7 7:30 pm

[Stated Meeting](#)

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

October 11 9:00 am

Third Degree Wesley Brown

[Sign-up Link](#)

October 18 6:00 pm

[Whiskey Tasting](#)

Scholarship Fundraiser

From the East

A message from Worshipful Peter A Peterson

Got nothing. Got nothing. (and more) Got nothing!!

My deep thinking “magic” is taking a vacation so this month’s column will be a hodgepodge of observations and comments on various topics. More like our monthly Bits & Pieces Section.



It’s obvious we’re coming towards the end of the year. What may not be obvious is the work going on behind the scenes in preparation for our next Masonic year. While subject to member vote, our projected new Master, Senior Warden and Senior Deacon have been working on proficiencies for their 2026 roles. They must demonstrate to our District Inspector mastery of their new roles by the end of October. All the while doing memory work for the various degrees we have been conducting. As part of this preparation, they will be sitting in advanced stations during our October meeting. I encourage you to come to the meeting and see these men work in their new 2026 stations.

If you weren’t there, you missed out on a very fun and festive time when we co-hosted a Grand Lodge reception for our Secretary, Worshipful Gary Sparks PM, who was appointed as a 2025 Assistant Grand Lecturer. A whole lot of Grand Lodge dignitaries and brothers from not only our Lodge, but also members from Martinez Lodge where he is also a member, and members of Lodges he previously presided over as District Inspector.

You may get a similar opportunity in 2026. It has been announced that three members of our Lodge have been nominated to the 2026 Grand Lodge line (subject to vote at the October Grand Lodge Communication): Worshipful Adam Hanin PM has been nominated to one of the Assistant Grand

Lecturer positions, Worshipful Gary Sparks PM has been renominated as an Assistant Grand Lecturer, and Worshipful G. Michael Wilson PM has been nominated as Assistant Chaplain. Worshipful Wilson's Blue Lodge is located in that City by the Bay and it is my guess they will hold his reception. Lots of fun stuff!

We also had a booth at the recent Lafayette Art & Wine Festival. We shared the booth with youth orders from Orinda Lodge. What a blessing that was! It was the enthusiasm of DeMolay and Job's Daughters that got everyone's attention, drawing them to our booth. We were able to pass out literature on Masonry as well as information regarding the Shrine Hospital. Hopefully, we will pick up a few prospects from the people we had conversations with. We plan to participate again in 2026 and I encourage you to sign up for a shift at the booth.

Coming up:

- We will conduct a 3rd Degree raising for FC Wesley Brown on October 11. If you've been following the Phun Photos in previous Trestleboards you will know Wesley has been an active participant in our many activities since he was first initiated. Please come out and enjoy the experience of his raising and stay for lunch afterwards if you can. The link to the event is above.
- If you haven't been following, we have provided scholarships to three Acalanes HS seniors since this program was initiated. Our target demographic is students who get decent, but not necessarily great grades. Those kids who may not receive academic credit for extra curricular participation because they may have to work to help support their family, or may have to babysit siblings while mom and dad work. They may not be able to participate in sports activities for the same reasons. The program is obviously a hit as we continue to receive individual donations from members in support of public education. We held a very successful fundraiser at our 2024 *Whiskey Tasting Seminar with brothers from other lodges in attendance as well. We will hold another Whiskey Tasting Seminar on Saturday, October 18, at 6:00 pm. Refreshments will be served. Those of you looking for a drunk-fest will be disappointed. This is a true, formal whiskey tasting and educational event. You may even hear some bagpipe music. The sign-up link is above.*
- You should know our Chaplain, Frank Shoffner, was selected to receive the 2025 Hiram Award. The ceremony will be held at our lodge on Saturday, November 1, at 5:00 pm. Look for a sign-up flier soon.

Fraternally yours,
Pete Peterson - Master 2025

From the West

Mark Williams, Senior Warden

Greetings!

As we move into October with a busy Lodge/Masonic calendar, I wanted to take this opportunity to focus on one particular upcoming event this month. On Thursday, October 9 we will be hosting an Informational Open House open to anyone who wants to know more about Freemasonry. This event was promoted at the Lafayette Arts and Wine Festival and we also have a big banner on the side of our building advertising it. The reason for my attention to this one event (I will add some comments about other events at the end of this article) is that it reminds us that while we do not believe that our Lodge and Masonry is a secret, there is a lack of awareness and understanding from the general public. Does this keep potential prospects from reaching out to find out more? I believe that it might, and also that this unawareness promulgates misconceptions and misunderstandings. Above and beyond that, though, an event like this gives us an opportunity to reflect on our ancient and honorable fraternity and what it means to us. And then how to communicate and share that meaning with those who are unfamiliar (and possibly biased) about our craft. I know that as I am preparing for this event, I have been reflecting and reviewing information sources (ones that are accurate representations!) and considering the best way to share these in a meaningful way. The success of this event will depend at some level on how many of our Brothers attend and share. Please consider joining in... whether you have been a Mason for decades or just months. I anticipate that there will be an opportunity to share your own Masonic history and experience, what is most meaningful to you about Masonry, and why you became a Mason and continue to “pursue your labors” in the craft. While we don’t recruit, it is appropriate to share information, perspective, and awareness with the public so that if Freemasonry resonates with someone, they can approach us of their own free will and accord about how they may be able to become a Mason.



One other event that I do want to remind you of is our 2nd Annual Whiskey Seminar on Saturday, October 18. This is a fundraiser for our scholarship program and is open to all... bring a friend! The cost is \$75 (actually less than last year!) and will focus on North American whiskeys this year. Feel free to contact me for more information. mark51@outlook.com or call/text to 925-285-0630.

Fraternally,

Mark Williams, Senior Warden

From the South

Br. Kaveh, Junior Warden

Greetings Brethren,

Fall is here, and with it comes new opportunities to walk together—on the trail, in the community, and as a Lodge.



Footsteps and Fellowship

Our rebranded hiking club is off to a strong start! In September, we hiked Larkey Park and Castle Rock, with more adventures planned. As weather shifts, we'll explore paved paths like Heather Farms or neighborhood walks. Join us for the next Sunday morning hike on October 5th.

Youth Group Spotlight at Art & Wine

Job's Daughters and the Lamorinda Chapter of DeMolay joined us for the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival, bringing energy and excitement to our booth. It was their first time participating in such a large public event—and they left a great impression. Looking ahead, I've submitted my application to become an advisor for DeMolay to help deepen our lodge's connection to the youth.

You don't need to be a parent—just a good man willing to help.

👉 norcaldemolay.com/chapters/lamorinda-chapter

Recognition at Annual Communication

We're proud to continue our tradition of 100% Officer Giving. Thank you to all who stepped up—your generosity strengthens our Lodge and sets a great example.

And now for something different

Masonic Trick-or-Treat: A Symbolic Breakdown

A playful look at Halloween symbols through a Masonic lens:

-  Spider Webs - Brotherhood and interconnectedness.
-  Witch's Hat - A whimsical nod to ancient wisdom and pointed enlightenment.
-  Skulls & Skeletons - Mortality and the importance of making life meaningful.
-  Ghosts - The unseen soul, and the immortality of the spirit.
-  Haunted Houses - The inner Temple of the mind, waiting to be explored.
-  Candlelight - The guiding light of truth and knowledge.

Halloween reminds us that symbols are everywhere—if you know how to see them.

Fraternally,

Br. Kaveh, Junior Warden

Calendar of Events

2025 October Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 Birth & Raised Date Calendar B: Birthday R: MM Raised Date 						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	01	02 B: Derek Walter	03 B: Oscar Dryden	04 B: Michael Roberts
05	06	07 Stated Meeting	08 B: Seth Wilson	09 B: Richard Maxwell	10	11
12	13 R: Richard Keihner	14	15 B: Max King	16 DOSI: Oakland #61	17	18
19 B: Michael Weis B: Donald Freitas	20 R: John Hager	21	22 R: Allan Houlbert	23	24 R: Marion Rogers	25
26 R: Fraser Marshall R: Kevin Moore	27 B: Raymond Franklin	28	29	30 R: Thomas Riley	31 B: G. Michael Wilson B: Gerald Walker R: Adam Hanin	01
02	03	Reminders: Next Months Stated Meeting: 11/4/2025. DOSI: 11/16/2025 at Oakland #61				

MASONIC Phun Photos



DeMolay Reeling
them in With a
Plinko Board



Jobs Daughters Plinko Experts!



JW Asteneh and SS
Shafae receiving
their Shrine Fez



JW Asteneh and Master Mason DeRouen finally finished setting up our booth!

Set-up "Committee" for the Grand Lodge Reception















Fun at the Grand Lodge Reception for W. Gary Sparks











Footsteps and Fellowship!!



September DOSI at the lodge



Kaveh (behind the camera) and Darren, hanging out with their dogs, enjoying some refreshing fellowship!

Officers AFL #480 2025

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

2025 AFL #480 Committees

Executive Committee

Pete Peterson, Master - Chair
Kaveh Astaneh, Junior Warden
Gary Sparks, PM, Secretary

Charity Committee

Mark Williams, Senior Warden
Rob Seitelman, Treasurer
Randy Tolerton, PM, Asst. Secretary

Auditing Committee

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

Member Retention Committee

Gary Sparks, PM, Secretary - Chair
Tom Riley, PM

Sunshine Committee

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

Dining Committee

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

Life Membership Committee

Randall Tolerton, PM, Asst. Secty - Chair
Ryder Brose - President
Paul Crawford - Vice Chair
Tom Riley, PM - Member
Fred Lezak - Member

Endowment Committee

Ryder Brose - President
Adam Hanin, PM - Vice Chair

Prospect Committee

Pete Peterson - Ex Officio
Mark Williams - Ex Officio
Kaveh Astaneh - Ex Officio

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