
THE TRESTLEBOARD

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge # 480, F&AM

"The Friendly Lodge"

October 2006

From The East

Allan Casalou

Worshipful Master

Ah, the autumn is upon us. There's a special spirit to this time of year – one that brings people together for joy and celebration. There will be nothing less in our lodge as we plan for our own gatherings and celebrations.

The 157th Annual Communication will commence on Sunday, October 8 with the Public Opening of the Grand Lodge. As part of the event, the Grand Master will recognize California Masons who serve as police officers and firefighters. State CHP Commissioner Mike Brown will be in attendance. Also, the keynote speaker will be former FDNY Fire Chief Richard Picciotto – the highest ranking fire official to survive the collapse of the World Trade Center. Picciotto was between the sixth and seventh floors of the Tower I when it collapsed.

On Monday night the Oklahoma Indian Degree team will confer the third degree on the stage in auditorium. At the same time, the Grand Lodge will present a play for the ladies – "Stone Heart: Everyone Loves a Journey West." It is a story of Sacajawea and her travels with Lewis and Clarke. Both programs begin at 7:30 p.m. A joint reception will follow. **Brother Jim Chamberlain** is coordinating attendance from our lodge.

On October 24 we will confer the third degree for **Brother Jeremy Branch**. The degree will begin at 7:00 p.m. We will have refreshments afterward.

At the September Stated Meeting, I announced that our 2006 Hiram Award recipient is **Worshipful V.O. Hughes**. He has been a loyal supporter of the lodge for years so please plan to attend the dinner and presentation on Saturday, November 11. See the details inside the Trestleboard.

Before the October Stated Meeting, we will have raised **Brother Ray Sevilla** to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. The degree was held at Seminoff Temple on the grounds of the Masonic Home in Union City. Speaking of the Stated Meeting, make your reservations for the dinner now. It is sure to be a nice meal and remember to bring your wife if she wants to join you. That night we will present a Masonic Bible to **Brother Eric Besag**. Apparently this was overlooked when we conferred his third degree several years ago.

Upcoming Events:

Stated Meeting Dinner

Oct. 3rd, Social Gathering: 6:30pm
Dinner: 7:00pm
Stated Meeting: 8:00pm

Third Degree - Br. Jeremy Branch

October 24th - 7:00 PM at the Lodge

Hiram Award Presentation & Dinner

Nov. 11th, Social Gathering: 5:00pm
Presentation: 6:00pm
Dinner: 6:30pm

Reservations: (800) 419-0819, ext 2, or,
by e-mail to RSVP@acalanes.org, or,
on-line at www.Acalanes.org.

On-line reservations can be paid for using your major credit card or check debit card.



So enjoy the spirit of the autumn season. Gather with your family and friends to celebrate life. Come to lodge and forge an even stronger bond or friendship. Join us as we raise a glass to our worthy brothers and delight in their achievements. Write us and tell us about the joys in your life so we may find happiness in them.

Together we will wield the mighty trowel of Brotherly Love and our hearts will be filled with happiness.

Faternally,

Allan Casalou
Master



Third Degree Anniversaries

DONALD J. AUER

October 15, 1968

WAYNE ALLEN BARR

October 28, 1946

RICHARD RAWLINGS CELESTRE

October 14, 1972

DONALD KENNETH CHAMBERS

October 15, 1948

ANDREW CHAVEZ CRATSENBERG

October 15, 1957

CALVIN K. CRAWFORD

October 25, 1975

JAMES VERNON DAVEY

October 25, 1955

FRANK PONTI ESSERT

October 26, 1985

JOHN EDWARD HAGER

October 20, 1984

LEE B. HERTZBERG

October 19, 1950

PETER CARL HJERSMAN

October 2, 1999

HENRY LEE HOFFMAN

October 23, 1962

CONRAD K. LARSON

October 8, 1978

LEONARD ALVIN LOVE

October 24, 1992

KEVIN SPENCER MOORE

October 26, 1991

GEORGE RAY PECK

October 22, 1985

THOMAS EUGENE RILEY III

October 30, 1984

JAMES JOHN SCRIBER

October 27, 1987

GEORGE L. SNELL

October 30, 1962

DONALD BARNES STRAIN

October 25, 1938

DONALD BERT STUART

October 24, 1973

THEODORE DAVID ZELLER

October 30, 1962

~ Life Membership Program ~

As we move into the closing months of 2006, this might be a good time to remind members about our Life Membership Program. Life members pay a one time dues payment based their current age and our current dues. After that, no more dues payments! The money is invested in our Life Membership Fund, the principal of which may never be touched. Currently, income from our Life Membership Fund accounts for 24% of Lodge revenue.

Here are some cost estimates based on 2006 calculations:

Under age 49, 21 times annual dues (currently \$2,142);
50 to 54 inclusive, 19 times annual dues (currently \$1,938);
55 to 59 inclusive, 17 times annual dues (currently \$1,734);
60 to 64 inclusive, 14 times annual dues (currently \$1,428);
65 and over, 11 times annual dues (currently \$1,122);

As you may have noticed, we are living longer. Many brothers who purchased their Life Membership in their 60's and 70's have already passed the "break even" point and can enjoy the peace of mind knowing that their membership in our Lodge and Fraternity is set for life. For more information, please contact our Treasurer, Stephen Galop, at (800) 671-1677.

In 2006 we added two Life Members and we would like to thank them for their participation: John Mulhall of Seattle, Washington, and Roger Poynts of Moraga, California.

Charitable Giving Update

This year Acalanes Fellowship ranked 13 statewide in terms of charitable giving. In a July 25th letter, Grand Master Frederick Sorsabal expressed his appreciation to the members of Acalanes and his compliments to our Master.

Lodge ranking is determined by a formula based on both participation and gift size. This year, as last, **Brother Robert Strohmeyer** has served as our Fraternal Support Services Ambassador. Thank you, Robert, for a job well done, and a heartfelt thank you to our members for their generosity!

The Sweethearts of Acalanes Fellowship

They are the widows of our departed brothers, affectionately known as our "Sweethearts." It is important to us that they know how important they are to us, and that they remain a part of our Acalanes Fellowship Family. To that end, **Br. Al Weis** and his lovely wife **Virginia** have set out on a project to make sure we have the correct contact information for all our Sweethearts. A hundred letters, including a questionnaire and return envelop were sent to each Sweetheart along with a personal letter from Al and Ginny.

Not only are our Sweethearts welcomed to all our social events, they are also invited, as guests of the Lodge, to the dinners that precede our monthly Stated Meeting.

Our Annual Sweethearts Luncheon will be held at the Lodge on December 16th. The members of the Lodge are highly encouraged to come out and join in the festivities!

Roster of Officers 2006

Allan L. Casalou, Master
alcasalou@acalanes.org
(415) 292-9136

Don Carter, Sr Warden
dcarter@acalanes.org

Robert Strohmeyer, Jr Warden
rstrohmeyer@acalanes.org

Stephen Galop, Treasurer
sgalop@acalanes.org
(800) 671-1677

Franz Chavez, Secretary
fchavez@acalanes.org

Brian James, Chaplain
bjames@acalanes.org
(925) 935-5812

Dennis Rogers, Sr Deacon
drogers@acalanes.org

Jim Chamberlain, Jr Deacon
jchamberlain@acalanes.org

Charlie Toll, Marshal

Randy Tolerton, Sr Steward
lrtolerton@acalanes.org

Larry Strohmeyer, Jr Steward
lstrohmeyer@acalanes.org

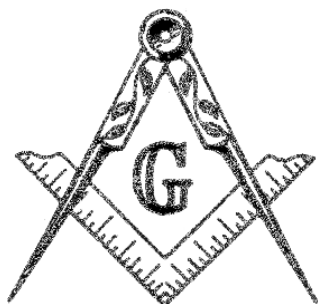
Ken Branch, Tyler
kbranch@acalanes.org

Roger Poynts, Social Committee
poynts@acalanes.org

Bill Adams, Inspector
wadams@acalanes.org

Lodge Phone: (800) 419-0819

Web-site:
www.Acalanes.org



Know Your Officers

By Randy Tolerton

This on-going monthly series introduces our Officer Corps. This month Randy profiles our Jr. Warden, Br. Robert Strohmeyer.

Larry Strohmeyer (L)
Robert Strohmeyer (R)



Several months ago we profiled Acalanes fellowship Junior Steward **Larry Strohmeyer** and today we have the pleasure of introducing our honorable Jr. Warden, and son of Larry, **Robert Strohmeyer**.

Robert was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1972 and lived there until he was three years old. He and his family moved to Arizona when his father was transferred due to his position with Carnation Foods. Eight years later, the Strohmeyers moved to Danville, CA. so Robert's father could start a new and exciting career with RJR/Nabisco. Robert attended Monte Vista High School, graduated from San Francisco State University and, having studied Creative Writing, choose a career in magazine publishing.

Robert's first editorial job was at a San Francisco TV station during his junior year of college. By the time he graduated he was already working full-time at a national technology magazine.

For a short period after graduating from college, and before returning to the larger world of tech publishing, Robert took a job as the managing editor of Diablo Magazine in Walnut Creek, CA. Today he is the editor-in-chief of Windows Vista Magazine, which is published in partnership with Microsoft at Future Publishing in South San Francisco.

Robert first took an interest in Masonry after hearing stories about his great grandfather, who was a Mason in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Robert decided a life of Freemasonry was one of his interests. He was sponsored by two of his hometown friends, **Erik Peterson, PM** and **Bro. Mark Johnson**. He received his initiation together with Randy Tolerton and Jim Chamberlain at Mendocino Lodge in August of 2004. Robert has been a significant contributor to the lodge. In addition to having served as Sr. Stewart and Jr. Warden, Robert also serves as our Fraternal Support Ambassador (2005 & 2006), and has previously served as Trestleboard Editor and webmaster.

Robert and Larry Strohmeyer are a prime example of a father-and-son Masonic tradition. One unique fact is that Robert joined the lodge first. It was Robert who encouraged his father's to become a member. To this day, one of Robert's favorite things about the fraternity is the time he gets to spend with his father during Masonic events.



Members' Corner

Br. Marvin Crosser was kind enough to share this picture from his July 11th visit to the Lodge (top). Br. Crosser has been a member of our Lodge since 1951 and currently resides in Boise, Idaho.

Congratulations to our own **Worshipful Allan Casalou** (pictured above with Br. Crosser) who has been re-appointed as Asst. Grand Secretary. He, and the other Grand Lodge Officers, will be installed October 11th at Grand Lodge for the 2006/2007 Masonic Year.

Speaking of out of state brothers, we were happy to see **Br. Hal Gates** at the September 5th Stated Meeting Dinner. Hal is the past President of our Temple Board and currently resides in Johns Creek, Georgia. By the way, he was really impressed with the quality of the food!

Speaking of out of state brothers, we had the opportunity to speak with **Br. Clyde Miller**. He and his wife have lived in Alabama for the past 20 years. Br. Miller will turn 86 on November 2nd, and still goes to the gym three times a week! Br. Clyde received his degrees in Fellowship Lodge #480 in 1949 and 1950 and has been a member ever since. God bless you, Brother!

Br. Gerald Walker was kind to take a moment from a recent Hawaiian vacation to send a post card to his brothers at home. He wrote "Come on over." So, when is the next trip, Brother, I'll start packing!

One of our Sweethearts, **Hester Hargrave**, has moved to Hawaii to be closer to her daughter and son-in-law. Hester's father, H. Harvey Hitchcock was a Past Master of Honolulu Lodge. Hester's late husband, **G. Carlton Hargrave** was Past Master of our lodge (1974).

Members' Corner - cont.

Br. Jonathan Del Arroz (EA) has accepted a position in Southern California and will be completing his degrees at Newport Mesa Lodge #604. Jonathan promises to visit us whenever he is in Northern California ... and we will be looking forward to those visits. Best of luck, brother!

Sweetheart **Flora Bither** wrote in to let us know she will not be able to attend the Sweethearts luncheon as she now lived in Southern California. She keeps busy with an organization called Stitches from the Heart who makes baby blankets, booties and sweaters for premature babies and ships them to hospitals nationwide. What a great endeavor! Thank you for writing, Flora.

We received a touching letter from Sweetheart **Dolly Baines**. Dolly's late husband, **Robert**, received his degrees at Suisun #55 in 1955 and affiliated with Acalanes in 1986. In the spring of this year Dolly moved to Kansas to be closer to her family. She misses our Masonic functions, and looks forward to keeping up with us through the Trestleboard. God bless you, Dolly, and all our Sweethearts!



A MASON'S WIFE

- Author Unknown

From active Masons, resolute,
Our wives and fam'lies we salute;
We surely know the price you pay,
Who sit alone while we're away;
No high degrees on you conferred,
In Lodge, your name is seldom heard;
You serve our cause though out of sight,
While sitting home alone tonight;
Masonic papers list our names,
Awards are given, fit to frame;
But yours is absent...you who strive,
To keep our fortitude alive;
You're part of every helpful deed,
On your encouragement we feed;
Without your blessings, how could we,
Continue acts of charity?
And so, this poem, we dedicate,
To every Master Mason's mate;
And offer our undying love,
Rewards await in Heaven above.

ACALANES FELLOWSHIP LODGE NO 480

HIRAM AWARD PRESENTATION AND BANQUET

IN HONOR OF OUR 2006 RECIPIENT

BRO. VENGIE HUGHES, PM



Saturday
November 11th, 2006

SOCIAL: 5:00 PM
PRESENTATION: 6:00 PM
DINNER: 6:30 PM

\$15.00 PER PERSON FOR DINNER

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS ONLINE AT:

WWW.ACALANES.ORG

RSVP@Acalanes.org

(800) 419-0819 ext 2

Event Chairpersons: Jim & Diane Yribarren
Catering by Southwestern Caterers & Diane Yribarren

Planned Menu:

Pork Loin, Chicken Breast On A Light Wine Sauce, Rice Pilaf,
Steam Vegetables Fruit Tray, Caesar Salad, Dinner Rolls And Butter, Bread Pudding

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<p>Brian James James Consolidated, Inc. MANUFACTURING OF THERAPEUTIC TURNING MATTRESSES FOR PREVENTION & TREATMENT OF PRESSURE SORES</p> <p>Phone: (925) 939-5785 Toll-Free: (800) 884-3317 Fax: (925) 935-2552 jamescon@astound.net www.volkner.com</p>	<p>This Space Available</p>	<p>Marc Rice Jeweler Marc Rice Awards</p> <p>1250D Newell Ave. Walnut Creek, CA 94596</p> <p><i>Phone: (925) 932-7556</i> <i>Fax: (925) 932-5637</i></p>	<p>This Space Available</p>
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Moving? Remember to give us your new address!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 From the East – A Message from The Worshipful Master / A Summary of Upcoming Events
- 2 Third Degree Anniversaries / Life Membership Program / Charitable Giving Update / Sweethearts
- 3 Officers Roster / Officer Profile: Robert Strohmeyer, Junior. Warden
- 4 Members Corner / A Poem: The Mason's Wife
- 5 Hiram Award & Banquet Flier