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# THE TRESTLEBOARD

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge # 480, F&AM

"The Friendly Lodge"

January 2007

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## From The East

Thomas E. Riley III

*Worshipful Master*

Brethren: I am writing this article just before the Christmas Holidays with a heavy heart. I know it is supposed to be a joyous time of year, full of celebration and good cheer. That Christmas spirit is hard for me to attain because, as most of you already know, a great tragedy has befallen our Masonic family.

This tragedy has affected the lives of many of our members, and the life of our Past Master, Worshipful Jay Williams, in particular. His beautiful and talented seventeen-year-old daughter, Danielle, was killed in a single car accident on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Danielle's Mother and Jay's vivacious wife, Debbie, was critically injured in the accident. Following weeks in a coma at UC Davis Medical Center, Debbie has been moved to John Muir Medical Center where she remains in serious condition.

A celebration of life memorial service has been scheduled for Danielle Williams at 2:00 PM on Friday Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Scottish Rite Temple in Oakland. Your continued prayers for the Williams family are most appreciated.

As Masons, we have an obligation to aid and assist the Williams family. In circumstances like these, we often feel helpless, because there is seemingly nothing that we can say or do to bring solace or relief. I think the most constructive thing we can presently do to help is to make a financial contribution to help defray the enormous debt the Williams family is accruing. A trust fund has been established for the benefit of the Williams family. Please send your donations marked for the benefit of the Williams family to the Treasurer or Secretary of our Lodge. They will see that your financial contribution is forwarded to the Williams Family Trust.

Masons also have a responsibility to honor the widows of their departed brethren, or as we call them, our Lodge Sweethearts. Our Lodge got off to a good start with that endeavor this Masonic year, with the rousing success of our Sweethearts Luncheon on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. Most Worshipful Al Weis and his wife, Virginia chaired the event, Br. Roger Poynts was Master of Ceremonies and Br. Stephen Galop coordinated. Mrs. Cadd and Mrs. Charland created handmade scarves and bracelets for gifts. Wor. Art Miller arrived in his Santa Claus suit with bells on to dispense gifts to the Sweethearts.

Our brethren at the Sweethearts Luncheon proved the old adage that many hands make for lighter and more enjoyable work. Past Masters Vengie Hughes, Dave Shull, Otis Simonsen and Jim Yribarren and Bros Jim Chamberlain, Gary Charland, Franz Chavez, Don Hoskins, Jack Kalivoda, Dennis Rodgers, Benny Rodriquez, Ray Sevilla, Larry Strohmeyer, Mike Weis, David Wheeler and Tim Wilbur all pitched in and

worked in various capacities. All of these brethren contributed to a memorable day and a job well done.

Our Senior Deacon, Br. Jim Chamberlain, has graciously agreed to serve as the chair for next years Sweethearts Luncheon. I ask each of you to assist him by contributing whenever he passes the Sweethearts box around at a Lodge event. Remember our Sweethearts are lovely ladies and deserve our attention and care.

The officers of our Lodge conferred the Second Degree of Masonry on Br. Benny Rodriquez on Dec.19<sup>th</sup>. It was the initial degree ceremony of the Masonic year for the newly installed corps of Lodge officers, and I think it was performed very competently. I look forward to having Brother Rodriquez join us as a full member when he receives his third degree. Make a point to chat with him at one of our meetings; I know that you will find it a pleasurable experience.

Looking ahead, our Lodge is having its famous Crab Feed on Saturday, Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>, and we hope you will join us for this event. It will be at the Lafayette Community Center, located at 500 Old St. Mary's Road, and will commence with a social hour at 5:30 PM. The Crab Feed is the major fundraiser of the year for our Lodge and we need everyone's help to make it successful. Please consider making a donation or sponsoring a prize for the silent auction. Bros. Gary Charland & Roger Poynts and Past Masters Allan Casalou & Jim Yribarren will all be very happy to assist you in this endeavor. Tickets to the Crab Feed itself are obtainable by calling our reservation number (800) 419-0819 ext. 2, by logging on at our website [www.Acalanes.org](http://www.Acalanes.org) or by calling me at (925) 798-4658.

Our Lodge will also be conferring the First Degree of Masonry on Mr. Daniel Argueta on Tuesday, Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Come and attend that night and wish him well as he begins his Masonic journey. Your officers will strive to do their best ritual work for Mr. Argueta and will appreciate your support.

The next two stated meetings for our lodge will be held on Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> and Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>. In accordance with our usual practice, there will be a social time at 6:30 PM, followed by stated meeting dinner at 7:00 PM and lodge opening at 8:00 PM. The stated meeting dinner on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> will be special in that we will use the occasion to honor our Junior Past Master, Wor. Allan Casalou.

I want to advise the brethren on the square, that our Lodge's stated meeting dinners are one of the best values around. Come to one of them and bring your family and friends if you can. It is a great way to take pleasure in a delicious meal for an affordable price, while enjoying the companionship of friends and family. I hope to see you there and in Lodge brethren.

Fraternally,

Tom Riley  
Master

# Acalanes Fellowship Officers

~ 2007 ~



First Row: Gary Charland, Sr. Warden., Tom Riley, Master, Dennis Rogers, Jr. Warden, Don Hoskins, Secretary  
Second Row: Jack Kalivoda, Tiler, Roy Beitelschees, Coach, Randy Tolerton, Jr. Deacon, Tim Wilbur, Jr. Stewart  
Third Row: Jim, Chamberlain, Sr. Deacon, Franz Chavez, Sr. Stewart, Brian James, Chaplain.

## ~ Installation 2007 ~

On Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the brethren, their family and friends gathered for the Installation of our 2007 Officer Corps. The Installing Officer was Worshipful Alvin Weis, PGM, with the assistance of Worshipful Roy Beitelschees (PM 1994), Master of Ceremonies, and Presiding Chaplin Worshipful Ollie Thomas (PM 1999). The ceremony lasted about two hours and was followed by a reception including hot and and Champaign. Many thanks to Nancy Thomas and Diane Yribarren for a great job with the refreshments!

*May their administration of the affairs of the Fraternity redound to Thy glory, to the good of the Craft, an to the welfare of Mankind.*

## ~ 2007 Crab Feed ~

**Saturday. January 27, 2007**  
**Lafayette Community Center**  
**500 Old St. Mary's Road**

**Social Hour: 5:30 PM**  
**Dinner: 6:30 PM**



**Adults: \$30**  
**Children: \$15**  
(under 12)



**Ticket Sales: Tom Riley (925) 798-4658**  
**Or charge on-line at: [www.Acalanes.org](http://www.Acalanes.org)**

## Roster of Officers 2007

**Thomas Riley, Master**  
triley@acalanes.org

**Gary Charland, Senior Warden**  
gcharland@acalanes.org.

**Dennis Rogers, Junior Warden**  
drogers@acalanes.org

**Stephen Galop, Treasurer**  
sgalop@acalanes.org  
(925) 262-8296

**Don Hoskins, Secretary**  
dhoskins@acalanes.org  
(925) 283-3266

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

**Jim Chamberlain, Senior Deacon**  
jchamberlain@acalanes.org

**Randy Tolerton, Junior Deacon**  
rtolerton@acalanes.org

**Charlie Toll, Marshal**

**Franz Chavez, Senior Steward**  
fchavez@acalanes.org

**Tim Wilbur, Junior Steward**  
twilbur@acalanes.org

**Jack Kalivoda, Tyler**

**Roger Poynts, Social Committee**  
poynts@acalanes.org

**Bill Adams, Inspector**  
wadams@acalanes.org

**Lodge Phone:** (925) 284-7815

**Web-site:**  
[www.Acalanes.org](http://www.Acalanes.org)



## Second Degree Conferred

On Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, our Lodge conferred the Second Degree of Freemasonry upon Br. Benny Rodriguez. Br. Rodriguez was initiated into our Lodge on August 16, 2005.



## ~ Membership Dues ~

Did you receive your 2007 Dues Notice? If not, please contact our Lodge Secretary or Lodge Treasurer. Payment may also be made from our web-site via credit or debit card.

Prompt payment of your dues helps our Lodge continue and expand its programs. Additionally, it ensures the benefits extended to you and your spouse as members of our California Masonic Community. These benefits are important regardless of where you live in the country. In fact, three of our most recent residents at the Masonic Homes came from out of the state!

## ~ Trestleboard Notes ~

Members with e-mail addresses on file receive an e-mail alert when the *Trestleboard* has been posted to our web-site. In addition, the e-mail contains a link for immediate access to the *Trestleboard* so it can be read or printed out. The advantage is that this version is in color!

The *Trestleboard* is posted on our web-site before the first of every month. The advantage of the on-line version is it cannot get misplaced and is always available when you are ready to read it. Additionally, the calendar, functions and upcoming degrees are updated in real time throughout the month making the web-site the first place to look for up to date information.

The black and white print version is mailed for delivery the weekend before Stated Meeting. Some members have indicated that they prefer to read the *Trestleboard* on-line and requested that we not mail the print copy. An option to add or cancel the print version will appear on both the web-site and in our e-mail alerts beginning January.

If your company would like to sponsor an edition of the *Trestleboard*, or place an advertisement, please contact Stephen Galop at either [sgalop@acalanes.org](mailto:sgalop@acalanes.org) or by phone at (925) 262-8296.

## ~ Members' Corner ~

### ~ The Sweethearts Luncheon ~

On Saturday, December 16th, Acalanes Fellowship hosted a Holiday Luncheon which will not be soon forgotten. This annual event which honors the widows of our deceased brothers (who we affectingly call our "Sweethearts") was expanded to also honor our ladies.

While all ladies were given a corsage and treated to a holiday lunch, the Sweethearts also received a gift bag and visit with Santa. Following lunch attendees enjoy a musical performance by the Michael Foley Trio.

The letter we received from one of the attendees echoes the heartfelt sentiments we have heard from many:

#### ***A Letter To Acalanes Fellowship Lodge 480***

On Saturday,(12-16-06) I attended the Sweetheart's luncheon at the lodge. From the moment that I walked in I felt like a princess as I was greeted at the door by a gentleman in a Tuxedo. I was then swept away by all my senses from the sight of beautiful decorations, exquisite table settings, aromas of food cooking and warm apple cider and the sounds of Christmas music in the background.

From this point it only got better, after receiving a "perfect" corsage, I was treated to the delights and ambiance of perfect company! What a way to spend the afternoon, not only 'honoring' the Sweethearts of Past members of the lodge, but to "honor" the Ladies of Acalanes Lodge.

I would like to personally thank all the members who put so much time and effort into making this a great day. Having been on the "working" side I know how much time and effort goes into making an event come together. From the details, to the invitations, organization, setting up, serving, cooking, and planning in general it was PERFECT!

And if perfect couldn't get any better, I had the extra bonuses of having my husband "serve" me and the delight of sitting on "Santa's Knee" (Art Miller, PM), making a wish for Happiness, and Health to All in the coming year.

It is with great pleasure I Thank all the Sweethearts (a term of Endearment) of Acalanes Lodge Members for allowing me to enjoy such a Special Day.....

Sincerely,

*Diane Yribarren*



Otis & Betty Simonsen came ready to party!



Mrs. Evelyn Lee shares her "wish list" with Santa



A joyful Mike Brown, PM, learns he has made the "nice" list

## ~ The First Masonic Funeral ~

By Worshipful Jack Chudley

Brethren: an interesting short article said to originate from The Colorado Chieftain appeared in the "Semi-weekly Vallejo Recorder/Vol.III No.88 dated Tuesday Evening, Oct 19, 1869". These records - some 20 years after the event - the funeral of an unknown Mason.

This was given to me some seven years ago by Bro William Hockenbury. Bro Bill who, received his 50 year veteran mason award as a member our Lodge in 1997 was at that time, a very active York Rite Mason and Allied Masonic Degree researcher. Unfortunately Bill is no longer able to practice active Freemasonry, but I take this opportunity of wishing him "all well"

It reads as follows: The first Masonic funeral that ever occurred in California took place in the year 1849, and was performed over the body of a brother found in the Bay of San Francisco.

An account of the ceremonies states that upon the body of the deceased was found a silver mark of a Mason, upon which were engraved the initials of his name. A little further investigation revealed to the beholder the most singular exhibition of Masonic emblems that was ever drawn by the ingenuity of man on the human skin. There is nothing in Masonic history or tradition to equal it. Beautifully dotted on the left arm, in red and blue ink, which time could not efface, appeared the emblems of Entered Apprentiship. There were the Holy Bible, square and compass, the 24 inch gauge and the common gavel.

There was also the Masonic pavement; representing the ground floor of King Solomon's Temple, the indented tassel which surrounds it and the blazing star in the center. On his right arm, and artistically in the same indelible liquid were emblems pertaining to the Fellow Craft degree, viz. the square, the level, and the plumb. There were also the five orders of architecture - the Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian and Composite.

In removing the garments from his body, the trowel presented itself, with all the other tools of operative masonry. Over his heart was the pot of incense. On other parts of the body were the bee-hive, the "Book of Constitutions, guarded by the Tyler's sword, the sword painted to the naked heart, the All-seeing eye, the anchor and arc, the hour-glass, the scythe, the forty-seventh problem of Euclid, the sun, moon, stars

and comets, also the three steps, emblematical of youth, manhood and age.

Admirably executed was the weeping virgin, reclining on a broken column, upon which lay the "Book of Constitutions", in her left hand a pot of incense, the Masonic emblem of immortality of the soul. Immediately behind her stood winged Time, with his scythe by his side, which cuts the brittle thread of life, and the hour glass at his feet, which is ever reminding us that our lives are withering away.

The withered and attenuated fingers of the Destroyer were placed amid the long and flowing ringlets of the disconsolate mourner. Thus were striking emblems of mortality beautifully blended in one pictorial representation. It is a spectacle such as Masons never saw before, and in all probability, such as the fraternity will never witness again.

The brother's name was never known."

I just wonder Brethren how and why and when this could possibly have happened? Who actually instituted and wrote this article? And who was the artist?



### Upcoming Events:

#### Stated Meeting Dinner

Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>, Social Gathering: 6:30 pm  
Dinner: 7:00 pm  
Stated Meeting: 8:00 pm

#### Memorial for Danielle Williams

Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> at 2PM at the  
Oakland Scottish Rite Center

#### Crab Feed

#### At the Lafayette Community Center

Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>, Social Gathering: 5:30 pm  
Dinner: 6:30 pm

#### Second Degree of Br. Daniel Argueta

Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM

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

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

## SUPPORT OUR TRESTLEBOARD

Would your company like to sponsor an issue of the *Trestleboard*?

Contact Stephen Galop for 2007 rates:  
sgalop@acalanes.org or at (925) 262-8296

Moving? Remember to give us your new address!

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