
THE TRESTLEBOARD

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge # 480, F&AM

"The Friendly Lodge"

February 2007

From The East

Thomas E. Riley III

Worshipful Master

Brethren, I hope that you and your loved ones have prospered in the New Year thus far. I will begin this article, as I did last month, with an update on the family of our Past Master, **Worshipful Jay Williams**.

As you no doubt recall, his seventeen-year-old daughter, Danielle, was killed and his wife, Debbie, was critically injured in an automobile accident on Dec. 3rd. A celebration of life memorial service was held for Danielle, on Jan. 5th at the Scottish Rite Temple in Oakland. It was a very beautiful and moving experience and I have never seen that building so full of people.

Debbie has slowly but surely begun to mend since the accident and subsequent surgeries. She is no longer in a coma and has been removed from the ICU and the critical list at the hospital. She is now receiving medical and physical therapy while hospitalized in the rehabilitation unit of John Muir Hospital, where she will remain for an indeterminate period while she continues to heal.

I wish to thank the brethren of our Lodge for generously donating to the trust fund established for the Williams family. It is my fervent hope that it will serve to provide some aid and assistance to them in their hour of need. Please continue to remember this good Masonic family in your prayers and thoughts.

I am very gratified to report that our famous crab feed fundraiser on Jan. 27th, is a sellout this year. It gives every appearance of being a great success. I thank all the brethren, who together with their friends and family provided such overwhelming support for this event. I also want to thank all the brethren that donated to the record-breaking silent auction and those that served on committees for the crab feed, particularly chairs: **Jim & Diane Yribarren, Roger Poynts, Gary Charland, Allan Casalou, Vengie Hughes** and **Stephen Galop**.

By the time you read this, it is probable that our Lodge will have already conferred the First Degree of Masonry on **Mr. Daniel Argueta**. The degree ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 30th. Please make a point of wishing Brother Argueta well when you

Upcoming Events:

Stated Meeting Dinner

Feb 6th, Social Gathering: 6:30 pm
Dinner: 7:00 pm

Stated Meeting: 8:00 pm

Corned Beef Dinner

March 17th, Social Gathering: 5:30 pm
Dinner: 6:30 pm

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.

see him at one of our meetings or events and make him feel welcome.

I am also pleased to report that three brothers have recently been accepted for affiliation with our Lodge. **Brothers Richard Harrell** and **Allen Schwartz** are Master Masons and **Brother Michael Donnellan** is an Entered Apprentice Mason. Introduce yourself and give them a warm Acalanes Fellowship Lodge greeting when you see them at one of our Lodge functions.

Our next stated meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 6th at 8:00 PM, preceded by a social time at 6:30 PM and our delicious stated meeting dinner at 7:00 PM. We will be honoring our Junior Past Master, Worshipful Allan Casalou that night, so try to come to Lodge and participate in the festivities.

I wish to give the brethren due notice that our Lodge's famous Saint Patrick's Day Dinner will occur on Saturday, March 17th this year. Social time will commence at 5:30 PM, followed by dinner at 6:30 PM. Our Lodge's famous Irish chef, **Worshipful Mike Brown**, will produce the corned beef, cabbage and other accoutrements for the dinner. I also hope to have some representatives from a Masonic Youth Group in attendance at our Saint Patrick's Day Dinner.

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Roster of Officers 2007

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Lodge Phone: (925) 284-7815

Web-site:
www.Acalanes.org

~ Anniversaries ~ January & February

Kenneth Joseph Branch
January 17, 2004

Scott Edward Carter
January 30, 1971

Frederick John Chudley
January 28, 1948

Gaylord LeRoy Davis
February 16, 1953

Robert William Ecoff
January 1, 1955

Thomas W. Frutiger
January 23, 1960

Theodore Greenfield
January 25, 1968

William Hockenberry
January 1, 1947

Carlton Henry Ivey
January 29, 1952

Brian Oakley James
February 25, 2003

**William Watson Mac
Murchy**
January 26, 1971

Clyde Delbert Miller
January 28, 1950

Robert Weatherly Pearson
January 23, 1951

Eugene Charles Robertson
January 1, 1971

Val Rodrigues
January 17, 1984

Sidney Schneider
January 28, 1960

David Macaulay Shull
January 21, 1967

Otis Simonsen
January 29, 1963

Roland J. Turk
January 1, 1970

Gearld Wayne Walker
February 28, 1989

David Grandjean Wheeler
February 24, 1987

Timothy Lawrence Wilbur
January 17, 2004



A Prayer for Master Masons

Gracious God, remind us of the importance of keeping the promises we have made to each other and to You. Teach us that the obligations we have taken upon ourselves cannot be forgotten or overlooked.

Show us that the only way to honor our obligations is to live in harmony with them on a daily basis. Keep us faithful in living up to our Masonic Obligations.

In Your Spirit we pray,
Amen.



~ Members' Corner ~



Happy Birthday!

On January 23rd **Worshipful Ollie Thomas** celebrated his 92nd birthday! Raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on September 1, 1939, this year Br. Ollie will also celebrate his 68th anniversary of being made a Master Mason. Br. Ollie is the second longest serving Mason in our Lodge, second to **Br. Donald Strain** who was raised October 5, 1938.

Worshipful Ollie remains active coaching our candidates and is a regular participant in all our lodge activities. He is truly an inspiration to us all!

God bless you, Worshipful!

Your prayers are requested for the recovery of Mrs. Maude Yribarren, mother of our beloved past master Jim Yribarren. Mrs. Yribarren suffered a debilitating stroke in January.

On a sad note, we regret to inform our members of the passing of Manuel Chavez, father of **Br. Franz Chavez**. A memorial for Mr. Chavez was held on January 27th at Chapel of the Chimes in Oakland. Our entire membership extends its deepest condolences to Br. Franz Chavez and his family.

~ Financial Notes ~

The annual financial report will be available at the February 6th Stated Meeting. A copy of the report is available to members in good standing in either print or PDF version. To obtain a copy, simply call or e-mail the Treasurer at sgalop@acalanes.org or (925) 284-7815 ext. 1

Speaking of finances, are your 2007 dues up to date? If you have not received your 2007 dues card, then the answer is "probably not." If you are not sure, please call the Secretary.



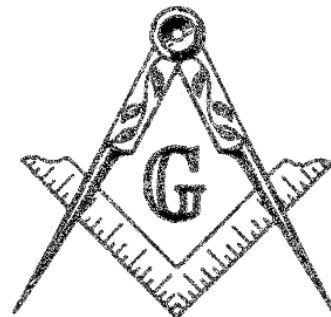
~ Our Sweethearts ~

Last years Sweethearts Luncheon was truly a grand event. It would not have been possible without the generous donations from our members.



This Valentine's Day please consider making a donation to our Sweethearts Fund. Let's make sure our 2007 Sweethearts Luncheon remains a truly grand event!

Please visit our on-line donations box, or simply send a check marked "Sweethearts Fund."



~ Charitable Giving ~

Our Masonic Community was stunned and broken hearted by the tragedy that struck the Williams family in early December. Debbie Williams' employer, the Charlotte Wood Middle School, has established a trust fund to assist with medical and funeral expenses. While some of our members undoubtedly made donations directly to the Trust, donations that have run through our Lodge total \$2,300 as of this date.

To all those who have given so generously, **thank you!**

OUR DISTINGUISHING BADGE THE ANTIQUITY AND HONOUR OF THE MASONIC APRON

By Worshipful Jack Chudley

Brethren, we well know that at his initiation every Entered Apprentice is invested with a plain white lambskin apron. We were told: "It is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason; more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle, and more honorable than the Star or Garter or any distinction that can be conferred upon you at this or any future period---". These are a very bold claims, so let us reflect on them.

The Roman Eagle is a symbol that most people are acquainted with. Each legion of the Roman Empire carried a representation of this, the most powerful bird of prey, as its standard. As the supreme emblem of sovereignty the standard was guarded on ones life with great pride. It was greatly revered, just as national flags are today. The Romans probably copied this Eagle symbol from the early Persians who in their turn continued a practice of the Assyrians, so it is fair to describe the Roman Eagle as 'ancient' by any standard. But it is not as ancient as that of the Golden Fleece

Comparatively, little is factually known about the Golden Fleece. The Golden Fleece legend grew up from very earliest times in Greek mythology. The story goes that a young brother and sister named Phrixus and Helle had a cruel step-mother who did everything she could to make the children unhappy. In the woods near their house lived an old ram who differed from other sheep by having two wings and a fleece not white as snow but as gold as a king's crown.

The children made friends with this ram and he agreed to help them to flyaway to Colchis on the shores of the Black Sea. So they sat on the ram's back and flew out across land and ocean. Unfortunately Helle fell off and was drowned in the stretch of water which became known as 'Hellespont' and is now called the Dardanelles. On arriving in Colchis young Phrixus sacrificed the winged ram - and then hung its golden fleece in a wood guarded by a dragon. It then, years later, became the prize sought and eventually found by Jason and the Argonauts.

Not much more is heard of this legendary fleece until the fifteenth century when the ruler of Austria, Philip the Good of Burgundy, who was well versed in Greek mythology, decided to celebrate his marriage by founding the Order of the Golden Fleece in 1430. This decoration is still well known and held as a very high honor in Europe.

As an interesting, but unsubstantiated thought, on the symbolic importance to us of the Golden Fleece. It seems very relevant, that as we advance from Masonic innocence to more perfect knowledge of our craft, our pure white lambskin aprons become bordered with color and even adorned with emblems of gold.

Although both are symbols of honor, the Golden Fleece and Roman Eagle are cited only as examples of antiquity rather than of personal honor. For our ritual then continues: - and

more honorable than the Star or Garter, or any other distinction which may be conferred on you, at this or any future time etc., etc. Regrettably, I have as yet been unable to find any specific reference to the Star as an Order of Honor or Distinction. I do hope that some Brother will further research this and be able to repair that loss. (Incidentally, 'the Star' is not mentioned in any English Constitution ritual.)

But, our other example of honor – The Garter, is certainly very highly distinguished. This, most exclusive Order of Knighthood, was established by King Edward III in 1348 at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, which is still the spiritual center for the Order and where conferrals are always made. The King's declared objective is recorded as being:- to restore the chivalry and pageantry of the legendary King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table.

In fact King Edward III spent little very little of his time at Windsor. He was a warrior King, almost continually at war with France throughout his reign. It was indeed in France that the delightful incident occurred which gave the Order of the Garter its name.

The story, maybe the somewhat embellished history, of the Order, tells of an incident at the royal Ball held in Calais after the re-capture of that city. King Edward was dancing with one of the Court ladies, when in the middle of the room she suddenly lost one of her garters. There it lay amid titters of laughter and scorn, to the acute embarrassment of the lady. King Edward however soon put this right by stooping down, picking up the garter and fastening it round his own leg saying: "Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense", usually translated as "Evil be to him who evil thinks"

This phrase became the motto of the Order of the Garter, which is still the most noble Order of the British realm and the highest honor personally bestowed by the Sovereign.

Our distinguishing badge the lambskin apron therefore contains within itself the innocence of the lamb, the antiquity of the Golden Fleece; the dignity of the eagle and the honor of nobility. It directly reminds us that our ancient and honorable Institution has subsisted from time immemorial and that it is a society of worthy men and true: having for its foundation the practice of the moral and social virtues. No wonder that we are proud of our fraternity

Brethren, to those persons who dare to criticize or even profess to despise Freemasonry, for any of their usual misgotten reasons, a complete response is simply "Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense".

For my part, I well recall, with ever increasing pride the time, 60 years ago November last, when I was invested by the then Senior Warden of my Mother Lodge with these very special words : "By the Worshipful Masters command I invest you with the distinguishing badge of an Entered Apprentice Freemason. It is more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle, more honourable than the Order of the Garter or any other Order in existence, it being the badge of innocence and the bond of friendship; and I strongly exhort you ever to wear and consider it as such; and I further assure you that if you never disgrace that badge, it will never disgrace you".





From the East *Continued from Page 1*

Brethren, we are fast approaching the one quarter mark in our Masonic year. Please try to let one of the officers know your thoughts and feelings concerning our Lodge's activities and events. Feedback is essential if improvements are to occur, so help us by speaking up and sharing your ideas with us. All of the officers want to make our Lodge a meaningful and pleasurable experience for all of our members.

I look forward to seeing you in Lodge brethren.

Fraternally,

Tom Riley, Master

*... more honourable than the
Order of the Garter ...*

Pictured above is the insignia of a knight of the Order of the Garter which is mentioned in Worshipful Jack Chudley's article on page 4.

The Most Noble Order of the Garter is an English order of chivalry dating from medieval times. It is the world's oldest national order of knighthood, and the pinnacle of the British honors system. Its membership is extremely limited compared to most modern orders, consisting of the Sovereign and not more than 25 full members, or Companions. Male members are known as Knights Companion, and female members are known as Ladies Companion (not Dames, as in most other British chivalric orders).

The Order also includes certain extra members (e.g., members of the British Royal Family and foreign monarchs), known as "Supernumerary" Knights and Ladies. Unlike most other orders, the Order of the Garter is not subject to the Prime Minister's binding advice on appointments; rather, the Sovereign alone grants membership. Membership in the Order is thus the personal gift of the Sovereign. Except for the grants of supernumerary membership, awards are made only to those with an exceptional record of service to the United Kingdom.



Mike Brown's World Renowned Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

If you haven't had Worshipful Mike's Corned Beef, you don't know what you're missing!

Saturday, March 17th

Social Hour: 5:30 PM

Dinner: 6:30 PM

\$15.00 Per Person



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