
THE TRESTLEBOARD

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge # 480, F&AM

"The Friendly Lodge"

December 2007

From The East

Gary Charland

Worshipful Master

By the time you read this article, the Installation should be behind us and our new Masonic year, just ahead.

It is indeed an honor and privilege to serve you as Master of Acalanes-Fellowship Lodge # 480, the "Friendly Lodge". So many great men have gone before me and their leadership has served as an inspiration to me. It is said that 'Masonry seeks to make good men better men', but, it is because of the many great men in our lodge that I have been inspired to be a better man.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow officers, who have continued to show their commitment and support. Without our dedicated team of officers working together, our lodge would not continue to be the great lodge that it has always been and will continue to be in the future.

I'm happy to say the officers and I have an exciting year planned for you and our lodge. Our 1st event, the Annual Sweethearts Luncheon will take place on December 15th, at 11:30AM in our newly remodeled Lodge Hall. This has always been my favorite event of the year. This is our Lodge at its very best. How blessed we are to be able to share some joy and happiness with our Widows during the Holiday Season. If you've never attended this event, then you really are missing out on a wonderful experience. Please try to be there if you can.

A Grand Re-opening of our Lodge Hall is planned for the January Stated Meeting. Due to the Holiday, our meeting will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, January 8, 2008. We will be starting up our dinner program again with something special on the menu! Our speaker for the evening will be Most Worshipful Alvin Weiss, who is going to share with us a little about the history of Acalanes-Fellowship Lodge # 480. This will also be our 'Rusty Trowel' evening, so come out and join us for a celebration of the 'History of our Lodge'.

On January 26th it's time for the Annual Crab Feed at the Lafayette Community Center. This is our biggest event of the year and it is always a sell out crowd, so get your tickets early. This year, you can reserve your tickets on-line. As



*In the season of hope we pray that
God bless you abundantly,
And watch over you always.*

Happy Holidays!



always, we will have those great New York strip steaks for the 'non-crab' eaters, like me, and Pasta and Salad for all. Don't forget to get those donations in for the **Silent and Live Auctions**. Allan Casalou will be coordinating the Auctions again this year, so give him a call if you have something you'd like to donate. You can also 'sponsor' an item if you'd prefer. There will be a "Wine Tree" again this year, so bring a bottle of wine to donate to the Tree. Last year we had more than 50 bottles and the wine tree sold for more than \$200.00!

In February, we have planned a "fun" trip, on the Reno Fun Train. On February 8th we will be departing from Martinez for a two-night trip to the Eldorado in Reno. The theme for the train is Mardi Gras, so we'll be serving up those infamous New Orleans 'Hurricanes' on the way up. This really is a 'fun' trip, so if you have never been on the Fun Train before, think about joining us this year.

Some of the other great events planned for the year include a two-day visitation to Monterey, CA, our annual 'Day at the Races', a Family Day Event, and a visitation to the Masonic Homes in Union City, a St. Patrick's Day Dinner and more. Watch for upcoming events in the *Trestleboard*. Of course, we could always use your help too. If you would like to volunteer for an event, feel free to give me a call or send me an email. It is a great way to get more involved with the Lodge and get to know the Brothers a little better.

Also this month, on Tuesday, December 18, 2007, we will be holding our first 3rd Degree with our new officers. Br. Andrew Lipiansky will be raised to the Third Degree of Masonry.

Once again, it is an honor to be able to serve you this year as Master of our Lodge. I look forward to seeing all of you this year. If you should ever have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to call me or email me. I would love to hear from you.

Fraternally,

Gary Charland

Third Degree Anniversaries

JERRY E. GREGORY

December 7, 1954

ROBERT D. HAILE

December 2, 1952

THOMAS ART HUGHES, JR.

December 15, 1949

Roster of Officers 2008

Gary Charland, Worshipful Master

gary@acalanes.org

Dennis Rodgers, Senior Warden

dennis@acalanes.org

Jim Chamberlain, Jr. Warden

jchamberlain@acalanes.org

Stephen Galop, Treasurer

sgalop@acalanes.org

(925) 262-8296

Don Hoskins, Secretary

dhoskins@acalanes.org

(925) 283-3266

Frank Shoffner, Chaplain

shoffner@acalanes.org

Franz Chavez, Senior Deacon

fchavez@acalanes.org

Randy Tolerton, Junior Deacon

rtolerton@acalanes.org

Tim Wilbur, Senior Stewart

twilbur@acalanes.org

Ray Sevilla, Junior Stewart

Michael Weis, Tyler

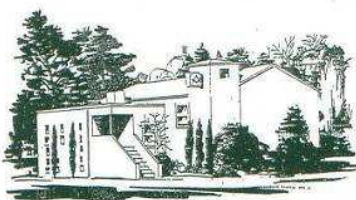
Roger Poynts, Social Committee

poynts@acalanes.org

Lodge Phone: (925) 284-7815

Web-site:

www.Acalanes.org



~ Thank You ~

As we prepare to bid farewell to 2007 and welcome in a new year, it seems appropriate to take a moment to thank those who worked so diligently to make 2007 a success for our Masonic Community.

Thank you to the 2007 Officer Corps, who worked so hard to hone their ritual skills and gave up time with their families for the benefit of our Craft.

Thank you to the Directors of our Temple Board who work all year round to maintain and repair our beloved Lodge Building.

Thank you to our Past Masters, whose love and dedication of our Lodge is evidenced by their continued selfless service and support of our Lodge.

Thank you to the Committee Members without whose help the continuation and expansion of our programs would be nearly impossible.

Thank you to our families for understanding why we feel so passionately about the work we do.

And thank you ... thank you for your support and participation. Thank you for being part of our Acalanes Fellowship Family.



A Prayer for Our Officers, Directors & Committee Members

Eternal source of life and light, we ask Thy blessing upon Thy servants now before Thee.

As they assume their duties invest in them wisdom and strength. Fill their hearts with brotherly love. And rest their feet upon the rock of justice.

May their administration of the affairs of the Fraternity redound to Thy glory, to the good of the Craft, and to the welfare of mankind.

Amen.

~ Members Corner ~

Hiram Award



Vera Armstrong adjusts Br. Bill's Hiram lapel pin as PGM Al Weis looks on.

On November 3rd our lodge bestowed the Hiram Award on Br. **William Church Armstrong**. The well-attended event was held at Orinda Lodge.

50 Year Presentation



Inspector Bill Adams, PM, Gerald Saurman, & Tom Riley, WM

The November 6th Stated Meeting included a Fifty Year celebration. The 50-Year Pin was presented to **Br. Gerald H. Saurman**. Br. Gerald was raised in Fellowship Lodge #480 on September 24, 1957 by his father, Br. Victor Saurman, PM, who was Master in 1949.

Upon entering our lodge Br. Gerald was surprised to see the picture of his late father in our foyer. The pictures of the Past Masters of the three lodges that make up Acalanes Fellowship are on permanent display in our foyer. Additionally, the names of the Past Masters of the three lodges are listed on our web-site in the "Tributes" section.

Acalanes Fellowship # 480 was formed through the merger of Fellowship Lodge # 480, Oakland, founded 1920; Fortitude Lodge # 624, Oakland, founded 1925; and Acalanes Lodge # 723, Lafayette, founded 1954. When lodges are merged the surviving lodge takes on the lower number of the consolidated lodges ... hence, Acalanes Fellowship # 480.

Recovering

Br. Ollie Thomas, PM, is recovering from his recent fall and subsequent stroke. He is undergoing intense speech, physical and occupational therapy at the Kaiser Foundation Rehabilitation Center in Vallejo until December 6th.

Br. Don Hoskins, Secretary, is recuperating from hip surgery that took place on November 20th.

Your continued prayers and wishes of encouragement are appreciated.



~ In Memoriam ~

Br. Eugene Charles Robertson

August 25, 1920 – October 13, 2007

Raised 1956

Affiliated: June 4, 1974

Br. Robertson is survived by his wife, Virginia, of Hanford, Calif.

Br. Theodore Greenfield

January 18, 1912 – August 26, 2007

Initiated Jan. 12, 1967

Passed Oct. 26, 1967

Raised Jan. 25, 1968

Br. Greenfield is survived by his wife, Beatrice, of Walnut Creek.

To Mrs. Robertson and Mrs. Greenfield we extend our deepest, heartfelt condolences.



~ 2008 Officer Corps ~

On December 1st our 2008 Officer Corps will be installed by Most Worshipful Alvin Weis, PGM, with the assistance of Worshipful Allan Casalou, as Master of Ceremonies, and Worshipful Roy Beitelschees presiding as Chaplain. We proudly present our 2008 Officer Corps:

Gary Charland, Worshipful Master

Br. Charland received his degrees at Acalanes Fellowship in 1999, served as Jr. Deacon in 2000, Sr. Deacon in 2001, Jr. Warden in 2002, and Sr. Warden in 2007. In 2007 Br. Charland was also appointed to Masonic Homes Board of Trustees by Grand Lodge. In addition to his many talents, Br. Gary's quick wit and sense of humor make him a pleasure to be around and a real asset to our Lodge.

Dennis Rodgers, Senior Warden

Br. Rodgers was initiated into Acalanes Fellowship in 2003 and completed his degrees in 2005. He served as Sr. Deacon in 2006 and Junior Warden in 2007.

Jim Chamberlain, Junior Warden

Br. Chamberlain received his degrees at Acalanes Fellowship in 2004, and hails from a family of Masons! Since joining our Lodge Br. Jim has been an active member, and this years organizer of our Sweethearts Luncheon.

Stephen P. Galop III, Treasurer

Br. Galop received his degrees at Acalanes Fellowship in 1997-1998. He has served as our Treasurer since 2003, and Secretary-Treasurer of our Building Association on which he has served since 1999. Br. Galop is also the creator and administrator of our web-site and publisher/editor of our *Trestleboard*. Br. Galop was our 2004 recipient of the Hiram Award. He resides in Johns Creek, Georgia.

Donald Hoskins, Secretary

Br. Hoskins received his degrees at Henry Morse Stephens Lodge #541, was initiated in 1954 and completed his degrees in 1958. He affiliated with Acalanes Fellowship in 1983 and served as our Secretary from 2000 to 2005. Br. Don is an active member of our Temple Board, and in his spare time enjoys traveling throughout the world.

Franklin H. Shoffner, Chaplain

Br. Frank received his degrees at Houghton Lodge #218, Houghton, Michigan, in 1964, and affiliated with Acalanes Fellowship in 1984. Br. Frank has been an active member of our Lodge and frequent participant at our functions. This will be Br. Frank's first year in the Chaplain's chair. Welcome!



Franz Chavez, Senior Deacon

Br. Chavez received his degrees at Acalanes Fellowship where he was initiated in 2004 and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in 2005. Br. Chavez served as Secretary in 2006 and Sr. Stewart in 2007.

Randy Tolerton, Junior Deacon

Br. Tolerton received his degrees at Acalanes Fellowship in 2004. He has served as Tiler in 2005, Sr. Stewart in 2006 and Jr Deacon in 2007. Br. Randy is a third generation Mason following his father and grandfather.

Timothy Wilbur, Senior Stewart

Br. Tim received his degrees at Acalanes Fellowship, initiated in June 2003 and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in January 2004. Upon completion of his degrees Br. Tim was immediately elected to the Temple Board, and thereon immediately elected to the office of President, which he holds to this day. Br. Tim is very generous with his time, talent and labor.

Ray Sevilla, Junior Stewart

Br. Ray received his degrees at Acalanes Fellowship. He was initiated in 2003, passed to Fellowcraft in 2005 and Raised in 2006. Br. Ray is a member of the Temple Board. Br. Ray's enthusiasm and dedication to our Lodge is an inspiration!

Michael Weis, Tiler

Br. Weis received his degrees at Acalanes Fellowship in 2004 and has served on our Temple Board since 2006. Br. Michael is extremely generous with his time and talents. Whatever the event, you are likely to see Br. Mike there helping however he can. On the Temple Board he has taken the lead on maintaining our grounds.

Charles Everet Toll, Marshall

Br. Toll received his degrees at Acalanes Fellowship, initiated in 1992 and completed his degrees in 1995. Br. Toll served as Tiler and Jr. Deacon before becoming our Marshall in 1999, a position he has held since. Charlie was inducted into the DeMolay Legion of Honor on June 17, 2000, and was Acalanes Fellowship's recipient of the Hiram Award on September 2, 2003. Br. Toll will celebrate his 91st birthday on December 11th. May God bless you, Br. Charlie, you are truly a treasured member of our Lodge!

Sweethearts Luncheon

Saturday, December 15th

Social: 11:30 AM

Lunch: 12:30 PM

Entertainment: 2:00 PM

On Dec. 15th our Lodge will honor our Sweethearts with a very special luncheon. A traditional turkey dinner will be served at 12:30 PM, and will be followed by a musical program in the Lodge Room performed by the Michael Foley Trio.

This year, we are also honoring our spouses, as we invite them to join in the festivities as guests of the Lodge.

Sweethearts & Members' Spouses: Complimentary
Brothers: \$20

Dinner Reservations are required by December 5th

Reservation Line: (800) 419-0819 ext. 2

E-Mail Reservations: RSVP@Acalanes.org

Credit / Debit Card: www.Acalanes.org



**If you are a Sweetheart who requires transportation assistance,
please leave a message at (800) 419-0819 ext. 4.**

Upcoming Events:

December 1st - **Installation at Orinda Lodge**

December 4th - **Stated Meeting**

December 15th - **Sweethearts Luncheon**
See Flier for Details!

December 18th - **Third Degree**
Acalanes Fellowship: 7PM

Reservations:

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

Moving? Remember to give us your new address!

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