
THE TRESTLEBOARD

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge # 480, F&AM

"The Friendly Lodge"

April 2008

From The East

Gary Charland

Worshipful Master

By now, many of you may have heard, our own Allan Casalou, PM will be installed as the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of California in April. Allan is and has always been a great asset to our Lodge having served as Master three times. In addition to his years as Master, he is also currently our Officer's Coach. Not only has he done an excellent job with our Lodge, but also with the Grand Lodge, serving as the Assistant Grand Secretary, a position he's held for several years. He is truly a remarkable individual and an inspiration to all of us. A list of his accomplishments would probably fill our entire Trestleboard. I'm sure I speak for all when I say how proud we are of all that he has achieved and wish him the very best in his new office.



In Allan's honor, we are planning an August Reception. Please look for details, which will be announced in next months Trestle Board.

It continues to be a busy year for our Officers. Two more 1st Degrees were held on March 25, 2008. So far this year, we've already conferred four 1st Degrees. As a result, we're expecting quite a few 2nd and 3rd Degrees this year as well. I urge all of our members to come out and support our Officers and show your support for our newly obligated Brothers. We have a great line of Officers this year, working hard and doing great ritual work.

Our stated meeting dinners have also been great this year. We are not only living up to our reputation as "The Friendly Lodge", but also gaining a new reputation for being the "Best Fed". Our March Dinner

featured a St. Patrick's Day theme, complete with mountains of Corned Beef and Cabbage. My thanks to Roger Poynts for the excellent job he has done in arranging the dinners and to Dennis Wallace, our excellent new caterer.

Please don't miss our April Stated Meeting on the 1st of April. The theme is "Good Food & Bad Jokes". What better way to celebrate April Fools Day than with the "Bad Joke Contest". Of course there will be a prize for the worst joke of the night. I know that some of you have been practicing for this event for many years. Here's your opportunity to actually be awarded more than a 'groan' for that favorite joke of yours. This month also marks another of our "Ladies" night programs, so bring your lady for a fun filled night of Bingo. We've lined up some great prizes to give away.

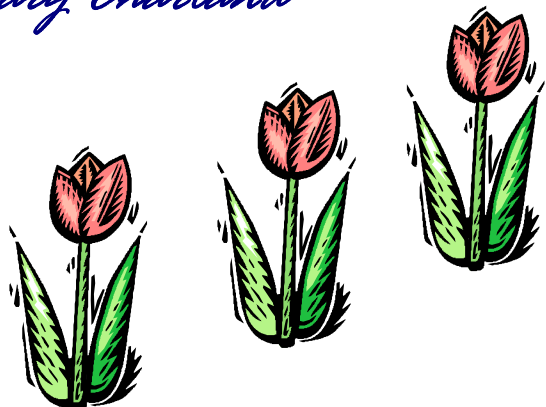
We've completed the arrangements for our Annual Visitation this year. Monterey will be our destination for a fun filled weekend on August 22-24, 2008. We have made arrangements for overnight accommodations with the Sand Dollar Inn in Monterey. On Saturday afternoon, we will be holding a Degree at the Monterey Masonic Lodge #217 and followed by a Dinner later in the evening. There's lots to do for the family too, so please be sure to mark your calendars for this event. More information will be available shortly.

Thanks again for making this a great year for me as your Master. I look forward to seeing all of you soon and as always look forward to hearing from you.

Hope to see you all soon.

Fraternally,

Gary Charland



Roster of Officers 2008

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April ~ Anniversaries ~

Peter J. Axtman
April 23, 1959

Barrett Ryder Brose
April 28, 2007

Donald B. Burnett
April 11, 1978

Russell J. Chapman
April 29, 2003

Franz R. Chavez
April 23, 2005

Roy Couch
April 27, 1976

Marvin Del H. Crosser
April 17, 1951

Jeffrey A. Fesunoff
April 30, 2002

Donald R. Hansen
April 21, 1959

Gerald I. Hertz
April 19, 1966

John H. Kalivoda
April 12, 1957

Amos J. Leffler
April 8, 1958

Jay J. Newman
April 20, 1968

Stanley L. Perlberg
April 4, 1956

David Pugatch
April 18, 1972

Carl Riccio
April 29, 1967

James M. Vincent
April 19, 1980

James L. Weeden
April 11, 1974

Up Coming Events

April 1st Stated Meeting Dinner
Social House: 6 PM
Dinner: 7 PM
(Stated Meeting follows at 8 PM)
Ticket Price: \$15.00

(Sweethearts of our Lodge are always
complementary)

To celebrate April Fool's Day, this
dinner will feature a bad joke
competition. Bring your favorite
groaner! (Gosh, I hope we didn't
scare anyone away!)

Day at the Races
Sunday - June 8th
(see page 5 for details)

Visitation to Monterey
August 22- 24

In Memoriam

Joseph Peter Van Overveen
December 3, 1916 - March 3, 2008
Raised March 22, 1944 (Kentucky)
Charter member Acalanes 723
(by affiliation 1953)
50 year Veteran Award:
September 17, 1994



FREEMASONRY, A WAY OF LIFE

This is a talk that was made at a recent Lodge Banquet by the guest speaker, Byron E. Hams, who signs himself as "A lifetime Apprentice". It says something to all, Masons and non-masons alike.

The making of a Freemason consists in a continued course of education, training and character forming. While it may be accepted that it is an innermost desire, followed by obligations, that makes one a member of the Craft, yet in a truer sense, a man is not a Freemason unless he lives up to his obligations. Keeping this in mind, you have to realize that as an organization Freemasonry has "Members" and it has "Masons" and the two are not the same.

The Mason goes into deeper research about Freemasonry and the more extensive knowledge of its hidden art and mysteries. The philosophy of Freemasonry, when discovered and then accepted and practiced, provides simple but profound solutions to the problems of human relationships. Freemasonry is a way of living to the Mason who is interested enough to appraise and value the wealth that is his by virtue of his Masonic Membership.

The best-informed Master Mason is the Master Mason who reads and studies about the Craft. He reads and learns to understand the "Volume of the Sacred Law" of his religion and he also should read and study the "Volume of the Sacred Laws" of other religions. For to be able to have some understanding of what others believe, you have to have some knowledge of what it is that they believe.

It is with this knowledge and understanding that a Mason is able to find common grounds to come together with others, in Love, Peace, and Unity for the good of all mankind with any good man of any race, creed, or religion.

MAKING MASONRY MEANINGFUL

Freemasonry is not a religion even though it is religious in character.

It does not pretend to take the place of religion nor serve as a substitute for the religious beliefs of its Members. Freemasonry accepts men, found to be worthy, regardless of religious convictions. An essential requirement is a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being.

Freemasonry is not an insurance or beneficial society. It is not organized for profit. However, the charity and

About This Article

The Masonic Service Association of North America, started in 1919, produced a report called ***Its About Time - Moving Masonry Into the 21st Century***. It was written in response to the decline in membership of which we are all too painfully aware. Here in the United States our membership has declined from 4.1 million in 1959 of 4.1 million to 1.6 million in 2005 according available records. That is a decline of 62%!

The report explores changes in our fraternity over the past 200 years including how we are viewed by the general public. It also makes some recommendations for the future. One of the eleven recommendations that can be carried out at the lodge level is to apply concepts of education and self-improvement into print and non-print media.

With this in mind, we have added a professionally produced video to our web-site that was produced by the Grand Lodge of Indiana and is geared to candidates and those simply inquiring about our craft. Additionally, we will look for educational and inspirational pieces to include in our monthly *TrestleBoard*. With that in mind we are happy to include in this month's issue an address by Missouri brother, Byron E. Hams, PM. It is definitely appropriate for our times, inspirational, and likely to generate some discussion and debate which is an added bonus (also one of the 11 recommendations in ***Its about Time***).

Editor

services rendered are beyond measure. It teaches the Golden Rule. It seeks to make good men better through its firm belief in the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man and the Immortality of the Soul. The tenets of Freemasonry are ethical principles that are acceptable to all good men. It teaches tolerance toward all mankind. It is known throughout the world. Freemasonry proudly proclaims that it consists of men bound together by bonds of Brotherly Love and Affection. It dictates to no man as to his beliefs, either religious or secular. It seeks no advantage for its Members through business or politics. Freemasonry is not a forum for discussions on partisan affairs.

At our Altars, without any vanity or pretense, we assemble for work and fellowship and to learn to love and cherish one another. By so doing, we bring light out of darkness, beauty out of drabness, exaltation out of despair--to the end that every Brother's life may become more radiant and meaningful.

A Mason believes that Faith is the foundation of justice, the bond of amity, and the chief support of society. He lives by Faith: he walks by Faith; by Faith he has a continued hope in the acknowledgement of a Supreme Being; by Faith he believes he will be justified, accepted and finally saved.

A Mason believes that Hope is the anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and center into that within the veil; let a firm reliance on the Almighty's faithfulness animate his endeavors, and teach him to fix his Hopes within the limits of His promises.

A Mason believes that Charity is the brightest gem that can adorn his Masonic profession. Happy is the man who has sowed in his breast the seeds of benevolence; the produce thereof is love and peace. The objects of true charity among Masons are merit and virtue in distress, persons who are incapable of extricating themselves from misfortunes in their journey through life, industrious men who, from unavoidable accidents, have fallen into ruin. Widows left destitute by lack of husbands' support. Orphans in tender years, needing a father's care. The aged, whose strength is exhausted, and who are thereby rendered unable to procure for themselves that substance necessary to nourish their declining years. This is CHARITY, the keystone of our mystic institution.

THE PRINCIPAL TENETS

The principal tenets of our profession are threefold, including the inculcation and practice of those truly commendable virtues, Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

By the exercise of Brotherly Love a Mason learns to regard the whole human race as one family, the high, the low, the rich, the poor who, being created by one Almighty Parent, and inhabitants of the same planet, ought to aid, support, and protect each other. On this principle Masonry unites men of every Country, sect, and opinion, and conciliates true friendship among those who might other wise have remained at a perpetual distance.

To relieve the Distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but particularly on Masons, who are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. To soothe the unhappy, to sympathize with them in their misfortunes, to compassionate their miseries, and to restore peace to their troubled minds is the great aim we have in view. On this basis we form our friendships and establish our connections.

Truth is a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. To be good men and true is the first lesson we

are taught in Freemasonry. On this theme we contemplate, and by its dictates endeavor to regulate our conduct. Hence, while influenced by this principle, hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us, sincerity and plain-dealing distinguish us, and the heart and the tongue join in promoting each other's welfare and rejoicing in each other's prosperity.

SUMMING IT UP

In my very short overview of what a Mason is I hope that I have cleared up some of the misconceptions that are out there about Freemasonry.

Now I will move on to what is a Member. A member is hopefully a future Mason.

No one came into this world as an adult and no one comes into Masonry as Mason. It is the hope of every Mason that by his example he will lead the Members around him to also advance in Masonry to become the future Masons of our Order.

If all of us are not what you think we should be, just remember that, "God is not through with us yet", and that someday all of us will be just what," God wants us to be".

No man can live according to the principles and teachings of Ancient Craft Masonry and do anything, knowingly and willingly, that is contrary to moral and upright principles. Freemasonry frowns on every wrongful act and admonishes the right actions between each of us and the world at large.

Freemasonry is and should always be a guide to our actions. Freemasonry is kindness in the home, honesty in business, courtesy in society, fairness in work, pity and concern for the unfortunate, resistance toward evil, help for the weak, forgiveness for the penitent, love for one another and, above all, reverence and love for God. Freemasonry is many things but, most of all: . . .

FREEMASONRY IS A WAY OF LIFE.

Byron E. Hams, PM
Prince Hall Lodge #1
The M W Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Missouri and its Jurisdiction

Reprint courtesy of Burbank Masonic Lodge No. 406

Save This Page For Your
Library of Masonic Educational Material

A Special Birthday Greeting To Our Beloved Past Master:

David M. Shull, PM
90 Years Young



April 1st is a day we can not forget ... not because it is "April Fools Day," but because it is the birthday of one of our most beloved and most active members, Worshipful Dave Shull. Br. Dave turns 90 years young on April 1st.

Br. Dave was initiated into Acalanes # 723 in November 1966, and raised in February of the next year. He served as our Master in 1973. In 1990 he was our recipient of the Hiram Award.

Worshipful Dave is active with York Rite, and an active member of our Lodge. Dave is pictured below helping grill the steaks at last years Past Masters' Barbecue.

Happy Birthday, Dave ... and many more!

A Special Thank You

We would like to extend a special **thank you** to **Dolly Baines** for her kind words. Dolly left a message on our office answer phone to say how much she appreciates staying in touch with our community through the *Trestleboard* and other communications throughout the year. Dolly's late husband, Robert, was a member of Acalanes Fellowship from his affiliation in 1986 until his death in 1996. Dolly now resides in Kansas. Thank you Dolly ... you really made our day!



GOLDEN GATE FIELDS

WHERE THE BAY COMES TO PLAY

ANNUAL DAY AT THE RACES

JUNE 8, 2008 11:00 AM

Pre-Paid Advance Reservations Only

Once again Acalanes Fellowship Lodge has the pleasure and privilege to make accessible to all you race enthusiasts this exclusive excitatory event. We will, as in the past, be in the prestigious **DIRECTORS ROOM** which provides us with the program for the days events, including other tracks. The directors room has a private bar, restrooms, cocktail servers, our own betting terminal and more. We will be served a first class lunch on clean white linen. I have always ordered New York steaks; but if need be, I can make arrangements for chicken, fish or a salad. We will have a host who will take care of these minor things if needed.

The gates open at 11AM. The first race will go off at 12:45. Lunch will be served before the first race. The last race should be over by 5:30PM. You will find a dress code printed on your ticket. Smart casual wear is required. No T-shirts, shorts, wind breakers or athletic shoes.

The cost this year is \$49.00

Paid Reservations Only

COST INCLUDES: Main Gate Entry Fee, Valet Parking, Club House admission, Race Program, Served Lunch and all the facilities listed above.

Make your check out to: V. O. Hughes
686 Carroll Dr.
Moraga, CA 94556

Questions: Call Vengie
(925) 376-2297



Day at the Races 2007



**Brotherly Love
Relief
&
Truth**



Freemasonry ... It's a way of life

Moving? Remember to give us your new address!

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