
THE TRESTLEBOARD

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge # 480, F&AM

"The Friendly Lodge"

May 2008

From The East

Gary Charland

Worshipful Master

Brethren,

Spring is finally upon us. It is a great time of year for renewal and growth, and I am happy to say that our Lodge continues to grow.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend our Officers for doing such a great job with our fifth 1st Degree this year. Brother Jim Chamberlain, who sat in the East and Brother Dennis Rogers who delivered the lecture, did an outstanding job. It has certainly been a busy year for us with candidates. Our goal is to raise five new Masons to our Lodge in 2008. We have eight Entered Apprentices actively working on their 1st Degree Proficiencies and we have more applications on the way.

Spring is also a great time for you to renew your interest in our craft. If you have not been to a Stated Meeting or a Degree in a while, why not come by, say hello to your Brothers, and give our Officer's Corp and our new Brethren your support.

Our Dinners have been outstanding lately. Our caterer is doing a fantastic job. Where else can you get a great meal, experience some great fellowship, and be home by a little after 9:00 PM, all for the price of \$15.00.

For those of you that were fortunate enough to get to our stated meeting on April Fools Day, you know that the "Bad Joke" Contest turned out to be quite a competition. There were several 'bad' jokes, all of them good enough to be winners. I am happy to say that our winner this year, Brother Charlie Toll, came up with the best of all. Congratulations Charlie, yours was truly the worst, I mean 'best joke' Charlie took home the coveted "Golden Plunger Award".

We have also got some great events planned for you for the rest of this year.

Brother Michael Roberts will be getting his Third Degree in Monterey on August 23, 2008. This will be our Official Visitation this year. We are planning a fun weekend for the whole family, so please be sure to mark your calendars for our Visitation, August 22-24, 2008. We have arranged for lodgings at the Sand Dollar Inn. Watch the Trestleboard for more information about the plans for the weekend.



On Friday evening, April 15, 2008, we will be hosting the Grand Lodge for a Reception for our Grand Secretary, Allan Casalou. The event will take place at the Marriott in Walnut Creek, starting with a 6:00 PM Social Hour, followed by Dinner at 7:00 PM. The cost for the event will be \$40.00 per person. Reservation information will be available on our web-site.

Allan, a three time Past Master of our Lodge, was officially installed as our Grand Secretary on April 3rd. We are all very proud of his accomplishments and all of the support that he has given our Lodge over the years. I hope that all of you can make it to this celebration for him.

Please also be sure to mark your calendars for our June 3, 2008 stated meeting. This is going to be a very special night. It is the rare occasion that we get to celebrate a Brother's Golden Veteran's Award night and on June 3rd, we will be celebrating five Golden Veteran's Awards! We are planning a special night to mark the occasion, with a special dinner and presentation. Please be sure to try to be there to help our Brothers mark this momentous occasion.

June 8, 2008, it is time for Annual Trip to the Races at Golden Gate Fields. This year, Worshipful VO Hughes has promised us at least one winner in every race. I am not sure we are going to know who that is ahead of time though. We have got the Director's Box again this year, a steak dinner, and great fellowship. That is a winning combination no matter who finishes first.

I would like to thank our Officers and the members of our Lodge for all of their assistance. It has been a great year for me so far. With a recent job change taking more of my time, so many Brothers in our Lodge have shown their support by giving generously of their time to support our Fraternity, our Lodge and our Members. This is truly what Masonry is all about. I am proud to be a member of Acalanes-Fellowship Lodge and part of our 2008 Corp of Officers.

Fraternally,

Gary Charland

Roster of Officers 2008

Gary Charland
Worshipful Master
gary@acalanes.org
(510) 813-1515

Dennis Rodgers
Senior Warden
dennis@acalanes.org

Jim Chamberlain
Jr. Warden
jchamberlain@acalanes.org

Stephen Galop, Treasurer
sgalop@acalanes.org
(404) 348-4865

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 Steward
twilbur@acalanes.org

Ray Sevilla, Junior Steward

Michael Weis, Tyler

Roger Poynts
Social Committee
poynts@acalanes.org

Trestle Board Editor:
Stephen Galop
sgalop@acalanes.org
(925) 262-8296

Lodge Phone: (925) 284-7815

Web-site:
www.Acalanes.org



May ~ Anniversaries ~

George Affolter, PM
May 19, 1953

Roy E. Beitelschees, PM
May 17, 1952

Eric T. Besag
May 15, 1999

Michael D. Brown, PM
May 19, 1990

Umberto O. Celestre
May 9, 1949

Serge A. Chemla
May 19, 1986

George A. Constantouros
May 25, 1966

Leo H. Delaney
May 26, 1950

William H. Dibbern
May 21, 1991

Stephen P. Galop, III
Treasurer
May 23, 1998

Roscoe W. Griggs
May 27, 1958

Vernon J. Ivey
May 19, 1953

Lawrence R. Mc Laughlin
May 16, 1981

Boris J. Minzyk
May 21, 1970

John J. Mulhall
May 3, 1997

Jeffrey R. Nott
May 30, 1978

Roger L. Poynts
Chair, Social Committee
May 15, 2001

Marcus Rice, Jr. PM
May 25, 1954

Frederic S. Schachtman
May 24, 1966

Franklin H. Shoffner
Chaplain
May 25, 1964

Thomas C. Thompson
May 7, 1966

Ralph H. Willits
May 11, 1946

Richard N. Young
May 1, 1976

Up Coming Events

May 6th 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)

Day at the Races
Sunday - June 8th

Grand Secretary's Reception
August 15th

Visitation to Monterey
August 22- 24

In Memoriam

Mrs. Nita Byrne
Widow of Br. Edward Arthur Byrne

Mrs. Lois Pallo
Widow of Br. John David Pallo

Mrs. Betty Taylor
Widow of Br. Robert Taylor

Mrs. Roma McElhney

The Military and Freemasonry

We've traveled a long road together

By Br. Jim Tresner

Editor, *The Oklahoma Mason* and the Book Review
Editor for *The Scottish Rite Journal*.

No one knows, of course, when Freemasonry started. The operative Lodges, at least, seem to have been formed during the Middle Ages, among the craftsmen who built cathedrals, castles, and fortifications in Europe. The Master Masons of the day worked with the fighting men to design stronger and better fortifications and strongholds.

By the time Freemasonry came to the American Colonies, it had evolved into a Fraternity, composed of men from every walk of life, every profession, and every social class. In Europe, its membership included not only scientists, philosophers, merchants, farmers, musicians, and men in public life, but especially the great military leaders. It was no different in the Americas.

Brother George Washington was the first Commander in Chief of the American forces. Thirty-three of the men Washington picked to serve as General Officers under him were Freemasons, as were such Founding Fathers as Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere and John Hancock. And the military connection is especially strong -- each of the Armed Services was either founded or profoundly shaped by a Mason.

Commodore John Paul Jones -- the father of the United States Navy, was a Freemason

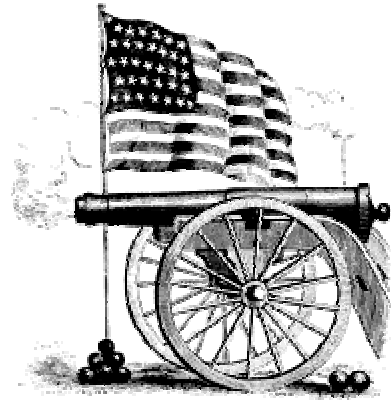
Baron Friedrich von Steuben -- a Prussian Freemason who joined Washington at Valley Forge, is considered by many to be the founder of the U.S. Army as an effective and fighting force.

Samuel Nichols -- who created the U.S. Marine Corps, was a Freemason.

General Henry "Hap" Arnold -- who was with the Air Force from its infancy and developed it into a separate branch of the Armed Services, was a Freemason.

William F. Reynolds -- the first officer of the U.S. Coast Guard to become an Admiral, was a Freemason.

Many Masons have outstanding military records. To list only a few:



General Omar Bradley

Admiral Richard Byrd

General Mark Wayne Clark

General Jimmy Doolittle

General George C. Marshall

General Douglas MacArthur

Audie Murphy

the most decorated soldier in WWII

Eddie Rickenbacker

American Ace of the First World War

General John J. Pershing

John Glenn

Buzz Aldrin (*and 11 other astronauts*)

General Walter Boomer

It's worth noting that two hundred twenty-four of the men who have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor were members of the Fraternity.

Masons care about our veterans, too. In 1918, Masonic leaders from across the nation met to form The Masonic Service Association. The purpose was to create a central clearing-house for contributions of time and money to help American's veterans. The Hospital Visitation Program is in more than 157 Veterans Administration Medical Centers, 26 state-operated Veterans Homes, and a number of military hospitals. Hundred of Masonic volunteers give more than a quarter-million hours each year to help America's veterans, regardless of whether or not they are a Mason.

Many of the world's great civilian military leaders have been members of the Fraternity. Sir Winston Churchill, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and President Harry S. Truman were all Freemasons. During the height of the Second World War, Truman made a special appearance in the newsreels being shown in movie theaters all over America. He said, in part,

"At this very moment, in foxholes and on shipboard, beneath the sea and in the air, countless hands are being clasped in fraternal recognition of each other in the darkness as well

as in the daylight. And countless fathers, bravely wishing God-speed to their departing sons, are saying 'Boy, when your hour of darkness and loneliness comes, find a Freemason, and you'll find a friend.'

General Douglas MacArthur once said:

"Freemasonry embraces the highest moral laws and will bear the test of any system of ethics or philosophy ever promulgated for the uplift of man."

During World War II so many young men wanted to join the Fraternity before going overseas that Lodges in the larger cities often worked 24 hours a day, six days a week conferring the three Degrees of Freemasonry.

Why was it so important to these men to join before they went into battle? For one thing, they knew if they didn't come back, there would be help for their widows and children. Masons take care of their wives, widows and orphans. But they also knew it was just as Harry Truman had said -- anywhere in the world they might be, even in a hostile country, they would find friends and Brothers.

Often those Lodges, those friends and Brothers were on the battlefield as well. Masonic tradition says there was a military Lodge at Valley Forge.

Throughout the Civil War, we have records -- in the diaries and letters of soldiers -- of Masonry binding brother to brother in spite of blue or gray. National Zouave Lodge, U.D., a Union military Lodge, included captured Southern soldiers as equals in their meetings. After the siege at Vicksburg, the Union Officers who were Masons invited the Masonic Confederate officers to a meal aboard a Union gunship, treating them as honored guests. The Masonic monument on the battlefield of Gettysburg commemorates another fraternal moment in the midst of strife.

For a great deal of excellent information about Freemasonry in the Civil War, including Masonic ceremonies of the time, information for re-enactors, historical incidents and Masonic Civil War Ballads, visit the web-site of Frontier Army Lodge of Masonic Research #1875 at www.falmr.org

Not everything Freemasonry does is as obvious as holding a Lodge on a battlefield so men can share in fellowship or mourn their dead. We know, for example, that one concern a man must face when he leave his family to go to a foreign country to fight is concern for his

children. What if he has to be gone at a critical time in the child's life when a male role model is important? What if he doesn't come back at all?

Freemasonry offers organizations for young men and women. The Order of DeMolay is for boys. The Order of the Rainbow and Job's Daughters are for young women. These organizations teach leadership, social skills, self-confidence, and character. No organization can take the place of a father, of course. But we can help make sure the young person is not left without male role models.

The Fraternity supports the military in other ways. Many Lodges raise funds to send special needed supplies to the troops in the Middle East (we've bought and send a lot of wipes recently). Other Lodges have raised finds for the Family Support Groups on military bases. The youth groups have sent candy and other goodies to the troops.

Just recently a new program called *Operation Phone Home* was begun. America's Freemasons, partnering with the USO, are involved in a program that provides 100 minute, prepaid, International Phone Cards so that our military personnel serving in trouble spots overseas may call home.

It's also true that something else is found in Freemasonry that's found in the military -- men you can trust. Men who will back you, no matter what. Men who understand what it means to live lives of honor and integrity. Men who won't leave you to face the enemy, or the world, by yourself.

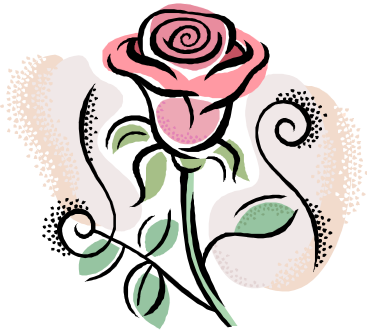
It's been a long time since warriors went into battle on horseback, armed with lance and battle-axe, and it's been a long time since masons built castles. The tools of both have changed -- but the spirit hasn't.



Memorial Day, a time to honor our Brothers who served our country in war and peace, a time to keep close in our thoughts and prayers those who are serving today, and on a personal note, a time to remember a very special Marine, Gunnery Sergeant Stephen P. Galop, Jr. (1931-2002). Semper Fi, Dad. Semper Fi.

-Editor

~ A Mother's Day Tribute ~

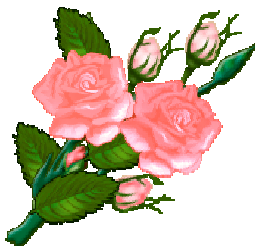


A

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.



Grand Secretary's Reception

Location:
Walnut Creek Marriott

August 15th

Social Hour: 6PM

No Host Bar

Dinner: 7PM

Pre-Paid Reservations Only

Reservations must be made prior to August 1st

On Friday, August 15th, Acalanes Fellowship will sponsor a reception for our Grand Secretary, our own Worshipful. Allan Casalou. The Walnut Creek Marriott is within walking distance to BART, and has also extended a special room rate of \$105 per night for any out of town guests, or those wishing to spend a day or two in Walnut Creek. Room reservation can be made by calling the Marriott at (800) 828-5613 or through a link on our web-site which will be in place by May 15th.

Menu choices consist of Spring Garden Greens or Traditional Caesar Salad, Chicken Mendocino or Grilled Salmon, and for dessert either New York-Style Cheesecake or Tiramisu. A vegetarian option is also available upon request.

The cost is \$40 per person. Reservations can be made on our web-site at www.acalanes.org, or by mail to: Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480, P O Box 1, Lafayette, Calif. 94549. When making your reservation, it is necessary to indicate your menu selection in advance. As reservations must be paid for in advance, we cannot take reservations through our reservation line. However, reservations can be cancelled and refunded before August 1st. Refunds will not be permitted after August 1st. August 1st is also the last day we are able to accept any reservations.

This promises to be a very special evening. We look forward to seeing you there!

~ Memorial Day 2008 ~

***We cherish too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led,
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.***

Moina Michael, 1915

Written in response to the John McCrae poem, *In Flanders Fields*



GOLDEN GATE FIELDS

WHERE THE BAY COMES TO PLAY

June 8th
Inquiries: Call Veggie Hughes
(925) 376-2297

\$49.00 – Prepaid Reservations Only

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1* From the East
- 2* Officers' Roster / Anniversaries / In Memoriam / Upcoming Events
- 3 - 4* Memorial Day Insert: The Military and Freemasonry
- 5* Mother's Day Tribute / Grand Lodge Reception / Memorial Day Poem