
THE TRESTLEBOARD

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge # 480, F&AM

"The Friendly Lodge"

January 2009

From The East

Dennis Rodgers

Worshipful Master

Brethren,

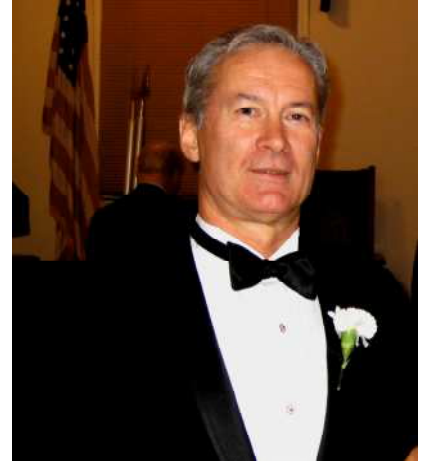
When I first became a Mason, I was unsure of my place in the lodge or how I might participate and contribute to The Craft. As I looked around the room and in time came to know the faces of Acalanes Fellowship #480, I was inspired and moved by the depth and breadth of the knowledge, commitment and accomplishments of the men who filled the seats here each month. I wondered if one day I could be like them.

In my years here in this lodge I have come to accept as normal and ordinary many things and many people that I would have missed had I joined a different lodge. Our lodge has a distinct character and personality, defined by the men who meet here every month and who attend our events and degrees. I have come to blithely expect the inspiring words contributed by our elder statesmen at the conclusion of degree ceremonies. Dave Shull, Vengie Hughes, Charlie Toll, Ollie Thomas, Bill Armstrong, Leonard Love, Roy Beitelschees and my late friend Jay Abrash, to name just a few. Let me just point out that over 700 years of life experience and over 250 years of Masonry is represented in just those eight men. The contribution they have made to my Masonic experience is something for which I will always be grateful as well as to all the other brothers of this lodge, our district and Grand Lodge.

Perhaps the greatest lesson these men have taught me is that the window that opens to receive life's blessings is the same window through which we give to others. Once you realize that fact, it only makes sense to open that window as wide as you possibly can.

As Masons we have been charged to carry the flag of Masonry to the world – in the words of today's youth to "represent." At your initiation, each of you were charged to maintain the Masonic ornaments of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth and on being raised each of you were charged by the Master to show the

world that Masonry had made you a better man. I now repeat that call by echoing the words of the late John F. Kennedy in bidding that you ask not what Freemasonry can do for you but rather that you seek to find what you can do for Freemasonry. Open your window of giving and receiving, roll up your sleeves and join in the fun here at the lodge.



Life itself is a series of ups and downs as we face challenges from the cradle to the grave. Each challenge that we overcome makes us stronger. In recent years our lodge has undergone some hard times, starting with a leadership challenge in 2006 and culminating with the "great flood" of 2007. It amazes me to realize that only 21 months have transpired since that event. While those were dark days for our lodge, the mettle of our good brothers has seen our lodge restored and even improved. Those events challenged our lodge at the level of its very existence, and our lodge proved equal to the test, because a few good men stepped up without ever once asking "What's in it for me?" Today we have an improved building and a renewed zeal to prevail in the face of any adversity. We are no longer in survival mode as we were over much of the past two and a half years and I gratefully acknowledge the hard work and leadership of the Very Worshipful Alan Cassalou, Worshipful Tom Riley and Worshipful Gary Charland in piloting the good ship Acalanes 480 through those troubled shoals. Having laid those challenges to rest we may now move forward to attain to even higher aspirations.

I am humbled to stand as Master of Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480. Many great men have occupied this chair before me and many great men will come after me. I do not feel nor do I claim to be made of the stuff of greatness and so the success of

the lodge during my year in the East will be determined more by your actions than by mine. It is therefore my will and pleasure to bid you all to perform the good works and display the virtues that distinguish us as Masons. I have meager ambitions for the year ahead, hoping only to extract a commitment from the brethren to set an example that will inspire the future as the men who came before have inspired me.

I have only three goals for my year as Master and high hopes that with your help they can be accomplished. First on the order of brotherly love, relief and truth, I would like to point out that our Sweetheart's fund was sadly depleted in the last year or so, largely due to our downstairs being closed for repairs. Without the usual time being spent at dinners and our fellowship time after degree ceremonies, the contribution box gathered dust instead of money.

At last count, our Sweethearts numbered 76, with 48 of them residing within reasonable driving distance of our lodge. Each of these ladies stood by a Master Mason during his time with us and we are required by our obligations to aid and assist them as we hope future Masons will aid and assist our personal Sweethearts when we ourselves have attained to that unknown country from whose bourne no traveler returns.

I urge each and every one of you to dig deep today and make in one offering the contributions that you would have ordinarily made to the Sweetheart's fund during the time our downstairs area was unavailable. I also encourage each of you to consider and propose ideas whereby we might better serve and better stay connected with these fine ladies.

Secondly, our lodge is in need of leaders and it is my plan to begin a recruitment process for the future leaders of our lodge. As with many lodges, we have fallen into a habit of "recycling" our Past Masters in various chairs. Now I do not object to Past Masters returning to the officer's line and I even look forward to the opportunity to do so myself, hopefully at a time when my life is less hectic and less demanding than it is today. But what our lodge needs right now is continuity of leadership. We need men to step in at the Junior Deacon level and proceed uninterrupted through the four chairs beyond that. When this happens, a brother learns and grows in commitment and dedication and then at the Junior and Senior Warden's retreats he learns about the duties of a Master and about the need for the lodge to have a vision. He can then contribute to the vision statement so that when it is passed to him he will be fully invested in it.

A Master's Call to Service

By establishing stability in our line of officers, each brother in his turn can take the vision and plans of the Master who preceded him and with a delicate hand enhance, improve and embellish on what has gone before. It is not necessary that each Master reinvent the wheel but only that he carefully nurture and grow that which is entrusted to his care.

Finally, we need participation. We need our members to come to the lodge, participate in our degrees, serve on committees and volunteer for special events. For several years now the ritual work, coaching and leadership in our lodge has been handled by a small group of devoted men. Without them, this lodge would have failed and thus we are deeply indebted to them for their service. While I am grateful to those who have been our stalwarts, I believe the time is approaching for the passing of a few torches, or at least the sharing of some of the work. I would like each of you to search your heart and conscience and consider what you might do for Freemasonry in the years to come. If you would like to serve but don't know quite how, talk to me and we will find a way to get you more involved.

I will leave it to the good judgment and fine character of the members of this lodge to determine how important it is that we accomplish these goals. They are lodge goals and no one person can accomplish them without the assistance and collective effort of the brethren. There are other things that I would like to see happen over the next few years as well and I will address those at an appropriate time. I will also leave it to all of you to suggest additional goals that can be added to the agenda and the long-term vision plan for our lodge. Again, it is your lodge and it isn't up to me to decide which way it should go. That is for all of us to decide collectively. Today is the first day of the rest of our lives. Our lodge's future is a work in progress and it is in your hands.



Roster of Officers 2009

Dennis Rodgers
Worshipful Master
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Jim Chamberlain
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Michael Roberts, Jr. Steward

Michael Weis, Tyler

Social Committee
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Trestleboard Editor:
Stephen Galop
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Lodge Phone: (925) 284-7815

Web-site:
www.Acalanes.org



January ~ Anniversaries ~

Kenneth J. Branch
January 17, 2004

Scott E. Carter
January 30, 1971

Frederick J. Chudley
January 28, 1948

Robert W. Ecoff
January 1, 1955

William Hockenberry
January 1, 1947

Carlton H. Ivey
January 29, 1952

Robert W. Pearson
January 23, 1951

Val Rodrigues
January 17, 1984

Sidney Schneider
January 28, 1960

Otis Simonsen, PM
January 29, 1963

Roland J. Turk
January 1, 1970

Timothy L. Wilbur
January 17, 2004



In Memoriam

Julia Rubin
???? – 2008

Widow of our late Br. Louis Rubin (1910-1994) who received his degrees at Pacific-Starr King No. 136 in 1931 and affiliated with Acalanes Fellowship in 1993, one year before his death.

~ Secretary's Notes ~

Dues: 60% of our annual dues paying members have sent in dues for 2009: it would help a great deal if the remaining members would send their \$106 dues to our Lodge mailbox.

Lots of updates and corrections to the records have been made when that information sheet has been returned. Addresses, deaths, marriages, e-mails, and dates of degrees, among others have been updated. And the line showing when you last paid dues was overlooked by me, the Secretary, because I don't use that computer to keep track of dues. Many comments were received: I apologize for the oversight.

John Mulhall reports from Olympia, WA, that he is installed as Master of St. Andrews Lodge #35 for the year 2009. Great going, John!

Marvin Crosser (Master of Fellowcraft Lodge in 1958) reports from Boise, ID, that he is again installed as Chaplain of Meridian Lodge #47. He is also York Rite Templar, and Master of Boise Chapter Rose Croix. Marvin is a busy man!

George Snell recently moved to The Stratford on Pleasant Hill Rd. He tells me that he has the same phone number he got when the family moved to Walnut Creek in 1951.

I visited Jim and Pat Vincent at their home in El Paso, TX, last month, on the hill west of Ft. Bliss. They talked of their lodge activities when they were in Lafayette (Master in 1992), and want to be remembered to their many friends in the Lodge.

~ Sweethearts Luncheon ~

On Saturday, **December 13th**, our Lodge hosted its annual luncheon in honor of the widows of our departed brothers, affectionately known as our "Sweethearts." The luncheon, which was held at Petar's Restaurant, was a huge success!



The luncheon also included a celebration of our Marshall Charlie Toll's 92nd birthday.



~ New Caterer for AFL 480 ~

We were disappointed when our caterer advised us that he would not be continuing with us in the new year. The feed-back from our monthly dinners has been very positive and the monthly event has grown in popularity.

We posted an advertisement for a new caterer, which drew an enormous response that posed a happy problem for our Social Chairman Roger Poynts. Our January 6th dinner will be the first dinner for our new caterer, Khristine Bondoc





Acalanes Fellowship's 2009 Crab-Feed

Lafayette Community Center
500 Old St. Mary's Road

Saturday - January 24th

Ticket Order Form

- 1) Paid tickets will be mailed to you or to the person(s) you specify (please provide address) the week of January 1st.
- 2) Unpaid tickets will need to be picked up at Will Call and held under your name unless otherwise instructed.
- 3) Please use the space below to let us know how to handle your tickets. Remember, PAID tickets help avoid delays at the door!

Name:

Total # of Tickets:

Mail All Paid Tickets to Me.

Paid by Check Enclosed Credit Card

Please use web-site for credit/debit card

Mailing Address:

Ticket Requests:

of
Tickets

Ticket Type

Adult Crab & Pasta: \$40 ea.

Child Crab & Pasta: \$15 ea. (Children under 12)

Adult Steak & Pasta: \$40 ea. Rare Med Rare Medium Well

Adult Steak, Crab & Pasta: \$50 ea. Rare Med Rare Medium Well

Mail Check and Form to:

Acalanes Fellowship
c/o Stephen Galop
11040 Wilshire Chase Dr.
Johns Creek, Georgia 30097

or Purchase on line at www.Acalanes.org

Fax: (800) 419-0819

Upcoming Events

Jan. 6th Stated Meeting & Dinner
Social Hour: 6:30 PM
Dinner: 7:00 PM
Stated Meeting: 8:00 PM
Dinner Cost: \$15.00

Jan. 24th Crab Feed 2009!
See Insert
Advance Reservations Required
Ticket Sales Cut-Off January 17th
Place Your Order TODAY!

Moving? Remember to give us your new address!

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