
THE TRESTLEBOARD

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge # 480, F&AM

"The Friendly Lodge"

February-March 2009

From The East

Dennis Rodgers

Worshipful Master

Brethren,

What makes a man a Mason – his obligation? Only in a ritual sense does that apply. We meet in secret in our lodge and perform rituals and however cool that may be, that doesn't make us different. Like the Tuscan and Composite columns, there is nothing truly distinct in that and our differences based thereon are only accidental. What are the distinctive attributes of a Mason that show invention and particular character?

Many of you may know that Masonic Formation and education are priorities of mine. I have watched and wondered why so many Masons join and then fall away from the craft, why so many men show up to receive their Golden Veterans Award and sheepishly admit that they haven't been to the lodge in a decade or more. My feeling is that a solid Masonic Formation program including continuing education and mentoring could change all that. Masonic Formation is a program of Masonic growth and education designed to keep our brothers growing in their Masonic knowledge, to keep our long-time Masons involved in mentoring and create a greater pride in the ideas and ideals of Masonry.

After my initiation, Dave Shull stood up and delivered a short speech. Many of you, especially the younger Masons, have heard his words at your initiations. His interjection affected me and enhanced my experience of the ritual of that degree. I discovered that it was a section of the Monitor that was a part of the original or "long form" lecture of that degree to which Dave felt particularly attached since the "point within the circle" tapestry which hangs in our lodge was made his daughter. You might all have noticed me pausing expectantly at the end of our First Degree ceremonies, and looking over at Dave, because I don't feel like the degree has been properly conferred until Dave contributes that passage.

Why is that passage not still a part of our degree ceremony? Somehow we have come to a point where expediency trumps efficacy and we have created shortened forms of our lectures and proficiencies designed to make the process of becoming a Master Mason easier. But should it be easier? It has been my experience over my 58-year lifetime that that which is acquired at minimal cost is perceived to be of

Upcoming Events

**March 3rd: Stated Meeting & Dinner
Inspector's Visit**

Social Hour: 6:30 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM

Stated Meeting: 8:00 PM

Dinner Cost: \$15.00

March 7th: Third Degree of Br. Gary Sparks

Time To Be Determined

therefore be one requiring dedication, determination and considerable exertion? Shouldn't lectures and proficiencies be done in the full form?

In other parts of the world, it may take a man a year or more of waiting in order to be initiated and even longer to progress to his Second and Third Degrees. In our jurisdiction we have gone to great lengths to shorten the process in order to make it simpler for a man to be raised, sometimes in as little as three months. If our goal is simply to increase our numbers, then I salute this ingenious plan. But if our goal is quality – the quality of the experience of becoming a Master Mason, the quality of the knowledge which we impart and the quality of a man's lifetime experience of Masonry – I dare say these shortcuts do not enhance the experience.

This rapid ascent to the Degree of Master Mason is valuable only if it is the prelude to a lifetime of learning and growth. The Third Degree of Masonry, in and of itself, confers little except the right to attend stated meetings. It establishes a man on the threshold of a career in Masonry without demanding that he step over that threshold or take so much as a single step. The journey of a Master Mason begins on the day he is raised and should conclude with his admission to the Celestial Lodge above.

Continued on Page Three

Roster of Officers 2009

Dennis Rodgers
Worshipful Master

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Jr. Warden

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Michael Roberts, Jr. Steward

Michael Weis, Tyler

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February ~ Anniversaries ~

Gaylord L. Davis
February 16, 1953
56 Years

Thomas W. Frutiger
February 23, 1960
49 Years

Brian O. James
February 25, 2003
6 Years

Clyde D. Miller
February 28, 1950
59 Years

David M. Shull PM
February 21, 1967
42 Years

Gearld W. Walker
February 28, 1989
20 Years

David G. Wheeler
February 24, 1987
22 Years

Scott D. Haile
March 16, 2004
5 Years

William J. Haynes
March 30, 1978
31 Years

Alan J. Mac
March 28, 1987
22 Years

Walter J. Moser
March 11, 1958
51 Years

Charles A. Page
March 25, 1947
62 Years

Brainard Platt
March 22, 1977
32 Years

Frank F. Ransome
March 17, 1947
62 Years

Dennis P. Rodgers, WM
March 23, 2004
5 Years

Ralph W. Runckel
March 22, 1966
43 Years

Bradley O. Rupert
March 18, 2003
6 Years

William I. Russell
March 24, 1981
28 Years

Arne Simonsen, PM
March 27, 1984
25 Years

Lawrence W. Strohmeyer
March 19, 2005
4 Years

Phillip H. Wyne
March 8, 1997
12 Years

James L. Yribarren, PM
March 30, 1996
13 Years

March ~ Anniversaries ~

George Atashkarian
March 12, 1962
47 Years

James H. Burnett
March 20, 1958
51 Years

Roger G. Burt
March 24, 1987
22 Years

Francis J. Ebert
(Past Secretary)
March 22, 1949
60 Years

Donald H. Freitas
March 24, 1979
30 Years

Robert L. Golden
March 31, 1953
56 Years

From The East

Continued from Page 1

What is needed is a path of learning and growing that will make each year of a Mason's life more interesting and full than the year preceding. We are each free to choose such a path, but I believe it is the duty of the lodge to provide the trail markers on that path. There are countless books and lessons on both the fraternal and the esoteric nature of our craft, some readily available and some more difficult to find. If a man is truly a Mason in his heart, he will always want to know more about our ancient and honorable institution and will seek out ways to increase his knowledge. Each page that is turned, each discussion that is held will deepen the knowledge and understanding of what it truly means to be a Mason.

I have embarked upon a mission to establish Masonic Formation at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 and I am, today, inviting you to join me in this mission. Our library of Masonic books was wiped out by the flood and needs to be replaced. If you have books or videos about Masonry or even obliquely relating to Masonry, contribute them to our library or send me the title so that I can work to procure copies for our lodge. If you have any interest at all in participating in this venture, please contact me because I have ways that you can help, ways that you can participate both to gain more knowledge and also to impart that which you know to those newer or less experienced.

In Zen it said that in the Beginner's Mind there are many possibilities, but in the Master's Mind there are few. The Beginner's Mind is a treasured concept among philosophers because only the Beginner's Mind allows room for growth. If you are new enough to Masonry to possess the Beginner's Mind, I urge you to respond. Similarly, if you are steeped in our traditions and wise enough to understand the value of always keeping that Beginner's Mind, I again urge that you step forward. I would like to see our lodge and its library open at least one night each week when our members can come together to read, discuss and learn.

Masonry is a path of growth and learning, and attaining to the degree of Master Mason is only the beginning of that path.



~ Secretary's Notes ~

- 1) Twenty-eight members are still delinquent in their dues: they can't vote, even to "Pay our bills." Send your check for \$106 to Acalanes Fellowship Lodge # 480, PO Box 1, Lafayette, Calif. 94549 or pay on-line at www.Acalanes.org.
- 2) We have two Applications for Affiliation to read in February.
- 3) In November someone shot and killed two show horses you may have seen in various Shriner events, Choctaw and Lucky, owned by Mike and Mariane Roundtree of Livermore. A reward fund was started, and in December the Lodge voted to contribute \$250 to the fund. When I called Mike Roundtree he was thankful that many contributions had been made to the ASPCA and other rescue groups, and suggested that we make our contribution to "Hoofprints On The Heart Adaptive Riding Center" (HOTARC) where his horses had been working, instead of the reward fund. In January the Lodge voted to direct our contribution to that organization.
- 4) It is gratifying to see the many new members take their degrees and then do their proficiencies!



In Memoriam

Wayne Allen Barr

Jan. 13, 1915 - Feb. 21, 2009

Initiated July 8, 1946 Golden Rule Lodge #479

Passed September 23, 1946

Raised October 28, 1946

Affiliated Acalanes Fellowship Aug. 6, 1985

50 Year Golden Vet Nov 19, 1996

Br. Barr is survived by his wife Harriet who lives in Rosmoor.

Mrs. Florence Pauli

February 12, 2009

Mrs. Pauli was the widow of our Br. Thomas Clayton Pauli, a founding member of Acalanes #723 in 1952.

To the Barr and Pauli Families we extend our sincerest condolences.

*To all our Brothers preparing for their
upcoming degrees we extend our
sincerest support. Remember that you
are never alone on this journey.*



Moving? Remember to give us your new address!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 From the East
- 2 Officers' Roster / February & March Anniversaries
- 3 From the East – Continued / In Memoriam / Secretary's Notes