
THE TRESTLEBOARD

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge # 480, F&AM

"The Friendly Lodge"

April 2009

From The East

Dennis Rodgers

Worshipful Master

Brethren,

No more than once a year our lodge awards its highest honor – The Hiram Award – to a brother who has distinguished himself by his character and by his commitment to the success and prosperity of our lodge. The ceremony is always memorable, and one of our best attended events. This year's presentation will take place on Saturday, April 18. Make your reservations early!

Every Mason is, by definition, an exemplary man committed to the highest principles of brotherly love, relief and truth. Yet among the consummate gentlemen who comprise Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480, there are those who stand out. Although there is no requirement to bestow this award every year, we are blessed to have so many dedicated brethren that again this year the decision was not "do we have an appropriate candidate?" but rather which of the several worthy brothers would we choose for this year's award. It was my hope that we could bestow the award on someone who personifies the virtues that I wish to see inculcated in all of our new brethren, which I would simply categorize as Old School.

Masonry has been around from time immemorial. Like everything that ages, Masonry has evolved, and like all evolution, it is not always for the better. In 2009, most of us have too many toys, too many high-definition cable channels and too many commitments. As a result, Masonry isn't the centerpiece of our brothers' lives as it was 50-100 years ago. While we have the ability to communicate through e-mail, voice-mail and electronic text messaging, we are unable to come together in a physical sense the way brothers did in years gone by.

In last month's column, I talked about how we've made Masonry "easier," and how I don't think that is the secret to making Masonry better. I alluded to the idea that just taking the obligation of a Master Mason is not enough; a brother needs to live his craft. I said that the journey of a Master Mason begins on the day he is raised and should conclude with his admission to the Celestial Lodge above. Masons of a bygone era believed this, and the Old School brothers still do. This year's Hiram Award recipient personifies this theme

in ways that few brothers ever could. After seventy years in Masonry he is still a regular and still performing flawless ritual. And how can any brother answer the call more elegantly than to be our lodge's most active coach at the age of 94?

Ollie Thomas is quite simply Old School. No two words could better sum him up. He believes that our lodge is a sacred place and that the stewardship provided by our officers and coaches is a sacred trust. It is a rare day when he is not in attendance at our degrees, meetings and officer's practice sessions and he is there in an active role.

The brothers who have been fortunate enough to have him as their coach have not all enjoyed the experience, for Ollie is a taskmaster who believes that candidates should learn and perform their proficiencies flawlessly. He also believes our officers should perform at the highest level, and doesn't hesitate to let us know when we don't. It might be easy to say that he's just too hard on us all, but he leads by example and never asks anyone to do more than he himself has always been willing to do. I know that my late father, a Marine Colonel and decorated WWII veteran, would have approved of everything that Ollie does, and everything that he is. That's what I mean by Old School.

In March, we conferred the Third Degree of Masonry on brother Gary Sparks, yet another in the long line of Ollie's plebes. As part of the ritual, Ollie wanted to fill in for our regular Chaplain, who was away on vacation. During rehearsal and during the degree, Ollie was flawless. More amazing than that is the story of Ollie sitting in the Junior Warden's station at a Past Master's Degree a few years back when the Chaplain vapor-locked on the perambulation prayer and Ollie took it over without missing a beat. This is clearly the result of years of rigorous study and practice. This is unmistakably a man who takes Masonry to heart.



Continued on Page Three

Roster of Officers 2009

Dennis Rodgers
Worshipful Master
dennis@acalanes.org

Jim Chamberlain
Senior Warden
jchamberlain@acalanes.org

Thomas Riley, PM
Jr. Warden
triley@acalanes.org

Stephen P. Galop III
Treasurer
sgalop@acalanes.org

Donald L. Hoskins
Secretary
dhoskins@acalanes.org
(925) 283-3266

Frank Shoffner, Chaplain
shoffner@acalanes.org

Randy Tolerton, Sr. Deacon
rtolerton@acalanes.org

Bradley Rupert, Junior Deacon
Brad@Acalanes.org

Ray Sevilla, Senior Steward
sevilla@acalanes.org

Michael Roberts, Jr. Steward

Michael Weis, Tyler

Banquet Manager
Roger Poynts
poynts@acalanes.org

Trestleboard Editor:
Stephen Galop
sgalop@acalanes.org

Lodge Phone: (925) 284-7815

Web-site:
www.Acalanes.org



April ~ Anniversaries ~

Peter J. Axtman
April 23, 1959
50 Years

Ryder B. Brose
April 28, 2007
2 Years

Donald B. Burnett
April 11, 1978
31 Years

Russell J. Chapman
April 29, 2003
6 Years

Franz R. Chavez
April 23, 2005
4 Years

Roy Couch
April 27, 1976
33 Years

Marvin Delwin H. Crosser
April 17, 1951
58 Years

Jeffrey A. Fesunoff
April 30, 2002
7 Years

Donald R. Hansen, PM
April 21, 1959
50 Years

Gerald I. Hertz
April 19, 1966
43 Years

John H. Kalivoda
April 12, 1957
52 Years

Amos J. Leffler
April 8, 1958
51 Years

Upcoming Events

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

**April 18th: Hiram Award Dinner
& Presentation**
Social Hour: 5:00 PM
Presentation: 6:00 PM
Dinner: 6:30 PM
Dinner Cost: \$20.00

**May 5th: Stated Meeting & Dinner
Public Schools Night**
Social Hour: 6:30 PM
Dinner: 7:00 PM
Stated Meeting: 8:00 PM
Dinner Cost: \$15.00

Jay J. Newman
April 20, 1968
41 Years

Stanley L. Perlberg
April 4, 1956
53 Years

David Pugatch
April 18, 1972
37 Years

Carl Riccio
April 29, 1967
42 Years

James M. Vincent, PM
April 19, 1980
29 Years

James L. Weeden
April 11, 1974
35 Years

Lodge Dinners

To be certain, our Stated Meeting Dinners have become a huge success! Beyond a quick meal before Stated Meeting, the monthly dinners are an important social gathering for our Acalanes family. We are particularly pleased with the number of Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts who come for dinner even though they cannot yet attend the Stated Meeting.



But ... yes, there is always a "but" ... we desperately need your help in taking time to make a reservation in advance of the dinners. **Upwards of 25% of our attendees do not let us know they are coming.** This makes it impossible to have the proper amount of food prepared not to mention table set up. There are three ways to let us know you will be in attendance:

The Reservation Line – (800) 419-0819 ext. 2
 E-Mail: RSVP@Acalanes.org
 On-Line: www.Acalanes.org

Please use one of these three methods to let us know that we will be seeing you at least three days before the event. You do not have to pay in advance, we simply need an accurate head count. Of course, if it is truly a last minute decision to come you are still welcome ... but there will be a \$3.00 penalty charge.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind our Sweethearts that they are always welcome at our First Tuesday Stated Meeting Dinners at no cost.



From The East

Continued from Page 1

I wanted to pay homage to Ollie in this month's *Trestleboard*, because at the award ceremony I plan to be uncharacteristically silent. With his long and storied career, I expect men who have known him longer and shared more with him to do the lion's share of the talking. Sadly, many of them will be unable to attend in person, but I am confident that the Celestial Lodge above will be called from labor to refreshment so that a great many of Ollie's friends can attend in spirit. I feel privileged to have served this lodge alongside Worshipful Ollie and I look forward to raising a glass on April 18, to toast a man who has given so much to Masonry and to our lodge including an example worthy of all imitation.

Temple Benefactors Plaque Updated

At the April 7th Stated Meeting the addition of nine name plates will be unveiled on the Temple Benefactors Plaque that hangs in the foyer.

The names that are added acknowledge the dedicated service and contributions of the members who are there honored.



The names added are:

Ron Reese

Hal Gates

Tim & Michele Wilbur

Jack & Phyllis Kalivoda

Jim & Diane Yribarren

Ray & Ursala Sevilla

Michael Weis

Ertan Atalay

Stephen Galop III

The existing names on the plaque are:

John Doan	Walter Moser	George Affalter
Roy Beitelschees	Michael Brown	William Johnston
Frances Ebert	James Barley	Thelma Barley
Don Hammock	Earl Brodie	David Samson
Andrew Neumann	Leonard Love	Norman Crane
W. Arthur Miller	Albert Markstein	Harry Bones
Robert Haile	Robert Ecoff	Charles Butler
James Crooks	John Cook	Vengie Hughes
Allan Mac	Larry Woods	Hammock Estate
Georgia Atashkarian	Steward MacDougall	
E. Arthur Haglund, PGM		

Public Schools Nights

Greetings from the West

April is Public Schools month in the great state of California and the brethren at Acalanes Fellowship will be celebrating along with the rest of the State in honoring our local public educational institutions. The lodge will be holding its Public School Night at our Stated Meeting Dinner in May.



This year we have adopted El Monte Elementary in Concord which is part of the Mount Diablo Unified School District. El Monte was built in 1955 and is a community-based school where the majority of the students live around the school as opposed to being bused in. They have 465 students from pre-kindergarten to fifth grade. 49% of the students are socio-economically disadvantaged students who receive free and/or reduced lunch. 32% of the student population is English Language Learners, the majority of whom speak Spanish as their first language. 45% are Latino and 8% are special education. There are only 21 full time teachers which include both regular and special education as well as both instrumental and vocal music. There are also 13 special education assistants, two office personnel, one administrator, two custodians (day/night), one part time librarian, one resource specialist, two speech pathologists and both a part time occupational therapist and behaviorist as well as a part time psychologist and psychologist intern. They have three autism specific special education classes on campus as well.

El Monte is a very proud school where the teachers work long and hard to make sure each child has the best education that they can possibly provide with their limited resources.

This year along with a donation of \$1,000 that will go to the improvement of the school library, we will be holding an essay contest for grades three through five. The winners at each grade level will receive a \$100 savings bond. The third grade students are being asked to write an essay on what it means to be a good citizen as they just completed a Social Studies unit on citizenship and community. The fourth grade students are currently studying heroes in history and are being asked to write an essay about a person a person in their lives they view as a hero. Fifth grade spends a good deal of time on current events and the economy and are being asked to write essays that explain how the recession affects their daily life. Winning essays will be read at our Stated Meeting Dinner in May and publish in the May edition of the *Trestleboard*.

Jim Chamberlain

2009 Temple Board Officers

At the February 26th meeting current Board President Tim Wilbur was re-elected to a sixth term as President of the Acalanes Masonic Building Association (aka the "Temple Board"). Tim joined the Temple Board and became its President just three weeks after being raised in our Lodge. He succeeded immediate past President Hal Gates who retired from the post in 2004.

Br. Michael Weis has been elected Vice President of the Temple Board succeeding Jim Yribarren who served in that post since 2004 and stepped off the Board this year due to term limits.

Br. Don Hoskins, who is in his ninth year as Lodge Secretary, has accepted the post of Temple Board Secretary replacing Stephen Galop who has held the post since 2003.

Br. Stephen Galop continues as Interim-Treasurer of Acalanes Masonic Building Association.



2009 Golden Veterans

Donald R. Hansen, PM

Br. Hansen was raised in Acalanes 723 on April 21, 1959 and served as our Master in 1971.

Peter "Jack" Axtman

Br. Axtman was raised in Naval Lodge # 87 on April 23, 1959 and affiliated with Acalanes Fellowship on August 6, 1991.

Br. Jack is a Life Member of our Lodge.

Bless These Brothers

A Prayer for our Golden Veterans

Great Architect of the Universe, we give thanks for the faithfulness and example of these fine men. May their service remind us of the importance of keeping the promises we have made to each other and to You. Let their example teach us that the obligations we have taken upon ourselves cannot be forgotten or overlooked.

Bless them Father, and reward them for their faithfulness in living up to their Masonic Obligations.

In Your Spirit we pray,

Amen.

~ Dedicated Service ~

On April 18th our Lodge will bestow its highest honor on our worthy brother, Oliver A. Thomas, PM.

The Hiram Award is recognition of a brother who gives generously of his time and talents without expectation of compensation or acknowledgement. While the Lodge can only make one award per year, we are truly blessed to count among our members so many who truly meet the definition of "Dedicated Service."



Hiram Award Recipients

Awarded by Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480



William Church Armstrong

Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
November 3, 2007

James Randolph Barley

Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
September 12, 1992

Roy E. Beitelschees

Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
October 21, 2000

Charles Leroy Butler

(Deceased)
Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
1993

Harding T. Crandell

(Deceased)
Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
1981

Marvin D.H. Crosser

Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
1989

Joseph O. Darius

(Deceased)
Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
1982

Edmond L. Denison

Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
1983

John F. Doane

(Deceased)
Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
1989

Francis John Ebert

Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
September 13, 1997

Stephen Peter Galop III

Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
July 12, 2004

Harold Lewis Gates

Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
October 26, 2002

John Harrison

Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
1990

Karl F. Heur, PM

(Deceased)
Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
1994

Vengie Hughes

Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
November 11, 2006

John H. "Jack" Kalivoda

Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
October 25, 2008

Leonard Alvin Love

Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
June 30, 2001

Marvin J. Martin

(Deceased)
Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
1979

Andrew A. Neumann

(Deceased)
Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
January 27, 1996

Christian Andrew Nilsen

(Deceased)
Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
November 16, 1991

Ronald James Reese

Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
October 20, 1998

Arne Simonsen

Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
October 23, 1999

David M. Shull

Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
1990

Charles Evert Toll

Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
September 2, 2003

Alvin Jesse Weis

Acalanes Fellowship No. 480
October 28, 1995

Hiram Award Presentation & Dinner

Saturday, April 18th

Social: 5:00 PM

Presentation: 6:00 PM

Dinner: 6:30 PM

Reservations:

E-Mail: RSVP@ACALANES.ORG

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

On-Line: www.Acalanes.org



Moving? Remember to give us your new address!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 From the East
- 2 Officers' Roster / April Anniversaries
- 3 From the East – Continued / Lodge Dinners / Temple Benefactors Plaque
- 4 From the West: Public Schools Night / 2009 Temple Board Officers / Golden Veterans
- 5 Dedicated Service – Acalanes Fellowship's Hiram's Remembered