
THE TRESTLEBOARD

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge # 480, F&AM

"The Friendly Lodge"

June/July 2009

From The East

Dennis Rodgers

Worshipful Master

Brethren,

Get Involved!

Beginning in June, we will be holding Schools of Instruction on Tuesday evenings at the lodge. At these schools, we will be reviewing the ritual of our degrees, starting with the Second Degree on June 9. These Schools of Instruction are open to all brothers in the appropriate degree, that is to say that Entered Apprentices are encouraged to attend Schools of Instruction pertaining to the First Degree, Fellowcrafts are encouraged to attend Schools pertaining to the First and Second Degree and Master Masons are encouraged to attend our Schools on all degrees.

This is the perfect opportunity for our Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts to become more familiar with the degree ceremonies and to learn more about the workings of the lodge. For those brothers who have an interest in participating as officers, delivering charges, coaching and/or participating in degree ceremonies, this is an open avenue to learn and practice the work. Our lodge needs a few good men to step forward and learn ritual so that we are prepared in the event one or more of our officers is unavailable for a ceremony. Please join us.

If you are interested in attending these Schools of Instruction, please contact me by phone or e-mail (all officers can be contacted via e-mail through the lodge web-site www.acalanes.org). The Schools of Instruction will take place primarily on Tuesday evenings and if I have your name on the interest list, I will keep you advised of the agenda for each school as well as any scheduling changes. Come learn a part in our degrees and perhaps you can wield the setting maul in an upcoming conferral.

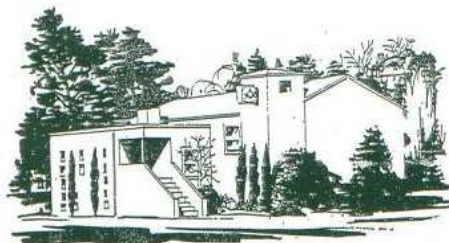
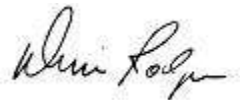
Don't forget our Third Degree visitation to Monarch Lodge in Oakland to see the Prince Hall Masons put on the Third Degree. Make your reservations for this event by e-mail or on the web-site.

I would like to salute our secretary, Don Hoskins for bringing forward the marvelous article from the April-May issue of California Freemason. This is one terrific way for brothers to get involved and invigorate our lodge. I think you all know that I am open to suggestions, so read the article and tell us what things you would like YOUR lodge to be doing. Thank you, Don, for putting the spotlight on this.

As we approach summer and our dark month of July, I want to wish all the brothers and our sweethearts a great summer season. It is a time to spend with family and friends, to travel and to convince the world that on becoming a Mason you have become a better man. It's a crazy mixed up world out there, so drive carefully, act responsibly and make a point of being in Lafayette on the first Tuesday of each month to have dinner with all your lodge brothers.

My year as Master is nearly half over and I want to say that it has been a mad rush. It seems like only yesterday we were planning the installation ceremony and now we are beginning the plans for the installation of next year's officers. Brethren, time marches on and the things we want to accomplish, individually and as a lodge, will only be accomplished if you contribute, participate, cajole, kibitz and roll up your sleeves and get involved.

In closing this month I want to recognize our good brother Ray Sevilla who has been quite ill of late and yet continues to be a presence at our lodge and a stalwart in seeing that things get done. Thank you brother, and please, make your own health a priority for the next month at least.



www.Acalanes.org

Roster of Officers 2009

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~ June / July Anniversaries

Wilbert B. Adams, PM
June 25, 1964
45 Years

William C. Armstrong, PM
June 14, 1975
34 Years

George S. Blodgett
June 19, 1984
25 Years

Milton F. Bruzzone
June 26, 1984
25 Years

Wallace R. Campbell
June 1, 1949
60 Years

Gary G. Charland, PM
June 8, 1999
10 Years

Mark J. Cook
June 17, 2006
3 Years

George D. Demakas
June 10, 1978
31 Years

Donald D. Doyle
June 23, 1943
66 Years

James O. Ely
June 24, 1958
51 Years

Brian H. Grossmann
June 22, 1991
18 Years

E. A. Haglund, PGM
June 24, 1969
40 Years

Donald L. Hoskins, Secretary
June 7, 1958
51 Years

Eldon G. Keefer
July 31, 1946
63 Years

Scott L. Ingram
June 30, 1992
16 Years

Orbrie L. Keys
June 11, 1970
39 Years

William A. Miller, PM
June 15, 1967
42 Years

David E. Prichard
June 26, 2007
2 Years

Robert A. Richardson
June 30, 1956
52 Years

Allen Schwartz
June 12, 1973
36 Years

William B. Simpson
June 30, 1979
30 Years

Richard L. Smith
June 24, 1980
29 Years

Sheldon Winnick
June 19, 1979
30 Years



~ Secretary's Notes ~

Gery Walker writes from his vacation in Hawaii that he has lost 110 lbs, quit smoking, having a great time, and sends regards to "WM Phill." He was Raised in 1989.

Sweetheart Bertha Markstein reports that she has moved to Antioch recently. She is the widow of Albert Markstein who was Raised in 1953, and passed away in 1999.

In December we contributed to "Hoofprints On The Heart," Adaptive Riding Center. They recently had a Fair at their new location, the home site and barns of the historic Hagemann Ranch in southern Livermore. It is a tremendous facility for horses!

Someone in Shingletown sent us a Scottish Rite ring they found at the Lafayette Reservoir engraved "L. W. Medford. 69" This turns out to be **Lowell (Bill) Medford** who was a member of our Lodge and died in 1984. Our paper records were lost in a flood several years ago, and the only Medford in the phone book knows nothing of this person. Does any of our members have information on Bill Medford?

The Freemason of April-May has an article on page 12 telling how one lodge decided to get public recognition by doing projects in their community, such as a warm coat drive, handyman service to seniors or lodge widows, park clean up, ice cream social at Masonic Home, packaging food for food bank, etc. We could add the Masonic Child ID program in our community. What sort of service or project might you think appropriate for our lodge? Send or call you thoughts to the Master, Dennis Rodgers, or Senior Warden, Jim Chamberlain, or the Secretary.

Don



~ In Memoriam ~

T. A. "Art" Hughes, Jr.

May 22, 1923 - May 4, 2009

Initiated: August 11, 1949

Passed: September 22, 1949

Raised: December 15, 1949

Member of Oakland Scottish Rite

Past Potentae of Aahmes Shrine

Brother Hughes received his degrees at Alamo #122 affiliating with Acalanes #723 in May 1978. Br. Hughes served in the Pacific during World War II as a Marine Corps Officer.

~ Summer Classes ~

Gain the tools and training you need to effectively manage your lodge. This summer the five courses in the certification program are offered in intensive one-day workshops:

Lodge Management Certification Program

- Program Planning
- Lodge Finance
- Hall Association Management
- Membership Development
- Lodge Administration

Masonic Formation Certification Program

Masonic Formation officers help inspire candidates and renew the spirit of Masonry in the lodge. Get certified and learn how to:

- Create an effective candidate education program
- Motivate lodge members to seek more knowledge about Masonry
- Organize a lodge Masonic Formation program
- Tap new materials and resources for lifelong learning

Dates and locations (same for both programs)

June 6: Sheraton Pasadena Hotel, Pasadena

June 13: Town and Country Resort, San Diego

June 20: Radisson Hotel, Fresno

June 27: Radisson Hotel Sacramento, Sacramento

July 11: Crowne Plaza San Francisco Airport

July 18: Holiday Inn, Chico

To register, call Kim Hegg, Grand Lodge Program Manager, at 415/292-9111 or download registration forms at freemason.org:

~ Editor's Notes ~

Br. Peter Hjersman, together with four associates, have formed Phoenix Hall Writers Blog which can be found at <http://phoenixhallwriters.wordpress.com>. They are a critique group of writers in the East Bay writing on varied and interesting topics.

Stephen

Public Schools Nights

On May 5th Acalanes Fellowship hosted teachers, parents and students from El Monte Elementary School in Concord. The students participated in an essay contest for which prizes were awarded. Additionally, the Lodge presented the school with a donation of \$1,000 towards under funded programs. As promised, the winning essays are re-printed here.



This years Public Schools Program is the result of the excellent work of Jim and Kim Chamberlain.

Thank you for your efforts!

4th Grade Winner: Clay Dashner

My Hero

To me a hero is someone who is trustworthy, honest, and generous and someone who is not too strict. A hero is not a person that fights monsters and has super powers. Heroes love people so they help them in whatever way they can.

My hero is funny, loves kids and helps them, too. My hero is my teacher. She is always happy and loves to play. Like I said, she loves kids and is not that strict. She is nice to other students and all of the other teachers. My hero's name is Mrs. Kissinger.

When I come to school in the morning, we have math. Mrs. Kissinger teaches us the lesson. If I am playing around with my friends and not listening, I do not know what to do. So I raise my hand and when she comes to me she asks me what the problem is. I have to ask her what we are doing. She always asks me if I was listening and when I say not, she says that she saw me looking at her. She shows me what to do and when I get to the hardest problem, she will help me do it. On our test, everyone but me got the hard problem wrong because she showed me how to do it and I paid attention.

Mrs. Kissinger helps me with other things, too. She helps me with science, social studies, reading and writing. Because she helps me and other kids, she is my hero.

3rd Grade Winner: Gouri Vinod

What Does it Mean to be a Good Citizen?

Being a good citizen is everyone's responsibility. A good citizen should always take care of their community and environment. There are many ways we can help our community, like regrouping garbage, following the rules, helping other people, doing volunteer work, and respecting others. To help others first you need to get involved in your community to know what is happening around you.

Regrouping garbage in different cans is very important for our city. A good citizen always finds time to help the city by regrouping the trash in different cans. They never litter because they want to keep the city green and clean! They get very amazed at what they can do to help their city. Recycling, reducing and reusing are the three R's of a good citizen.

Every good citizen obeys the laws and the rules because obeying the rules is very important to our daily life. For example, they should follow the traffic rules and wait at the signals to cross the street. You ought to wear a helmet when ever you ride a bike. And help elderly people cross the street.

The other important aspect of being a good citizen is to help others. Caring for the elderly and homeless people is an important duty of a good citizen. For example, older man and women that cannot cross the street need help. We can also help other people by giving money, food, clothes and toys to them. Doing volunteer work is also a good quality of a good citizen.

A good citizen always respects others. Do not say bad words to people around you. Look for ways to help your community. Inform your neighbors about hazards. Always welcome new kids to your school. Try and always be fair. Raise money for the community needs, like fire fighters.

If we are not doing any of the things listen above, we are not being good citizens. So if you want to help your city, try and do the three R's, follow the rules, show respect to others and love your community. A good citizen makes a community a better place to live. I think I will always do my best to be a good citizen. If you are a good citizen, people will look up to you!

5th Grade Winner:
Waleed Bin Saleem

Recession: A Big Problem

We are going through a terrible recession in the United States. A recession is when there is a slowdown in the economy. People are losing their jobs, homes, stores, customers and money. A recession is due to many reasons, which I will explain in this essay. The recession has affected my family and friends. Our government is trying to fix this recession and hopefully soon we will be out of this problem. People are suffering because of this recession.

People are buying fewer things and spending less money because their jobs are not providing enough salary to pay their expenses. Bills, payments and taxes are becoming even more difficult to pay off than ever before. People are having trouble managing money, paying mortgages on their houses, car payments and college tuition. Banks also lose money when people fail to pay back bank loans. When this happens, the banks stop making loans to the public and private businesses. Many businesses lose money when people do not spend money and they are unable to get loans from the bank. The result is that businesses lay off their workers and the entire business cycle slows down, shrinking the overall economy. Without jobs the economy and the government suffer.

People are having a hard time living in this recession. In my family, we have to move out of our house. Also, my friend's cousins have to stay with him at his house because of the recession. My mother and father are losing customers as well as other businesses because the customers do not have enough money to spend and even people who do have money to spend feel like it is not the right time and/or choice to spend. Because people are not spending money there is a domino effect of the entire economy. The economic gloom also affects people and they become sad and depressed. People get stressed out and they become ill. This tension affects people in social aspects as well as financial aspects resulting in higher crime rates and violence. The government needs to solve this problem.

Our government is trying to help end this recession. Some economists recommend that the government invest money in infrastructure, meaning that the government should spend money and build buildings, roads, hospitals and schools. While other economists recommend that the government cut taxes which will encourage investments. Few economists recommend that the government stay out of the economy and the

economy will fix itself. My opinion is that the government should invest in infrastructure. When the government spends more money on building schools, roads and hospitals the economy of the United States will improve because more jobs will be created.

In conclusion, the recession is leaving a huge impact on the people of our country. As our economy suffers, people are unable to get financial stability in their lives. They are losing their jobs, which affects their daily expenses. People are spending less money in order to save money. Businesses are not making profits due to the recession and some are even closing down. Families and individuals are suffering and our government needs to take more action to fix this difficult situation.

The Birth of a Nation

As Independence Day approaches, it is appropriate to remember our Brothers who, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, mutually pledged to each other their Lives, their Fortunes and their sacred Honor as signors of the Declaration of Independence.

William Ellery, Rhode Island
First Lodge of Boston, 1748

Benjamin Franklin, Pennsylvania
Grand Master of Pennsylvania, 1734

John Hancock, Massachusetts
Merchants Lodge No. 277 in Quebec, affiliated with
Saint Andrew's Lodge in Boston, 1762

Joseph Hewes, North Carolina
Unanimity Lodge No. 7

William Hooper, North Carolina
Hanover Lodge in Masonborough, N.C.

Robert Treat Paine, Massachusetts
Massachusetts Grand Lodge in 1759

Richard Stockton, New Jersey
Charter Master of St. John's Lodge in Princeton, 1765

George Walton, Georgia
Solomon's Lodge No. 1, in Savannah

William Whipple, New Hampshire
St. John's Lodge, Portsmouth, N.H., 1752

Upcoming Events

June 2nd: Stated Meeting & Dinner
Dinner Cost: \$15.00

June 19th: Visitation to Monarch Lodge, Oakland
Car-poolers meet in our parking lot at
6PM. Degree at 7 with dinner to follow.
Cost \$15 at the door with advance notice (use our reservation line for head-count).

Moving? Remember to give us your new address!

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