
THE TRESTLEBOARD

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge # 480, F&AM

"The Friendly Lodge"

August 2009

From The East

Dennis Rodgers

Worshipful Master

Brethren,

About Getting Involved

My message in our last Trestleboard discussed the necessity and value of our members getting involved in the leadership and activities of our lodge. It struck me as serendipitous at the time that our Secretary would simultaneously offer an article for your consideration about the many ways that Masons could get involved in their lodges' activities and how the lodges could get involved in their communities. One could surmise that great minds think alike or that planets were somehow aligning... or perhaps it was merely coincidence.

Well this week I received an exceptional contribution from Roger Poynts regarding the relevance of Masonry in the lives of Masons and in the communities in which we live. It is a thoughtful and thought-provoking piece recounting a presentation made before a Masonic Lodge in 1995. In summary, it bemoans the drudgery of lodge business as usual and the dearth of community involvement that was the order of the day. Obviously, there is a rising tide of thought, emotion, karma and the turning of the wheel that is bringing the idea of involvement and contribution to the fore at this difficult time for America.

And so I continue to bang the drum for what is apparently not just my issue, but that of many other Masons here, around the country and around the world: How can we make ourselves better Masons and how can we make Masonry more relevant?

I don't have a universal answer to these questions, but I do have suggestions as to how we can each find our own answers.

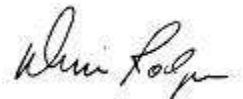
First, I would recommend that all Scottish Rite Masons should avail themselves of the educational opportunities offered by the Sublime Masters Guild, a group within the Oakland Scottish Rite that meets on the second Monday of each month to study the degrees and lessons of the order using the original 1857 Opus Magnum Degrees written by Brother Albert Pike of his revision of the degrees 4th to 32nd. Members of our lodge may avail themselves of the

reading material in our meager library as well as that of the Grand Lodge to learn more about Masonry. Knowledge is power, brothers.

Secondly, I would urge you to identify within yourself the calling that you have to serve your lodge and your community. We will be holding lodges of instruction in the various degrees on the second and fourth Tuesdays in August as well as hosting the District Officers School of Instruction on the third Tuesday in August. These are opportunities to learn more about our degrees and about the roles of our officers. These schools of instruction are open to all Master Masons and occasionally schools of instruction are held on the Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft degrees and Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts are invited to attend these.

There are current community programs such as our annual public schools night and the Masonic Student Assistance Program (MSAP), the Masonic Homes and the Masonic Outreach Services (MOS) as well as the Scholarship program available through the California Masonic Foundation. These are worthwhile and measurable ways in which we as Masons can contribute to our communities. And still as a fraternity, we are always open to suggestions on how we can contribute – in small and large ways alike – to make ourselves a part of the community and to make our communities better.

In closing I would like to say that our visitation to Monarch Lodge in June to witness and even participate in the Prince Hall Third Degree ceremony was a smashing success and a spectacular good time. Let me be the first to submit that if next years leadership should see fit to do that again, I'll put my name at the top of the list to go, and recommend that any brothers who missed it should make a point not to miss it next time.



www.Acalanes.org

Roster of Officers 2009

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Michael Roberts, Jr. Steward

Michael Weis, Tyler

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~ August Anniversaries ~

Angel G. Alvarez-Mapp
August 12, 2003
6 Years

Daniel M. Argueta
August 18, 2007
2 Years

James R. Barley
August 25, 1979
30 Years

Oliver E. Burch
August 22, 1950
59 Years

James H. Chamberlain
August 21, 2004
5 Years

John B. Cook
August 20, 1994
15 Years

William S. Glueck
August 17, 1961
48 Years

Danny Ho
August 19, 2006
3 Years

Thomas E. Ivey
August 21, 1945
64 Years

Clinton J. Jossey
August 28, 1984
25 Years

Trandafir "Tony" Mihutoni
August 19, 2000
9 Years

Stephen E. Milano
August 18, 2001
8 Years

Thomas E. Nicotre
August 14, 1993
16 Years

Francis E. Oliver
August 13, 1940
69 Years

John R. Osborne
August 24, 1985
24 Years

Kenneth C. Owen
August 9, 2003
6 Years

Ronald J. Reese
August 29, 1978
31 Years

Michael E. Roberts
August 23, 2008
1 Years

Robert S. Strohmeier
August 24, 2004
5 Years

Charles R. Tolerton
August 31, 2004
4 Years

Dean D. Van Norman, PM
August 24, 1976
33 Years

Kris J. Wainscott
August 16, 2003
6 Years

C. T. Watson
August 30, 1979
30 Years

William L. Whitten
August 13, 1958
51 Years

Secretary's Notes

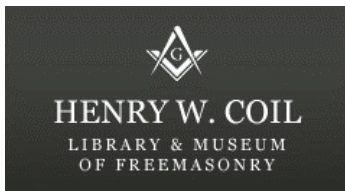
At this late date in the year, we have fourteen members whose dues are delinquent. To those who have paid their dues promptly ... **Thank You!** We appreciate your support. If you are one of the fourteen, you can either send a check to the Lodge Secretary or pay on-line with your credit or debit card at www.Acalanes.org. If non-payment is the result of a financial or personal difficulty, please call me. We care about all our members and can assist making other arrangements.

Don

Builders of Dreams:

The California Masonic Experience 1850-Present

This exhibit debuted in February 2009 at the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America to high acclaim. It is now on display at the Henry W. Coil Library & Museum of Freemasonry in San Francisco through Nov. 10, 2009.



The exhibit can be viewed at:

Henry Wilson Coil Library and Museum
California Masonic Memorial Temple
1111 California Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

Hours:

Monday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wednesday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Admission is free.

In addition to the artifacts, a movie was produced which can be viewed on our web-site at www.acalanes.org/henry_coil.htm.

Do You Know A Brother in Need?

Our Chaplain, Br. Frank Shoffner would like to know. Sometimes a kind word, offer of encouragement or just knowing that someone cares can make a difference. Brother Shoffner can be contacted at frank@acalanes.org.

~ Masons4Mitts ~

Masons & Baseball: A Perfect Partnership

CHALLENGE UPDATE



San Francisco vs. South Bay vs. East Bay Lodges
\$20 buys a mitt for a Junior Giants team player

**HELP BUILD CONFIDENCE,
LEADERSHIP
AND TEAMWORK IN OUR KIDS!**

East Bay Aces = 152 mitts
San Francisco Sluggers = 283 mitts
South Bay Bombers = 148 mitts

“PLAY BALL” online at

www.Masons4Mitts.org

Campaign runs May to August

Web-Site Announcement:

Early in August our web-site will be migrating to a new server and hosting product. During most of this transition you will not experience any downtime, as you will simply be re-routed to a shadow site. However, as the final cut over approaches our site may experience down time lasting from 24 to 48 hours.

Your patience during this transition is appreciated.

Stephen Galop
Web-Site Administrator

August 26 will be Masons Night at AT&T Park. The pre-game, homeplate check presentation by the Grand Master to the Junior Giants will be announced throughout the entire ballpark with the video on the scoreboard! All Masons can purchase a specially priced bleacher seat at \$12—buy your ticket today at:

<http://www.masons4mitts.org/>

Text provided by the Grand Lodge of California

Moving? Remember to give us your new address!

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