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# THE TRESTLEBOARD

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge # 480, F&AM

"The Friendly Lodge"

September 2009

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## From The East

Dennis Rodgers

Worshipful Master

Brethren,

### **Something you can do TODAY!!**

I just love it when the universe aligns and all forces are moving in the same direction. In recent months I've discussed the need for Masonry to be relevant in our communities and how important it is to have a greater purpose. Just this month I've had discussions with a friend whose job it has been for several years to identify and help at-risk children in the Antioch/Bay Point area. He talked about how difficult and frustrating his job has been. My own past experience with a group home in Sacramento gave me a worm's-eye view of just how troubled and tumultuous the future of our country could be if we don't do something to re-enfranchise the lost children.

What is needed is some sort of coordinated effort to identify the at-risk population as early as possible – people in the trenches who are trained to spot the signs of trouble *before* the kid ends up on the 11:00 news or in some clock tower with an automatic weapon. Perhaps a program designed to identify and train teachers and counselors who could take on the roll of recognizing future troublemakers and intervening. Wouldn't it be so very, very great if we as Masons could have a hand in this critically important work?

It would be great indeed. So great in fact that the California Masonic Foundation has established just such a program and YOU have the opportunity to bring it to educators in the east bay and Contra Costa area! It's called MSAP – The Masonic Student Assistance Program and they have come to us to ask for our assistance in promoting it in our neighborhood – your neighborhood.

For those of you unfamiliar with MSAP, let me give you a few of the particulars from MSAP literature:

*Behavior issues are often symptoms of a bigger problem. Because students in distress may not ask for*

## Upcoming Events

**Sept. 1st: Stated Meeting & Dinner**

Social Hour: 6:30 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM

Stated Meeting: 8:00 PM

Dinner Cost: \$15.00

**Sept. 14th: Constitutional Observance at Oakland Scottish Rite**

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*help, it falls to their teachers to read the signs and intervene before it's too late.*

*MSAP is an innovative three-day workshop that builds educators' skills in identifying at-risk students and providing appropriate guidance.*

*MSAP helps good teachers be even better by training them to work as MSAP teams. The MSAP approach considers the child as a whole, identifying all the factors that might contribute to the student's behavior or inability to learn. The team collaboration is what leads to a solution, giving the troubled students a greater chance of staying in school and becoming productive members of society.*

*MSAP workshops are scheduled to be held in various regions throughout California. The fee for the training is completely underwritten by the California Masonic Foundation. School districts are responsible only for providing substitutes for participating teachers, administrators and counselors.*

Brethren, THIS is something Masons do that is making a difference.

- *Students referred to student assistance programs show improved attendance, a decrease in discipline problems, and a positive academic promotion and graduation after their referral and intervention.*
- *Two out of three referred students improved and stabilized their attendance.*
- *Approximately seven out of ten referred were either promoted or graduated from high school.*

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## ~ September Anniversaries ~

### Roster of Officers 2009

**Dennis Rodgers**  
Worshipful Master

**Jim Chamberlain**  
Senior Warden

**Thomas Riley, PM**  
Jr. Warden

**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**

**Bradley Rupert, Junior Deacon**

**Ray Sevilla, Senior Steward**

**Michael Roberts, Jr. Steward**

**Michael Weis, Tyler**

**Fraternal Activities Director**  
**Roger Poynts**  
poynts@acalanes.org

**Trestleboard Editor:**  
Stephen Galop  
sgalop@acalanes.org

**Lodge Phone:** (925) 284-7815

**Web-site:**  
[www.Acalanes.org](http://www.Acalanes.org)

**Richard W. Blount**  
September 18, 1982  
27 Years

**James A. Borup**  
September 23, 1986  
23 Years

**Henry C. Burgraff, PM**  
September 21, 1950  
59 Years

**Robert J. Darius**  
September 7, 1974  
35 Years

**Thomas P. Hogan**  
September 10, 2002  
7 Years

**Robert M. Hooker**  
September 12, 1987  
22 Years

**Vengie O. Hughes, PM**  
September 8, 1984  
25 Years

**Marvin J. Kay**  
September 27, 1948  
61 Years

**Michel S. Khoury**  
September 22, 1990  
19 Years

**Tarek C. Khoury**  
September 29, 2001  
8 Years

**George H. Konstantopoulos**  
September 22, 1961  
48 Years

**Victor R. Lawhorn**  
September 23, 1997  
12 Years

**Gerald E. Patchen**  
September 30, 1967  
42 Years

**Johannes G. Peters, M.D**  
September 22, 2007  
2 Years

**Robert L. Polvi**  
September 9, 1976  
33 Years

**Gerald H. Saurman**  
September 24, 1957  
52 Years

**Spencer M. Sealander**  
September 25, 1971  
38 Years

**Raymond Sevilla**  
September 23, 2006  
3 Years

**Herbert M. Stein**  
September 24, 1977  
32 Years

**Harvey K. Syversrud, PM**  
September 8, 1981  
28 Years

**Oliver A. Thomas, PM**  
September 1, 1939  
70 Years

**Charles E. Toll**  
*Marshall*  
September 23, 1995  
14 Years

**Harvey A. Uhl**  
September 19, 1968  
41 Years

**Alvin J. Weis, PGM**  
September 20, 1966  
43 Years

**Thomas J. Whitten, PM**  
September 17, 1952  
57 Years

**Jay B. Williams, PM**  
September 26, 1970  
39 Years

**George N. Wofford**  
September 13, 1986  
23 Years

**Larry W. Woods, PM**  
September 15, 1984  
25 Years

**Herman L. Zeller**  
September 20, 1955  
54 Years

## From the East ... Continued

• *Two out of three referred showed positive behavior changes and a reduction in suspensions.*

My brothers, we're not talking about the kids at Sleepy Hollow elementary or Bentley Academy in Orinda or about kids at De La Salle in Concord. And yet we're also not talking just about kids in Richmond and Bay Point. We have at-risk kids at Ygnacio Valley High adjacent to the Trader Joe's shopping center on Oak Grove Rd and only a stones throw from De La Salle. There are kids at risk in every community due to single-parent or dual-income households, due to drugs and due to destructive influences that affect children in Alamo just as in Compton or Hunter's Point. Maybe we don't see it to the same degree in Walnut Creek and Lafayette as in poorer and blighted areas, but that is due as much to the ability of wealthier parents to cover-up the bad behaviors as to an absence of trouble. Don't be lulled into a false sense of security; this problem exists everywhere.

And now we as Masons have a chance to do something about it, something our government has been unable to do because of the unwieldy and intractable bureaucracy that is the public sector. To truly do something that will have impact requires the dedication and professionalism that only the private sector can bring.

*The California Masonic Foundation, sponsor of the MSAP workshops, is a charitable trust whose mission furthers the education of young people, from kindergarten through college. Since its establishment in 1970 the foundation has helped thousands of students improve their lives through education and intellectual growth.*

You can join me in bringing a three-day MSAP workshop to our area in 2010 by making a contribution today. I'm not asking you to do anything that I'm not doing. I'm not a wealthy man and I drive a 25-year-old car, and yet I am, TODAY, writing a check for \$100 to the California Masonic Foundation, and I ask each of you to do the same and more if you can. Make your check payable to The California Masonic Foundation (write "MSAP" in the memo field) and bring it to lodge or send it to:

The California Masonic Foundation  
1111 California Street  
San Francisco, CA 94108-2284

To find out more about the California Masonic Foundation and MSAP, visit [www.freemason.org/resources](http://www.freemason.org/resources) and [www.freemason.org/foundation](http://www.freemason.org/foundation)

## Constitutional Observance At Oakland Scottish Rite

Oakland Scottish Rite has extended an invitation to all Masons and non-Masons, our youth organizations and Eastern Star Members for dinner and a program on Monday evening, September 14th.

Social: 5:30PM

Dinner: 6:00PM

Program to Follow

Cost: \$12 with Reservations

(510) 451-1903

The program will include a keynote speech by noted Bay Area television personality Fred LaCrosse.



## Masons Who Signed the U.S. Constitution <sup>1</sup>

The influence of Freemasons on the founding of the United States is well documented. A third of the signors to the Constitution were Masons. We pause to remember their contribution to our country:

Abraham Baldwin, Georgia

Gunning Bedford, Jr., Delaware

John Blair, Virginia

David Brearley, New Jersey

Jacob Broom, Delaware

Daniel Carroll, Maryland

Jonathan Dayton, New Jersey

John Dickinson, Delaware

Benjamin Franklin, Pennsylvania

Nicholas Gilman, New Hampshire

Rufus King, Massachusetts

James McHenry, Maryland

William Paterson, New Jersey

George Washington, Virginia

<sup>1</sup> Masonic Membership of the Signers of the Constitution of the United States, published by the Masonic Service Association, and written by Bro. Ronald E. Heaton. It was originally published in 1962, reprinted in 1986



# Ten Master Masons

Author Unknown

Ten Master Masons, happy, doing fine;  
One listened to a rumor, then there were nine.

Nine Master Masons, faithful, never late;  
One didn't like the "Master," then there were eight.

Eight Master Masons, on their way to heaven;  
One joined too many clubs, then there were seven.

Seven Master Masons, life dealt some hard licks;  
One grew discouraged, then there were six.

Six Master Masons, all very much alive;  
One lost his interest, then there were five.

Five Master Masons, wishing there were more;  
Got into a great dispute, then there were four.

Four Master Masons, busy as could be;  
One didn't like the programs, then there were three.

Three Master Masons, was one of them you?  
One grew tired of all the work, then there were two.

Two Master Masons with so much to be done;  
One said "What's the use," then there was one.

***One Master Mason, found a brother -- true!  
Brought him to the Lodge, then there were two.***

Two Master Masons didn't find work a bore;  
Each brought another, then there were four.

Four Master Masons saved their Lodge's fate;  
By showing others kindness, then there were eight.

Eight Master Masons, loving their Lodges bright  
sheen;  
Talked so much about it, they soon counted sixteen.

Sixteen Master Masons, to their obligations true;  
Were pleased when their number went to thirty-two.

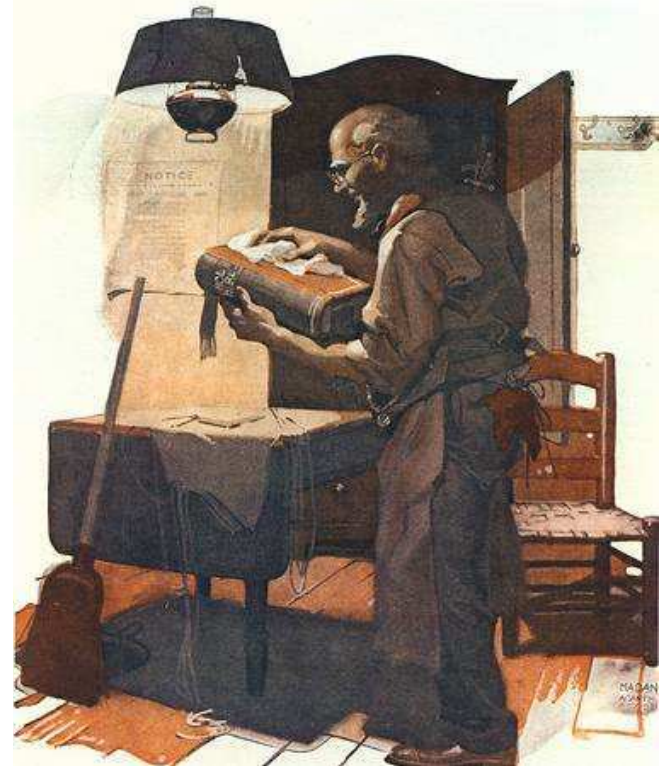
So we can't put our troubles at the Lodge's door;  
It's our fault for harming the Lodge we adore.

Don't fuss about the programs or the "Master" in the  
East;  
Keep your obligation by serving even the very least.

# Are YOU the Brother True?

We are richly blessed at Acalanes Fellowship. We are blessed to have an active and growing membership. We are blessed to have a few brothers who work tirelessly on our events and keep the Lodge running. We are blessed to have an Officers Corps who delivers majestic ritual through their study and practice. We are blessed to have YOU as a member of our Lodge.

We have reached the point in our Masonic Year when our attentions turn to the Installation of a new Officers Corps in just a few short months. Have YOU thought about participating in our Officers Corps? Or perhaps you have the time and energy to help shoulder some of the burden of the Brothers who keep the lodge up and running. Call our Master, Dennis Rodgers, or our Treasurer, Stephen Galop, to explore the possibility. It just might be one of your most rewarding undertakings!





**The Lodge and Building Assoc. calendar is maintained on our web-site in real time with links to the calendars of Orinda and Bay Cities Lodges. Be sure to consult the calendar for degrees and events between *Trestleboards*.**

**<http://www.Acalanes.org>**

**Moving? Remember to give us your new address!**

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