
THE TRESTLEBOARD

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge # 480, F&AM

"The Friendly Lodge"

October 2009

From The East

Dennis Rodgers

Worshipful Master

Brethren,

Time Marches On

It seems only yesterday that I was preparing to be installed as Master and trying to imagine what I would do for the 365 days of my service in the East. As I write this, we are organizing ourselves for the training and installation of new officers. I have 70 days before the 2010 corps of officers are installed and then I'll be unemployed ... Three more stated meetings and this whole ball of wax becomes someone else's headache. Believe me when I tell you (and the Past Masters know this well) being Master of a lodge, any lodge, is a lot of work and a lot of stress. But at the same time it is a very gratifying and emotionally uplifting experience. Each challenge comes packaged with a reward and a feeling of satisfaction that upon meeting that challenge you have safely steered the good ship Acalanes through another narrow straight.

That said, the many tasks which fill our officer's spare time is daunting when added to the existing chore list of being a husband and father or grandfather, taking care of your home and attempting to maintain an income – especially in these troubled times – and it all adds up to a series of progressively more challenging years as your officers move up the line. Each officer has tasks to perform and ritual to memorize and every Tuesday is taken up with lodge business. There are days when each of us has thought about quitting... And then we have our monthly get-together for dinner and our stated meeting or we confer a degree. That's when we remember why we're doing all this.

Does Masonry make good men or do we just find them?

While all of our degrees are special, the timing of this month's message has my mind focused on one degree in particular. Our most recent conferral, raising brother Richard Kellogg to the sublime degree of Master Mason, was as gratifying as any that I can remember. Brother Kellogg never met a Mason until he went to work for Grand Lodge. Or at least he didn't know he had. After a while, he began discovering that Masons were all around

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 6th: Stated Meeting & Dinner**
Social Hour: 6:30 PM
Dinner: 7:00 PM
Stated Meeting: 8:00 PM
Dinner Cost: \$15.00
- Oct. 24th: Past Masters' Degree & BBQ**
Degree: 1:00 PM
Social: 5:00 PM
Dinner: 6:00 PM
Dinner Cost: \$20.00
- Dec. 5th: Installation of the 2010 Officer Corps**
7PM with refreshments to follow.
- Dec. 19th: Sweethearts Luncheon**
12 Noon
Save the date ... details to follow.
- Jan. 30th: 2010 Crab Feed**
Save the Date ... details to follow.

him and he started noticing that they were some mighty fine folks. Well, like attracts like. Brother Kellogg is such a fine man that the momentous event of his raising attracted a crowd from Grand Lodge, and from all over. I don't recall a degree where we've had so many visiting brethren to introduce.

After the ceremony, it is a newly raised brother's time to address us and tell his story of how and why he became a Mason. Brother Kellogg's tale was an exposé filled with revelations as he told us how one after another he discovered that so many of the men that he respected turned out to wear those rings with the square and compass emblazoned upon them. It sparked the thought in him that he just might belong as a member of this organization that he had known nothing about, just a short time before.

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~ October Anniversaries ~

Roster of Officers 2009

Dennis Rodgers
Worshipful Master

Jim Chamberlain
Senior Warden

Thomas Riley, PM
Jr. Warden

Stephen P. Galop III
Treasurer
sgalop@acalan.es.org

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

Frank Shoffner, Chaplain
shoffner@acalan.es.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@acalan.es.org

Trestleboard Editor:
Stephen Galop
sgalop@acalan.es.org

Lodge Phone: (925) 284-7815

Web-site:
www.Acalanes.org

Jeremy K. Branch
October 24, 2006
3 Years

Richard R. Celestre
October 14, 1972
37 Years

Donald K. Chambers
October 15, 1948
61 Years

Andrew C. Cratsenberg
October 15, 1957
52 Years

Calvin K. Crawford
October 25, 1975
34 Years

James V. Davey
October 25, 1955
54 Years

Jonathan W. Del Arroz
October 4, 2008
1 Years

Frank P. Essert
October 26, 1985
24 Years

John E. Hager
October 20, 1984
25 Years

Richard H. Harrell
October 29, 1964
45 Years

Peter C. Hjersman
October 2, 1999
10 Years

Henry L. Hoffman
October 23, 1962
47 Years

Conrad K. Larson
October 8, 1978
31 Years

Kevin S. Moore
October 26, 1991
18 Years

George R. Peck
October 22, 1985
24 Years

Thomas E. Riley, III, PM
October 30, 1984
25 Years

James J. Scriber
October 27, 1987
22 Years

George L. Snell
October 30, 1962
47 Years

Donald B. Strain
October 25, 1938
71 Years

Donald B. Stuart
October 24, 1973
36 Years

Theodore D. Zeller
October 30, 1962
47 Years



In Memoriam

Oliver Eugene Burch

July 25, 1926 - September 15, 2009
Initiated: March 28, 1950
Passed: May 9, 1950
Raised: August 22, 1950



In Memoriam

Thomas Eugene Nicotre

January 11, 1950 - August 23, 2009
Initiated: November 17, 1992
Passed: May 8, 1993
Raised: August 14, 1993

From the East ... Continued

It is an admonishment and an encouragement to all of us to remember the charge you received from the Master that *the eyes of the Fraternity – and the world – are upon you. Convince the world that on becoming a Master Mason you have become a better man.* For there are legions of men out there who were born to be Masons but who just don't know it yet. One day they will notice that ring on your finger – as I saw the ring on Phil McAllister's finger years ago – or perhaps they will be asking questions about Masonry because they just read Dan Brown's latest fable. Somewhere in time will come the revelation that *you* are a Mason. Will the prospective new brother look at you and think "That's the kind of man I aspire to be?"

And speaking of the kind of man I aspire to be, I'd like to close with a shout-out to Worshipful William Church Armstrong, who is about to become a movie star. The upcoming War Documentary *Common Sky* will immortalize the face of our good brother in a painful recounting of the memories of war by soldiers from World War II to Iraq. Watch for news of the release of this film. Worshipful Bill is on the mend after a tune-up operation on his artificial hip, which was apparently not designed to handle the kind of stress to which he subjected it. Hopefully they've added the high-performance options so it can keep up with you, Worshipful.



East Bay Bearcats

For as long as many of us can remember, the East Bay Bearcats have called our building "home." They have graced a number of our functions with their Dixieland / New Orleans style jazz, and put their art to good work raising nearly \$3,500 for the Red Cross following Hurricane Katrina. Unfortunately, the group is disbanding after 17-years. We are sad to see them go, and thank them for the joy their music brought to our community.

I also regret to report that the group's leader, Dwight Swobe is battling some health issues. Please remember him in your prayers.



Past Masters' Degree & Barbecue Saturday, October 24th

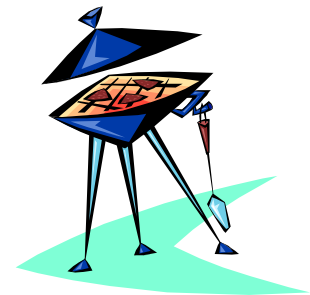
Degree: 1 PM

Social: 5 PM

Dinner: 6 PM

\$20.00 Per Person

RSVP by Oct. 21st



This is always one of our most anticipated events of the year, and one you will not want to miss! As in years past, Past Masters of Acalanes Fellowship are complimentary, although they must still make an advance reservation for an accurate steak count.

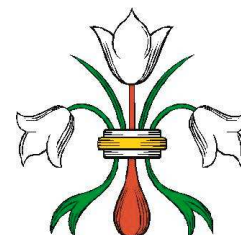
Roger is in need of volunteers to help with this event. Please contact him if you can help.

Poynts@Acalanes.org

Secretary's Notes

Br. Gerald Saurman called from his home in Benicia to tell of his Uncle's passing, our Br. Gene Burch of Cummings, Georgia. Gene received his degrees from Fellowship Lodge #480 and remained an active member in good standing until his death on September 15th. Gerry went on to explain that Gene was one of four immediate family members who had been members of Fellowship Lodge #480: Gerry's father, Victor, was Master of Fellowship in 1949, and his brother Ed Saurman, Brother-in-Law Pete Lane, and of course Gene Burch.

Fellowship Lodge #480 was chartered in March 17, 1920 and merged with Acalanes #723 in December 4, 1979 thereby creating Acalanes Fellowship #480.



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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