

# THE TRESTLEBOARD



ACALANES FELLOWSHIP LODGE #480, F&AM

APRIL 2010

## From the East

Up until this morning I had no idea what I was going to write about for this article. However, after reading multiple essays for our Public Schools Month essay contest it hit me, "Are we, as masons, doing all we can do for our public schools?"

As you know, April is Public Schools Month for all California Masonic lodges. At our Public Schools night on April 6th we will once again honor El Monte Elementary in Concord. Like last year we held an essay contest for grades 3 through 5. The topics were: what it means to be a good citizen, someone who is my hero and how the recession has affected my life.

The topic that really hit me was how the recession has affected my life. I read essay after essay of how a child's parent or parents had lost their jobs or are working two jobs to support their family. It was hard to read. There were the essays that stated that the family had to live with another family or take in boarders to make ends meet. Now if these families are having a hard time making ends meet at home how are they giving the children the proper attention they need for their homework or finding the money for school supplies?

With all the cuts the State of California has imposed on our school districts it is a miracle that they have enough funds to open the doors each morning. The Mount Diablo Unified School District wants to cut five more days out of next year's school year. That is five days less of education or preparation time for teachers in August or much needed training. Other cuts include increases in class size (adding more students to already over full classrooms), school closures and cutting bus service for all children except those in special education. There are many more items that could be listed but it would make you ill if I listed them all.

So, what can we do as a community, a lodge, or as an individual? Support your local schools, students and teachers! If you know a family that could use help, ask them if you can donate school supplies for the child or school. Support school bond measures, they really do help. Keep supporting the California Public Schools Month. I challenge every future Master of this lodge to continue our tradition of supporting public education and schools that really need it.

*Jim Chamberlain*

Master

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## Upcoming Events



- April 6:** **Stated Meeting & Dinner**  
Acalanes Fellowship Lodge  
Social Hour: 6:00 PM  
Dinner: 6:30 PM  
Stated Meeting: 8:00 PM
- April 13:** **District Officers School of Instruction**  
Acalanes Fellowship Lodge  
6:30 PM
- April 20:** **Practice (Third Degree)**  
Acalanes Fellowship Lodge  
7:00 PM
- April 27:** **TBD**

## Meet Acalanes Fellowship Chaplain ~ Frank Shoffner



By Frank Shoffner

My Masonic journey began in Normandy, TN, well before I was born, when the men in both my father's and mother's families, at least two generations of them, became members of the Masonic Lodge in this small village in central Tennessee. My father, Hubert Y. Shoffner, was raised to Master Mason back in the twenties. My mother, Lillis Huffman Shoffner, had a father and three brothers in that lodge.

I was born in Columbus, Ohio, on June 22, 1939, an only child. My family stayed in Columbus during the WWII years, but moved in 1946 to Chicago, then again in 1948 to Detroit, as my father rose through the management ranks of H.J. Heinz. After he died in 1951 of leukemia, my mother taught school while I went through elementary and high school. Then I went on to the Michigan College of Mining & Technology (now Michigan Technological University), at Houghton in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, graduating in 1962 with a B.S. in Geological Engineering.

My first position was as a civil engineer on a small US Bureau of Reclamation dam and irrigation project in central Utah. Late in '63, I determined that I wanted a different career direction and returned to Michigan Tech.

During my absence, a chemistry professor with whom I had a strong friendship had become a Mason, enthusiastically so, and before long I found myself petitioning for membership. That being in March of '64, I had just accepted a position with Bechtel in San Francisco, where I was due to begin in June. Accordingly, my lodge, Houghton Lodge No. 218, arranged an accelerated trip through the degrees with another candidate, a graduate student T.A. The two of us drilled each other on the work in between classes, and were examined (long form) immediately before the following degree. I was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason only five weeks after receiving my Entered Apprentice Degree.

Upon arriving in the SF Bay Area, I began a thirty year career with Bechtel. Most of the first two decades I did mineral processing plant design, mainly in copper and iron ore, while obtaining my P.E. certification as a Metallurgical Engineer. For the last dozen years or so, I moved into process engineering for the immobilization of high-level radioactive wastes from the Cold War era, my major involvements being in projects at both Savannah River and Hanford Nuclear Reservations.

I married the late Carol Jean Dolsen in 1968, and we brought up our two children, Greg and Amy, in Lafayette, where we moved in the early 70's. I was active in local affairs, coached youth sports nearly every year, and had a long involvement in county youth recreational swimming. Later, I was an assistant scout master in a Boy Scout troop, doing seven 50-milers with that troop. Jean was killed in a car accident in 1989. My Masonic life was entirely as a sojourner during my working years, even though I did demit to Acalanes Fellowship about 25 years ago. When I traveled on Bechtel business, I visited lodges frequently, especially on longer assignments, in Minnesota, Newfoundland, Georgia, and the United Kingdom.

I retired from Bechtel in 1998, and have spent my time since then traveling the world, visiting art museums, Civil War battlefields, and the like. I venture to Michigan each year for steelhead fishing, and make frequent "grandpa trips" to Colorado.

**Acalanes Fellowship Lodge in Cooperation with  
Aahmes Shrine Presents**

**A "Kentucky Derby Day" at the  
Races!**

**Saturday, May 1, 2010  
Golden Gate Fields Directors Room**

Reservations:

Adults: \$55 / Children under 17: \$20 / Children under 3: No  
Charge

Includes: Valet parking, admission into Turf Club &  
Directors Room, daily racing program, served entrée, cash  
bar and a race named in our honor!

~ Check or PayPal ~

Please make all checks payable to Acalanes Fellowship and  
mail to:

Brother Michael Roberts  
3275 Dublin Blvd #403  
Dublin, California 94568  
or on-line at [www.Acalanes.org](http://www.Acalanes.org)

For more information please contact Brother Michael  
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or email [mroberts@goldengatefields.com](mailto:mroberts@goldengatefields.com)

**Director's Selection of Hot Entrees**

**Char Grilled Filet Mignon**

Presented with Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes, Fall  
Vegetables, Roasted Roma Tomatoes  
Finished with a Truffle Sauce

**Oven Roasted Chicken Breast**

Presented with Mascarpone Polenta, Fall Vegetables  
Finished with Chicken au jus Reduction

**Pan Seared Salmon Filet**

Presented with Three Lemon Mashed Potatoes, Fall  
Vegetables

Finished with an Herb Blanc Reduction

**Porcini Ravioli**

Served with a light Herb au jus and Wild Mushrooms

Includes choice of salad and dessert served with iced tea,  
coffee, decaf or hot tea

**April Anniversaries**



Stanley Perlberg  
April 4, 1956

Amos Leffler  
April 8, 1958

James Weeden  
April 11, 1974

Donald Burnet, PM  
April 11, 1978

Jack Kalivoda  
April 12, 1957

Marvin Crosser  
April 17, 1951

David Pugatch  
April 18, 1972

Gerald Hertz  
April 19, 1966

Jay Newman  
April 20, 1968

Donald Hansen, PM  
April 21, 1959

Peter Axtman  
April 23, 1959

Franz Chavez  
April 23, 2005

Roy Couch  
April 27, 1976

Ryder Brose  
April 28, 2007

Carl Ricco  
April 29, 1967

Russell Chapman  
April 29, 2003

Jeffery Fesunoff  
April 30, 2002

**In Memoriam**



This month we mourn the loss of these  
wonderful ladies who served our Lodge  
alongside their husbands:

Beth Graves of Folsom  
Widow of Herbert Graves

Virginia Denison of Kentfield

## Public Schools Month Essay Contest Winners

### What It Means to Be a Good Citizen



By Ronald David  
Third Grade  
El Monte Elementary

Do you know what it means to be a good citizen? It all begins when you are young and it is taught by your parents. Parents teach you to always be respectful to elders. Parents teach you have to have good manners and how to be polite using please and thank you. We are given chores by our parents because they want us to teach us responsibility. They also teach us the difference between right and wrong and how to make good choices.

We are also taught by our teachers how to be good citizens. Teachers give us rules so we can get along and be safe. They give us homework to teach us responsibility and they teach us how to wait our turn and wait in line.

What you learn when you are young prepares you for when you are older. You have to follow the laws that help you not go to jail. You must have respect for others and their property. Make sure you are making the right choice before you do something.

Another part of being a good citizen is by helping other. We especially need to help older people who have a hard time getting to the grocery store to get groceries or to the doctor to get help. Good citizens also need to help those who look like they are in trouble. We need to make sure we do not turn our backs and ignore things when we see something wrong happening. We are all part of our community so we need to help each other.

We all have to do these things so this world will be a better place. If we treat each other the way we want to be treated and follow the rules the way they are supposed to be followed, we can all be good citizens.

### My Hero: President Obama



By Ashley Shackelford  
Fourth Grade  
El Monte Elementary

President Obama is my hero. He is the first African American President and had the courage to run against all those people and you know what? I don't think I would do that. A hero is someone who inspires you to do better, someone you love or care for and President Obama inspires me!

He has two kids and a wife he has to support. At the same time he has to be the President of the United States and has a lot to handle. I bet President Obama is always busy but he manages to get it done.

I know that some people do not like that Barack Obama is President but President Obama will do something to help them, too. I think President Obama is one of the best presidents ever but that is only me. I am inspired by President Obama to do something good.

I know that I have said all of the reasons why President Obama is my hero but now I'd like to tell you what I know about him. I know that he has two kids and a wife to support. He and his family live in Washington D.C., in the White House. (I would love to live there!)

If you do not like President Obama, that is fine. Everyone has different opinions. I have a question for those of you reading this: Do you think you would be scared if you woke up and were the President of the United States. I bet President Barack Obama is not scared.

## How the Recession is Changing My Life



By Alyssa Pluth  
Fifth Grade  
El Monte Elementary

The recession is probably changing a lot of lives. It is mostly changing for your children and adults because they are taking money away from school districts and colleges. For example, the money that is taken away can be used for new textbooks or even new computers. Some children cannot pay for school supplies because their parents do not have enough money to buy any. Without money, I cannot see people paying for college because of what the recession is doing to our community. I think we should make a change and I think we should do it now.

Moms, dads, aunts, uncles and grandparents are getting laid off because their companies do not have enough money to keep paying so many workers. They just throw you away like your life has nothing to do with them. Over 300 pink slips were given out to teachers in the Mount Diablo Unified School District. Some teachers in the District are losing everything they have such as their choice of doctors, dentists and hospitals. Also, many people are losing their homes during this time of the recession and if you still have a home, be thankful and always thank your parents for their love and support.

The recession is changing my life in many ways. We cannot go out to watch the Oakland A's baseball games anymore or even go to the movies and there are two very important family times. My mom got laid off and my dad works very hard and very long hours. We are trying to do whatever we can to save money. We cannot go out to dinner every other Friday like we used to. The only time we go out is when there is a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary. We have cut back on spending big time. Since we have to pay for electricity, I usually play outside for as long as I can and have cut back on television, video games and the radio.

Sure this is a bad time right now, but I always keep my head high, keep moving forward and make the best of things. I think you should do the same.

If you would like to contribute an article to the May Trestleboard please e-mail it to me at [kmbalee@yahoo.com](mailto:kmbalee@yahoo.com) by April 20<sup>th</sup> at the latest. All articles may be submitted in either word or pdf format.

~Kim Chamberlain

**Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480**  
**"The Friendly Lodge"**



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[www.freemason.org](http://www.freemason.org)

## 2010 Roster of Officers

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