

THE TRESTLEBOARD



ACALANES FELLOWSHIP LODGE #480, F&AM

MAY 2010

From the East

It is hard to believe that yet another month of my tenure has passed and a new, busy and exciting month is upon us.

April was Public Schools Month for the Masonic lodges in the State of California and for those that were unable to attend our lodge honored El Monte Elementary in Concord. At our April Stated Meeting we hosted our three essay winners, their families and faculty members from the school for a wonderful dinner and awards presentation. The number of folks attending our special events this year has been astronomical and last month's public schools event was no exception: 68 members, families and friends attended the event.

May is shaping up to be our busiest month yet. In addition to our Day at the Races and monthly stated meeting and dinner, we will hold one first degree, a double second degree, and District Officer's School of Instruction. We will wrap up our busy with Hiram award dinner and presentation.

Our Hiram award winner this year is a brother that has truly shown what it means to be a Mason. His touch, dedication and hard work can be seen each time you enter our building and we would not be the Lodge that we are without him. This year's Hiram Award recipient is Brother Tim Wilbur. Please join us on Saturday May 22nd at for our dinner and award presentation. It is sure to be a magnificent evening. For more information please see the "Functions" section of the Lodge's website, www.acalanes.org.

Jim Chamberlain
Master

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Upcoming Events



May 1:	Day at the Races Golden Gate Fields
May 4:	Stated Meeting & Dinner Acalanes Fellowship Lodge Social Hour: 6:30 PM Dinner: 7:00 PM Stated Meeting: 8:00 PM
May 11:	First Degree Acalanes Fellowship Lodge 7:00 PM
May 13:	District Officers School of Instruction Orinda Lodge 6:30 PM
May 18:	Practice (Second Degree) Acalanes Fellowship Lodge 7:00 PM
May 22:	Hiram Award Dinner and Presentation ~ Tim Wilbur, Honoree Acalanes Fellowship Lodge Social Hour: 5:30 PM Dinner: 6:00 PM Presentation: 7:00 PM
May 25:	Double Second Degree Acalanes Fellowship Lodge

Meet Acalanes Fellowship Junior Steward ~ Gary Sparks



By Gary Sparks

I was born in what used to be called West Germany in January 1966 and for the most part lived there until I moved to the United States just prior to my 12th birthday. My father worked military security for the US Air Force, and my mother was a native German woman. My dad's unique job responsibilities frequently kept him away from home, so my mom and grandmother raised me and my younger brother. After my parents separated and divorced, my mom made the difficult decision to pack up and leave our friends and family behind in Germany with the hopes of creating a better life for us over here.

We moved to California towards the end of 1977, and as much as I loved coming here, I was lost for several years. Between the extreme culture shock and my dad leaving, I struggled socially and emotionally to adapt to American life. My brother had an even more difficult time. That changed for me in high school when a friend of mine asked if I would be interested in attending an activity sponsored by his DeMolay chapter. I agreed, and that decision was a milestone in my life. I fell in love with what DeMolay had to offer, namely fraternity and fellowship with other young men like myself. I came to be very active in the youth order, and quickly worked my way through the chairs and became Master Councilor of my chapter. To this day, I am proud to call myself a Senior DeMolay.

After high school came college and career. Like many young men, I still didn't know where or what I wanted to be. Although I started college intending to pursue engineering, I eventually graduated with a business/marketing degree and sort of just "fell" into the world of advertising and marketing, spending some 15 years of my life working in several advertising agencies, in magazine publishing, in corporate marketing and in my own small marketing communications firm.

In the midst of my business career came a devastating divorce and highly contested custody battle. Frustrated by the legal system, but fascinated by the legal process, I made a life-changing decision in my mid-30s to enroll in law school. I wasn't sure the law was for me, but my experience doing much of the work in my own case opened my eyes to a whole new world that was compelling to me in a way nothing else had really ever been other than DeMolay. Today I run my own private family law, estate planning and probate practice, and although the job can be difficult and the economy is brutal, I thoroughly enjoy my work more than any work I've ever done before.

Several years ago I found myself missing the fraternity and fellowship that I had so thoroughly enjoyed in DeMolay, and I reached out to Freemasonry. Although my time with Acalanes Lodge thus far has been relatively short, the brethren have made me feel welcome and at home, and a part of something very special. As a single dad who runs a law practice, the lodge has also become both a place of respite and of scholarship for me. I find myself learning something new nearly every week, not only about Masonry but also about myself. I am looking forward to many more years of service to the fraternity and fellowship with my worldwide family.

~ A Mother's Day Tribute ~

A Mason's Wife
- Author Unknown



From active Masons, resolute,
Our wives and families we salute;
We surely know the price you pay,
Who sit alone while we're away;
No high degrees on you conferred,
In Lodge, your name is seldom heard;
You serve our cause though out of sight,
While sitting home alone tonight;
Masonic papers list our names,
Awards are given, fit to frame;
But yours is absent...you who strive,
To keep our fortitude alive;
You're part of every helpful deed,
On your encouragement we feed;
Without your blessings, how could we,
Continue acts of charity?
And so, this poem, we dedicate,
To every Master Mason's mate;
And offer our undying love,
Rewards await in Heaven above.

If you would like to contribute an article to the June Trestleboard please e-mail it to me at kmbalee@yahoo.com by May 20th at the latest. All articles may be submitted in either word or pdf format.

~Kim Chamberlain

A Special Thank You



Dear Members of Acalanes Fellowship,

On behalf of the students and staff of El Monte Elementary I would like to thank you for the generous donation you made to both the school and individual students. In this time of drastic budget cuts, increased class size, and possible school closures, every penny is greatly appreciated and put to wonderful use.

Last year, through fund-raising, grants and donations, we were able to build a state of the art computer lab complete with 34 new computers all Internet capable. Each week, every teacher and his/her class spend a minimum of an hour in the computer lab.

Due to lack of funding we do not have hard copies of any computer program so our children spend most of their time using Internet based programs such as My Skills Tutor and the web-sites of our District adopted curriculum. As you all know, servers are not perfect and at times are unavailable making it impossible to use the Internet. When this occurs, we cannot use the computer lab. The money you donated to the school is being used to purchase a computer program called "Mavis Beacon" to teach the students keyboarding skills.

Again, I thank you for your donation to our school.

~Kim Chamberlain

In Memoriam



This month we mourn the loss of this wonderful gentleman who served our Lodge:

Stanley Perlberg
March 9, 2010

May Anniversaries



Roy E. Beitelschees, PM
May 17, 1952
58 Years

Eric T. Besag
May 15, 1999
11 Years

Michael D. Brown, PM
May 19, 1990
20 Years

Umberto O. Celestre
May 9, 1949
61 Years

Serge A. Chemla
May 19, 1986
24 Years

George A. Constantouros
May 25, 1966
44 Years

William H. Dibbern
May 21, 1991
19 Years

Stephen P. Galop, III
May 23, 1998
12 Years

Roscoe W. Griggs
May 27, 1958
52 Years

Vernon J. Ivey
May 19, 1953
57 Years

Lawrence R. McLaughlin
May 16, 1981
29 Years

Boris J. Minzyk
May 21, 1970
40 Years

John J. Mulhall
May 3, 1997
13 Years

Jeffrey R. Nott
May 30, 1978
32 Years

Roger L. Poynts
May 15, 2001
9 Years

Marcus Rice, Jr., PM
May 25, 1954
56 Years

Frederic S. Schachtman
May 24, 1966
44 Years

Franklin H. Shoffner
May 25, 1964
46 Years

Thomas C. Thompson
May 7, 1966
44 Years

Richard N. Young
May 1, 1976
34 Years



*Masonic
Schools
Night
Pictures*



Left: El Monte Third grader, Ronnie David, reads his award winning essay on what it means to be a good citizen at April's Masonic Schools Night Event. Ronnie was accompanied to the event by his mom, dad and two brothers. Ronnie indicated he was going to use his prize money to help his family purchase a new couch.



Left: Fifth grade Alyssa Pluth read her essay on how the recession has affected her daily life. Alyssa's prize money went into the account her parents have set up to pay for her college education.

Right: Ashlei Shackelford, fourth grade, was proud of her winning essay on her hero, President Barak Obama. Ashlei wanted to go shopping with her prize money but her mom, who was also at the dinner, had her deposit it in her savings account.



Below: A packed house of 68 attended the event.



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"The Friendly Lodge"



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