

THE TRESTLEBOARD



ACALANES FELLOWSHIP LODGE #480, F&AM

AUGUST 2010

From the East

Brothers, I hope this Trestleboard finds each and every one of you well and that you have all had an enjoyable summer thus far. Kim and I have had a wonderful summer. Between taking Jonathan to the Oakland Zoo, Children's Fairyland and beginning to teach him how to swim we have had a busy June and July.

It is with a heavy heart that I must report that our Lodge family lost a very close brother, mentor, Past Master and friend, Worshipful Ollie Thomas. Ollie was entered in the Sacred Scroll this past July. I was lucky enough to spend many of these past years getting to really know Ollie. I first met Ollie when he volunteered to be my candidates' coach. I spent many an afternoon sitting in one of his recliners reciting the proficiency and learning about his own personal and Masonic history. If it was not for Worshipful Ollie and Worshipful Tom Riley I do not think that I would be sitting in the East today. He was a truly great man with a tremendous life and is a brother that will be greatly missed. I tip my hat to you Worshipful Ollie Thomas and I know that your new journey will be just as full as your earthly one.

As many of you are aware, there are several members of our Lodge who are no longer able to drive or are unable to drive at night. These brethren would really like to continue to attend Lodge but are often unable to do so because of restrictions put upon them by the California Department of Motor Vehicles. I am looking for members who would be available to pick up these brothers and bring them to Lodge functions. **If you are able to offer a ride to a friend, please let me know. In addition, if you are a brother who needs a ride, please let me know as well.** You may reach me via phone, 925-827-1514 or e-mail, jchamb268@yahoo.com.

We have a very full month and I hope to see everyone at our Stated Meeting and dinner on August 3rd and all Master Masons at our Past Master's Degree and Dinner on August 14th. Please do not forget to check the calendar for upcoming degrees and practices.

Jim Chamberlain

Master

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the East	1
Upcoming Events	1
Meet the Officers	2
A Tribute to Ollie Thomas	3
August Anniversaries	4
In Memoriam	4
Masons 4 Mitts	5
A Call to All Past Masters	5
Lodge Information/Officers	6

Upcoming Events



July 31:	Memorial for Ollie Thomas Orinda Masonic Lodge 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda 4:30 PM
August 3:	Stated Meeting & Dinner Acalanes Fellowship Lodge Social Hour: 6:00 PM Dinner: 6:30 PM Stated Meeting: 8:00 PM
August 10:	District Officers School of Instruction Acalanes Fellowship Lodge 6:30 PM
August 12:	Past Master's Degree ~ PRACTICE Acalanes Fellowship Lodge 7:00 PM
August 14:	Past Master's Degree Acalanes Fellowship Lodge 2:00 PM
August 17:	Second Degree Practice Acalanes Fellowship Lodge 7:00 PM
August 24:	Second Degree Acalanes Fellowship Lodge 7:00 PM
August 31:	Third Degree Practice Acalanes Fellowship Lodge 7:00 PM

Meet Acalanes-Fellowship Marshal ~ Michael Weis



By Michael Weis

A native Californian, I was born in Stockton and lived in the valley town of Manteca until the age of 14. My family moved to Lafayette when I was a freshman in high school. I attended Campo Lindo High School and was active in sports (baseball and track) and played saxophone in the school's jazz band. I was also a member of the Orinda Chapter of the Order of DeMolay. Here is where I first met Dave Shull. He was our Chapter Advisor. After graduating from high school I attend Diablo Valley College and then went onto Fresno State.

Professionally I was an iron worker for 21 years and am now retired from the trade. I worked on the erection of many high-rise buildings in San Francisco and others around the Bay Area. I also worked on the retro fit of the Bay Bridge after the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989. Today I have my own gardening service business specializing in planting, pruning and maintenance.

I have two adult children, Tamera and Jeffery, and two *beautiful* grandchildren. Kira is 4 and Joe is 2. For recreation I enjoy hunting and fishing with my brother David. In mid-May of this year we spent four days in Alaska fishing for halibut and salmon.

I was raised in November 2004 and thoroughly enjoy the fellowship of our members and my involvement in the Lodge. My brother and father are both Masons. My brother is a member of Corinthian Lodge No. 9 in Marysville, California and my father is a member of Acalanes Fellowship No. 480.

A Tribute to Worshipful Ollie Thomas

By Kim Chamberlain
(With the Gracious Help of Nancy Thomas and Tom Riley)



Oliver Andrew Thomas was born on January 23, 1915 in Mackay, Idaho to parents John and Eltazera Thomas. He spent his childhood and youth in the mining camps of Nevada, Arizona and California. He received a high school diploma and soon became active in the Nevada political arena. Ollie was the youngest elected County Assessor for Churchill County, Nevada.

Ollie married Norma Frances McConnochie in 1939 and they had 50 happy years together. Shortly after they were wed, he asked Norma if she wouldn't mind if he joined a group of gentlemen called the Masons. He assured her that they were a nice group of men and she agreed to his joining. Ollie was initiated in May of 1939 and raised to Master Mason in September of 1939.

Soon after, the United States became involved in World War II and Ollie joined the Army Air Corps as a glider pilot. Luck, however was on his side because the Army soon realized that the glider pilots were just getting killed and quickly abandoned the program. Ollie spent the rest of the war in Omaha, Nebraska, processing other soldiers.

Near the end of the war, Ollie and Norma were in Reno when he told Norma that there was a gentleman upstairs in the building they near where they were standing that might want to hire him after the war. Norma marched Ollie right into the building and into the office of Raymond Marks, tax agent for the Southern Pacific Railroad. When Mr. Marks, "Marksy," saw Ollie, his first words were, "When do you get out? I have a job for you!" Thus began Ollie's long career with the Southern Pacific Railroad. Southern Pacific Railroad became Union Pacific and Ollie retired after 34 years of service having served as their General Tax Commissioner.

Once he and Norma were established in Reno after the end of the War, Ollie was approached by a group of fellow Masons who wanted to start a new Masonic Lodge. Collectively, they started Mt. Rose Masonic Lodge #40 in Reno, Nevada where Ollie served as the Charter Master in 1950.

While living in Nevada, Ollie became an extremely busy man. He served on the Selective Service Board and was chairman for 15 years, was active in the Lions Club, serving as president in 1962, worked for 35 years on the Nevada Area Council of Boy Scouts and served as President of the Nevada Area Council of Boy Scouts in 1958. In addition he served as chairman of the Reno Sparks Community Chest (forerunner to the United Way) in 1959 as well as on the Vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church in 1958 and 1959. He would usher at the 8 a.m. service and then run out to Hidden Valley Country Club to play golf.

Ollie's history with the Masonic Lodge and its concordant bodies is just as colorful. Before the War, and before serving as the Charter Master of Mt. Rose Lodge, Ollie served as Senior Deacon and Junior Warden of his first Lodge. He then went on to join Scottish Rite in 1941 and served as Wise Master Rose Croix in 1952. In addition Ollie joined the Eastern Star in 1941 and served as Worthy Patron the first time in 1950. He also joined the Shrine in 1951 and was a member of the Ritual Divan. In 1958 he received the Honorary 33rd Degree in the Scottish Rite, the highest degree that can be conferred upon a member.

After moving to California, Ollie served for two years as President of the California Tax Payers Association which is the most prestigious association in the country. In California, he was active in the Shrine and belonged to the Dragons. Ollie once again joined Eastern Star and his daughter Nancy became a Rainbow Girl. Ollie served several times as Rainbow Dad and Chairman of the Rainbow Board. He received the Grand Cross of Color for his service to Rainbow in 1968. Ollie served three times (1983, 1986 and 1994) as Worthy Patron of Lafayette Chapter of the Eastern Star and two years as Director of Work for the Scottish Rite. Ollie became Master of Acalanes Fellowship #480 in 1999, 49 years after he served as Master in Nevada at Mt. Rose Lodge. In all, Ollie served 71 years in the Masonic Lodge, 69 years in both the Order of the Eastern Star and the Scottish Rite and 59 years in the Shrine.

Ollie Thomas was truly a remarkable and generous man. He thought nothing of giving his time to others and passed to a better place on July 9, 2010.

August Anniversaries



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

Daniel M. Argueta
August 18, 2007
3 Years

James R. Barley
August 25, 1979
31 Years

James H. Chamberlain
August 21, 2004
6 Years

John B. Cook
August 20, 1994
16 Years

William S. Glueck
August 17, 1961
49 Years

Danny Ho
August 19, 2006
4 Years

Thomas E. Ivey
August 21, 1945
66 Years

Clinton J. Jossey
August 28, 1984
26 Years

Trandafir "Tony"
Mihutoni
August 19, 2000
10 Years

Stephen E. Milano
August 18, 2001
9 Years

Francis E. Oliver
August 13, 1940
70 Years

John R. Osborne
August 24, 1985
25 Years

Kenneth C. Owen
August 9, 2003
6 Years

Ronald J. Reese
August 29, 1978
32 Years

Michael E. Roberts
August 23, 2008
2 Years

Charles R. Tolerton
August 31, 2004
5 Years

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

C. T. Watson
August 30, 1979
31 Years

William L. Whitten
August 13, 1958
52 Years

In Memoriam



It is with great sadness
that we remember the
fallen brethren of our
Lodge:

Phillip H. Wyne

Initiated: June 6, 1996
Passed: September 26,
1996

Raised: March 8, 1997
Died: June 4, 2010

Donald B. Strain, PM

Initiated: January 1, 1938
Passed: January 1, 1938
Raised: October 25, 1938
Died: June 28, 2010

Oliver "Ollie" Thomas, PM

Initiated: May 5, 1938
Passed: January 21, 1939
Raised: September 1,
1939
Died: July 9, 2010



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Campaign concludes on **Masons
Night** at AT&T Park on Tuesday,
August 24.

Purchase Masons Night tickets for
the Giants v. Reds at 415/972-2233
or sfgiants.com/Masons4Mitts
(Save service charges by calling in
your order).

Tickets are available after June 25.

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Let's show 'em what Masons can do...

A Call to All Past Masters



By Kim Chamberlain

In Late May, I was editing the "Meet the Officers" column for the June/July Trestleboard when I began to wonder what I was going to do when I ran out of new officers to write about. How would I fill an entire page in the Trestleboard? Sure, there are a few new officers in the line each year, and I will continue to include articles about them in the upcoming Trestleboards, but many of the current officers whom we have already heard from in the monthly column will continue their way up the line.

As I was sitting at my desk at lunch the next day, my principal came in to introduce me to a teacher that had transferred to our school from another site. She told the new teacher that I was the one to go to for information, the veteran at our school. It was then that I had the idea to begin a new column on the Past Masters of Acalanes Fellowship. Like me at my school site, many of you are considered the veterans of your Lodge, the gentlemen to go to for information, help and guidance and you deserve to be honored.

In order to accomplish this task, I need YOUR help. **If you are a Past Master, I am asking that you take the time to write an article about yourself and send it to me along with a picture.** The article can be your life story or memories of your year as Master of your Lodge. You may type it or handwrite it, e-mail or send it via the U.S. Mail but please do not forget the picture so the members can put a face to name. I can scan the picture on my computer and return it to you. You may e-mail the article (in word or pdf format, please) and picture to me at kmbalee@yahoo.com or send it to:

Kim Chamberlain
1174 St. Matthew Place #201
Concord, California 94518

I thank you for your service to your Lodge and your help with my newest Trestleboard project!

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480
"The Friendly Lodge"



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www.acalanes.org

Visit the Grand Lodge of California:

www.freemason.org

2010 Roster of Officers

Jim Chamberlain, Worshipful Master (Kim)

jchamb268@yahoo.com

(925) 827-1514

Roger Poynts, Senior Warden (Nancy Christman)

poynts@acalanes.org

(925) 376-4842

Randy Tolerton, Junior Warden (Caroline)

(925) 256-9690

Stephen P. Galop III, Treasurer

sgalop@acalanes.org

(678) 995-7223

Donald L. Hoskins, Secretary

dhoskins@acalanes.org

(925) 283-3266

Frank Shoffner, Chaplain

shoffner@acalanes.org

(925) 284-1461

Brad Rupert, Senior Deacon (Joanne)

Bradely.rupert@sbcglobal.net

(925) 274-1405

Ray Sevilla, Junior Deacon (Ursula)

(925) 962-9665

Michael Roberts, Senior Steward (Jenny)

(925) 829-3171

Gary Sparks, Junior Steward

(707) 803-9385

Michael Weis, Marshal

(925) 284-9196

Jeff Boschert, Tyler (Dr. Joyce Tang)

(925) 937-5105

Jack Forseth, Inspector (Mary)

Home (510) 234-0333

Cell (510) 815-7087

TopGunPR13@aol.com

Tom Kilgallen, Officers Coach

Home (510) 594-1169

Cell (510) 220-7695

tkilgallen@msn.com