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Trestleboard

August 2020
Volume 16, Issue 7

Crow Canyon Lodge
No. 551
F&AM of California
Chartered October 11, 1923



WWW.CCL551.ORG



Calendar of Events

AUGUST 2020

- 08/05-Wednesday-Officers' Zoom Meeting 7:00 PM
- 08/06-Thursday-DARK
- 08/13-Thursday-DARK
- 08/20-Thursday-General Lodge Zoom Meeting 7:00 PM
- 08/25-Tuesday-Hall Association Zoom Meeting 7:00 PM
- 08/27-Thursday-DARK

SEPTEMBER 2020

- 09/02-Wednesday-Officers' Zoom Meeting 7:00 PM
- 09/03-Thursday-DARK
- 09/10-Thursday-DARK
- 09/17-Thursday-DARK
- 09/24-Thursday-DARK
- 09/29-Tuesday-Hall Association 7:00 PM

Appendant and Concordant Bodies

- ◆ San Lorenzo Chapter Eastern Star No. 103 meets @ CVMC 2nd & 4th Monday (8:00 PM)
- ◆ Castro Valley DeMolay meets @ CVMC 1st & 3rd Monday (7:30 PM)
- ◆ Unity Assembly Rainbow No. 65 meets @ CVMC 1st & 3rd Tuesday (7:00 PM)
- ◆ Jobs Daughters Bethel No. 261 Hayward meets 1st & 3rd Monday (7:00 PM) @ Hayward Masonic Center
- ◆ Jobs Daughters Bethel No. 1 Dublin meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday (7:00 PM) @ John Knox Church

From the East

By Paul Rodriguez-O'Brien—Master

I'm very much looking forward to the time we will all be gathered again having dinners, attending lodge, and enjoying our family themed events. That day is not soon, but that day is coming, and it will be the best of times reuniting and catching up with all of you.



In order to keep some sort of “semblance of normality” in our Masonic year, I had asked for a Hiram Award committee to convene and propose three candidates for the CC551 - 2020 Hiram Award. Their recommendations were made and I conferred with my Wardens. With that, we would like to formally bestow this honorable recognition to Ronald Katz, PM. as our 2020 Hiram Award designee.

In brief, we felt him highly deserving due to his tireless work with our lodge website (found at <https://www.ccl551.org/>), his devotion to coaching our brethren in their degree education and advancements (and refresher courses), and for years constructing our Trestleboard, which is crucial to your officers keeping you informed of Masonic outreach, events, and our works.

Congratulations Worshipful, I am honored to be the one to bestow our lodge's highest award to you!

On another note, we had a web “Zoom” conference for the “Feast of Saint John the Baptist” on June 30th. It was a great success, and it was warming to see and interact with my Brethren during these unusual times.



I would like to utilize this same technology to have a general Lodge gathering on the night of **August 20th at 7:00 PM**. For this event, we plan on some Masonic education, maybe some research papers or we can have open floor topics to discuss important matters that you feel needs addressing.

We will be calling you shortly by phone to check-in to see how you are doing, and ask if you would like to attend this “Zoom” gathering.

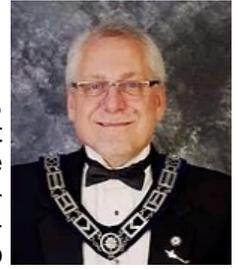
Until then stay safe, stay healthy, and know you are a valuable part of our Masonry family. We are here to help and support you anyway we can. Just reach out and call us. Our phone numbers and email address are easily found within this Trestleboard.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me via email or cell phone: hal2pro@sbcglobal.net, (510) 461-1071.

From the West

By Brian Ross—Senior Warden

For those of you that might not know, here is the current state of affairs at Crow Canyon Lodge 551: Since the pandemic, the lodge has seen replacement of its lighting in the banquet room (hallelujah!) thanks to Brother Pat Quinn – Hiram Award Recipient, the front lobby floor has been replaced under the watchful eye of our dedicated Tiler, Brother Bill Bidwell, who also oversaw the replacement of significant dry rot at our lodge entrance. During the week, Temple Board members and Lodge officers go by the lodge regularly to check on its structural integrity and to make sure no one has broken into the facility.



Lodge Administration by the Temple Board and the Lodge Officers occurs by Zoom videoconferencing – the Temple Board meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month – if you want to attend just send me an email for details. The officers meet on the first Tuesday of the month and are currently doing what they can to complete this year and to prepare for 2021. Additionally, in the next month or so, the officers will be making a second round of calls to our brethren and lodge “sweethearts” to say hello and to see if assistance is needed.

I believe Worshipful Paul is planning a “social” Zoom meeting in the near future. If its anything like our Feast of St. John, there will be plenty of brotherly love and friendship to be had! Please pay close attention to the Trestleboard for more on this fun-filled event and how you can be a part.

Finally, as many of you know, I am looking forward to serving as an officer next year by hopefully becoming Master of the Lodge. As much as I am looking forward to



the chair, I am saddened to learn that our beloved Treasurer, Brother George Lumm, and our beloved Secretary, Donald Schauer, Sr., intend to retire this year. As far as I am concerned, neither of them can be replaced as officers – they brought their own style and poise to the chairs that gave our Lodge character. I

know each will continue to attend Lodge functions and will support the officers to the fullest as mentors, but it will not be the same not seeing them to the right and left of the Master.

Obviously, there will be significant turnover in the officer line in 2021. To fill the gaps, I am happy to report that our newest members have shown tremendous interest and willingness to step into the line to help – more on that in the coming weeks.

I hope you, your family and friends are all safe and well.

From the South

From the South
By J. Rafisura—Junior Warden



Brethren, I wish everyone good health and in high spirits. It's been months since we sheltered in place. Presently, the situation is still very much fluid in terms of how we slowly get back to our "new normal" in response to this invisible enemy. Despite everything that's going on, I'd like to look beyond the negative and strive to look for a vantage point where we are able to see the world as a whole, rather than as tiny, individual segments of humanity.

For now, I can only share a look back scenario that was imparted to us by a colleague, Dr. Granich. Most of us experienced significant crises such as wars, new diseases and other things that have altered society but from

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which we always came out better and stronger. The greatest pandemic ever was the black plague in which about a third of the world's population died. It ended 800 years of a feudal society in which there was no growth in humanity. It led to the middle ages, the Renaissance, and eventually to the wonderful world we live in now. It freed us from slavery and fostered creativity. If it were not for the black plague, we would still be a feudal society

without electricity or any of the modern conveniences in a world that devalued life and growth. We are now on a journey through a storm in turbulent seas. If we batten down the hatches, and work together we will get through this just fine. And the world will be a sweeter and brighter place when this is all over. Difficult journeys lead to beautiful destinations. We hear stories and legends about our brothers being rounded up and killed, burned alive, publicly executed. We learned of the times where Masons were not allowed to meet, disbanded and scattered all over Europe, lest they be killed.

Masonry has seen a lot of challenges. These challenges certainly helped shape our ancient fraternity to become the greatest in the world. With all these, as usual, I have to say, hang tight my brothers. Look to the East, where the sun will surely rise again tomorrow!

From the Secretary's Table

By Don Schauer, Sr—Secretary



It's August already. Not being able to attend lodge, a large part of me is missing. It looks like we will be dark for some time. I am preparing the lodge semiannual financial report which should be a snap. Outside of the taxes, Hall Association and salaries there is not much to report on. It will be read at the next meeting whenever that is. There are still 26 members who have not paid their 2020 dues; those members are no long in good standing. One never knows when you may need some sort of Masonic assistance. It can happen in a flash. I am a good example, when I broke my ankle and still have problems a year later. Like a flash.



It is my hope that each member of the craft is staying safe and adhering to the Grand Master's message of no masonic gatherings of any kind along with wearing your mask when out in public. The officers have been meeting on Zoom, so we are able to stay on the same page.

On July 1st the Grand Lodge started using new membership system: iMember 2.0. Having been in the hospital during the time that the online classes were be conducted I was unable to keep up with the classes. As a result it is going to take me a little time to navigate around the new web site.

Everyone, please stay safe and have a wonderful summer



celebrate!

3rd Degree Anniversaries

The following brethren were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in the month of August

Henry Andreotti (29)	Brian Katz (13)
Ronald Baker (50)	Daniel Lee (6)
Michael Barnhart (17)	Gordon Mac Donald (13)
Mickey Benko [PM] (30)	Benjamin Newmarker (54)
William Biddell (56)	Kanti Patel (34)
Lester Bridge (58)	Patrick Quinn (9)
Charles Daniels (38)	William Quintel (40)
Douglas Ferreira (36)	J Rafisura (3)
John Fischer (14)	Lynn Reed (41)
Ace Gilbert (42)	Steven Stark (38)
Roger Glancy (7)	Alexander Von Stade II [PM] (7)
Stanley Gresick Jr.(67)	Ruben Vossekul (39)
John Groff [PM] (46)	William Warnecke (42)
John Hinkley (52)	Richard Wilkinson (6)
Roberto Holguin Jr.(5)	Earl Woodson (23)

August Birthdays

William Quintel (08/01)	Gregory Cooper (08/18)
Joe Ilmberger (08/04)	Howard Ellis (08/18)
Craig Tangen (08/06)	Lyman Penning (08/18)
Scott West (08/06)	Paul Leiber (08/19)
Stanley Gresick (08/07)	Donald Johnson (08/21)
Edwin Ramilo (08/07)	Theodore Santel (08/21)
Dale Reynolds (08/07)	Harold Brooke (08/23)
John Kralovansky (08/10)	Chris Bokamper (08/24)
Gordon Mac Donald (08/12)	Royle Langton (08/25)
Kay Dunn (08/13)	Danny Mrdja (08/25)
Le Roy Swanson (08/17)	

Sunshine and Visiting

These Brothers would love a phone call or e-mail from you to help cheer them up:

Mark Caspersen, Gary Frisvold

Please contact Secretary Don Schauer or check our members' only website for their respective phone numbers. If you know of a brother who is ill and could use some cheer please call Ernie or Les.



Ernie Nidick —Sunshine Chairman 925.828.6993 [click to email](#)
Les Blake—Visiting Chairman 510.581.8497 [click to email](#)

In Memoriam

Norman Shrader 85 Years, and 7 Months and 0 days
Entered into rest March 30, 2020

Jose Rodriguez Jr 97 Years 11 months and 18 Days
Entered into rest April 24, 2020

Fred Kao 66 years, 5 months, 15 days
Entered into Rest July 8, 2020

*Great Architect of the Universe, into thine hands
we commend the souls of our dear departed brothers*

#MasonsPlayBall: Show Us Your Masons4Mitts Spirit in a New Online Challenge!

Masons4Mitts is about teamwork, sportsmanship, and supporting kids in our communities. But it's also about bragging rights! So while this year we can't settle things on the diamond, we're instead setting up a little friendly Masons4Mitts competition—with a social-media twist. Here's how it works:

Masons4Mitts team captains and lodge leaders across California are urged to rally their squads by recording a short video of their lodge or their M4M teams singing the old seventh-inning stretch classic, "Take Me Out to the Ball-game" during the month of August. This can be as simple or elaborate as you like. And it doesn't need to be professional quality—the team spirit is the thing here! From getting lodge members together for a Zoom singalong to knocking it out of the park with a pass-it-on video mashup, there are no limits to your creativity. (Just be sure to keep socially distanced!)

Once you've got your video shot, post it on Facebook by September 1 and be sure to include the hashtag #MasonsPlayBall and include a link to donate at Masons4Mitts.org, and get your friends and lodge brothers to like and share it far and wide. Beginning in September, the top videos will be entered into our MLB Playoff tournament, where Masons can vote on their favorites at Masons4Mitts.org to determine our first-ever Masons4Mitts Video Challenge champion.

2020 #MasonsPlayBall Challenge

- Step 1: Record your lodge or your team singing "Take Me Out to the Ball-game"
- Step 2: Post your video on Facebook and remember to include the hashtag #MasonsPlayBall and a link to donate at Masons4Mitts.org.
- Step 3: Get as many likes as possible—the top videos will be entered into our playoff tournament!
- Step 4: Once we've narrowed the field, we'll ask you to vote on your favorites to determine a champion.
- Step 5: Don't forget to donate a mitt to a kid in need in your area today!

Message from the Grand Master of California

Brethren,

As we begin a new summer month, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread across our state. Over the past week, California has set daily records for new corona virus infections—more than 7,000 on June 23 and more than 8,000 on June 30. As of today, more than 240,000 cases and 6,000 deaths have been reported in our state.

This sobering news has prompted me to remind us all that on March 18, I directed that there be no Masonic gatherings of any kind in California until further notice from me. That directive remains in effect today.

While some government restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic have been relaxed, California and nearly all counties continue to prohibit or significantly limit non-essential gatherings. California Department of Public Health directives still prohibit all professional, social and community gatherings. The state notes that these gatherings pose an especially high danger of transmission and spread of COVID-19.

Of the counties that are charting their own reopening paths, only two permit gatherings similar to ours, and of those, one strongly recommends against it "because they carry significant risk of exposure to COVID-19."

In light of this information, my March 18 directive remains in effect in all respects: there shall be no Masonic gatherings of any kind in the state until further notice from me.

Read more (<https://freemason.org/important-update-from-grand-master-john-e-trauner/>)

iMember 2.0 Is Here. Get Started Today!

A month in, nearly 85 percent of California lodges have already begun to access their portals in iMember 2.0, the new membership platform—one of the highest adoption rates of any grand lodge jurisdiction on the system. Yet with so many new features just a finger-swipe away—and many more being prepped for launch this fall—there are still lots of questions left to be answered, starting with some of the most basic.

How Do I Get to iMember 2.0?

iMember 2.0 is designed to work on any mobile phone, tablet, or desktop or laptop computer with an internet connection. Simply visit freemason.org and click the “For Members” button in the upper-right-hand corner of the screen. If you haven’t logged on yet, you’ll need to create an account, so have your email address, membership number, and a unique password ready to go.

Can I Download iMember 2.0 on My Phone?

Yes. Whether you have an iPhone or an Android phone, you can add a home screen shortcut to access iMember 2.0 quickly and easily. To install, use your web browser to visit the site, and select “Add to home screen.” The exact placement of the button will depend on your web browser (Safari, Chrome, or Firefox). See detailed instructions here.

Are There More Features in the Works?

You bet! Here are a few we’re most excited about developing and introducing over the next several months:

1. Digital Dues, Reminders, and Payment Plans

In the past two years, lodges across the state suspended more than 1,000 Masons for failing to pay dues. Yet, when reached by Grand Lodge staff, 82% of those suspended didn’t even realize they had failed to pay their dues—and two-thirds didn’t even know they had been suspended. With iMember 2.0’s digital dues, these types of failures will be a thing of the past. With just a few clicks, lodge secretaries will be able to send out reminders of upcoming dues to all registered members, using those members’ preferred communication medium. That includes email reminders, text messages, or even automatic phone calls. From there, members will be able to log onto iMember 2.0 and pay their dues online—either all at once or on an installment plan. For more information about digital dues, check out one of the virtual seminars designed for lodge officers, especially secretaries.

2. Expanded Social Networks

Masons are all about fellowship, and iMember 2.0 will offer them unprecedented opportunities to connect. Just as you have access to your lodge profile on the new platform, iMember 2.0 will soon offer members the ability to join special-interest groups through a social media-style portal. So motorcycle enthusiasts can join “Hiram’s

Hogs,” for instance, or snowbirds can join the “Solomon’s Skiers.” A beta version of this feature is already live, and members are clearly excited about it. In just four weeks, Masons have viewed posts in some of these affinity groups more than 25,000 times.

3. New Ways to Share Resources

Just about every lodge has a back room full of extra aprons and officers’ jewels. A new feature in development will give members a chance to donate or swap certain Masonic regalia on a virtual marketplace akin to Craigslist or Nextdoor. The new platform is called Solomon’s List. Details are still being worked out, but imagine if newly formed lodges were able to take advantage of surplus regalia cluttering up older lodges.

4. One-Stop Shop for Hall Associations

You probably already know about the challenges of operating a joint hall association with another lodge. This fall, iMember 2.0 will help relieve some of that burden by releasing a new Hall Association dashboard where members can store documents, communicate with their association across different lodges, and work with Grand Lodge to submit requests and reports.

5. Keeping Track of Attendance

A virtual tiler’s register is another feature in the works for iMember 2.0. Using this feature, members can scan a QR code at lodge through their phone to digitally check in to the meeting. For members, it’s a fun way to track how often they visit lodge (either their own or while traveling); for lodge leaders, it’s a useful tool to keep track of how active their membership is—and to act quickly when attendance flags.

For questions on iMember, contact Member Services at (415) 292-9180 or memberservices@freemason.org.

DISTRESSED WORTHY BROTHER RELIEF FUND

DO YOU NEED MASONIC RELIEF DUE TO COVID-19?

Masonic Outreach Services is here to help those who find themselves in need due to COVID-19. Relief includes emergency financial assistance, case management, and information and referral services.

Learn more at masonichome.org

Or call (888) 466-3642 to speak with Masonic Outreach staff



2020 Officers

Master — Paul Rodriguez-O'Brien
510.461.1071 [click to email](#)

Senior Warden — Brian Ross
510.331.6935 [click to email](#)

Junior Warden— J. Rafisura
516.519.1151 [click to email](#)

Treasurer—George R. Lumm, P.M.
510.791.0753/ 510.604.8513 cell [click to email](#)

Secretary—Don Schauer, Sr., H.A.
510.258.0654 donschauersr@gmail.com

Assist. Secretary—Perry Klahr
925.925.3360 [click to email](#)

Chaplain—Robert Eckstein, P.M.
510.449.7944 [click to email](#)

Marshal—Steve Kolden
510.409.6118 / [click to email](#)

Senior Deacon—Andrew Hawes
510.886.7131 [click to email](#)

Junior Deacon—Phil Busch
510.566.7019 [click to email](#)

Sr. Steward—Orrin Benedict, Jr.
510.512.6999 [click to email](#)

Jr. Steward— Anthony Tancredi
510.476.4819 [click to email](#)

Tiler—Bill Biddell, H.A.
510.582.6207 / 510.589.0878 cell [click to email](#)

Officer's Coach—Kurt R. Allen, P.M., H.A.
925.735.1233 [click to email](#)

Candidate Coaches

Robert Eckstein - 510.744.1717
Bill Ferrell - 510.520.7242 cell
Ron Katz - Fremont-Hayward—510.375.3137 cell
Eric Korbas - Castro Valley 510.823.6334
Roy Tamez - Hayward 510.537.1077 / 510.684.3047 cell

Inspector of the 317th Masonic District
Wor. Allen Cuenca 916.390.1003
allencuenca@sbcglobal.net

2020 Committees

2020 Appointments

Audit: Mick Bowers

Charity Committee: Master and Wardens

Child ID: David Allen, and Perry Klahr

Crab Feed: Don Schauer and Roy Tamez, PM

Executive Committee: Robert Eckstein, PM, Paul Rodriguez, Brian Ross, Kurt Allen, PM, and Don Schauer

Hiram Award Selection: HA Committee (All HA recipients)

Lodge App: Robert Eckstein, PM

Masonic Education: TBD

Masonic Funeral: Kurt Allen, PM, Bill Ferrell, PM

Masonic Hall Association: Pat Quinn

Masonic Homes Endowment: Don Schauer

Masons for Mitts: Kurt Allen, PM

Membership Retention: Don Schauer & Robert B. Eckstein, PM

Picnic: Don Schauer and Roy Tamez, PM

Printing and Mailings: Don Schauer

Strawberry Feed: Ron Katz, PM and Perry Klahr

Sunshine & Visiting: Ernie Nidick & Les Blake

Sweethearts Committee: Perry Klahr, Mick Bowers, and Guy Phillips

Visitation / Traveling Degree : Kurt & Wynn Allen, and Don Schauer

Website and Trestleboard: Ron Katz, PM

White Table Night: J Rafisura

Masonic Youth Orders

Castro Valley DeMolay—Steve Kolden—510.409.6118 [click to email](#)

Unity Assembly No. 65, Rainbow for Girls—Heidi Kolden -
510.693.1385 [click to email](#)

Jobs Daughters Hayward No. 261—Joy Molina 510.754.4983 [click to email](#)

Jobs Daughters Dublin No. 1—Katie Bardwell 925.918.1675 [click to email](#)

NOTE: if you are not able to “click to email” send an email to info@CCL551.org to the attention of the person you are trying to reach

Where in the World

Each month we log visitors to our website. This month we were pleased to have guests from Sydney, NSW; Gloucester, UK; Auckland, NZ; Dubai, UAE, Zamboanga City, Philippines; Dallas, TX; Romeoville, IL; Barrie, ON; Schenectady, NY; Red Deer, AB; Santo Domingo Estate, Dominican Republic; Meguro-ku, Japan; Frankfurt am Main, Germany



**Monthly Trestleboard of
Crow Canyon Lodge No. 551
Free and Accepted Masons
4521 Crow Canyon Road, Castro Valley, CA 94552
510.274.0725 (lobby, kitchen)**

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