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Trestleboard

February 2023
Volume 19, Issue 2

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



WWW.CCL551.ORG



Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY 2023

MARCH 2023

- | | |
|--|---|
| 02/01—Wednesday —Officers'/Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 PM | 03/01—Wednesday —Officers'/Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 PM |
| 02/02—Thursday —Stated Meeting—Social 5:30 PM—Dinner 6:15 PM —Stated Meeting 7:30 PM | 03/02—Thursday —Stated Meeting—Social 5:30 PM—Dinner 6:15 PM —Stated Meeting 7:30 PM |
| 02/09—Thursday —Double 2nd Degree—The Herricks— 7:00 PM | 03/09—Thursday —Degree or Practice— 7:00 PM |
| 02/11—Saturday —Sweetheart's Initiative | 03/16—Thursday —Degree or Practice—7:00 PM |
| 02/14—Tuesday —DOSI at CVMC—1st Section / 2nd Degree—6:30 PM / Hall Association—7:00 PM | 03/18—Saturday —Breakfast w/Brothers @ Normans CV 8:00 AM |
| 02/16—Thursday —Degree or Practice—7:00 PM | 03/23—Thursday —Degree or Practice—7:00 PM |
| 02/18—Saturday —Breakfast w/Brothers @ Normans CV 8:00 AM | |
| 02/23—Thursday —Degree or Practice—7:00 PM | |
| 02/25—Saturday —Crab/Shrimp Feed—6:00 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

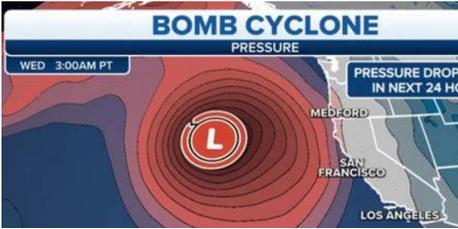
From the East

By J. E. C. Rafisura — Master

As we begin the year 2023, I wish everyone a renewed spirit, vigor and energy to start afresh and tackle new endeavors and challenges for this year.

New beginnings are always great opportunities to reset, regroup and refocus to take a shot at our goals and aspirations (both new and old).

As of this writing, mother nature has recently lambasted us with bomb cyclones causing stormy weather – which sunny California is not used to. The heavens opened up with heavy and steady downpours of rain for weeks,



accompanied with gusty winds, flash floods, sink holes, landslides, power outages and all! I hope and pray that everyone is now safe. If you

have been affected and still recovering from the recent calamity, please reach out to your lodge and know that we are here to help in whatever capacity we can.

On a lighter note, I am happy to inform you that your newly installed officers have survived their first Stated Meeting on January 5th. Everyone performed relatively well and quickly adjusted to our respective roles. Like in

any first-of-the-year Stated Meeting, it was not perfect but that is all part of the process. As we have been taught, nobody started as a perfect ashlar. At the end (of the meeting), we all laughed it off, learned what there is to learn and made fun of our performances - my kind of brothers!



Immediate and pressing business was addressed during the meeting, including the formal installation of our Secretary Bro. Perry Klahr, who was not able to attend the December 17 installation. Upcoming events were also discussed and announced such as the “Sweethearts Initiative” (February 11) and our Annual Crab Feed (February 25). On January 26, we have scheduled a second degree conferral on brother Steven Dorough. The momentum continues as we follow it up with a “double” second degree conferral on our very first “father-son tandem”, brothers Charles and Jacob Herrick happening on February 9. Both of these events are open to all fellowcraft masons. I am hoping that more brothers

can join us on this special occasion as we witness and celebrate their advancements.



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Poising for a series of degree conferrals, your officers are also laboring to rehearse for the ceremonies. I would like to acknowledge brother Bob Soule, who participated in our practices and volunteered to perform one of the most important part in every degree conferral. It has been a while since brother Soule had been active in our lodge. It is with great appreciation that he reached out to me to offer his time and effort. Kudos to you, brother! If any other brothers want to participate in our activities, please know that you will always be welcome. I look forward to more brothers coming out and having fun with us!

Until then, keep safe. I look forward to seeing you at the lodge!

From the West

By Andrew Hawes — Sr. Warden

So here we are in February, the shortest month of the year, and I am sure that you are all still just as strongly resolved to make those

changes in your life as you were last month when the year started....or perhaps not, but at least you tried.

Either way, time marches on! February being short is usually a good thing, I think- in colder climes than ours, it is often a harsh and cold month, full of ice and snow, and generally unappreciated. Having it give way as soon as possible to March, with its promise of forthcoming spring, is no bad thing.

That being said, I think February has its good points. Our annual Crab (and now shrimp!) Feed is one of them!

Being a cold and wintry month, it is an excellent month to stay inside and work on practicing our ritual, as well!

Study helps us to strengthen our minds, as exercise helps us strengthen our bodies, and learning our Masonic ritual as perfectly as we can is something that requires study, it does not happen by itself. It is part of what we do as Masons to improve ourselves- learning -and

understanding- our ritual is part of making ourselves better men, and should be an essential part of our regular routine.

As a lodge, we are forging further into our future, with several of our newer members doing their proficiencies, and looking to advance to the next degree of masonry, to further themselves on their masonic paths. I am reminded



A Blast from the Past into the Future

By William M. Ferrell

CHATEAU THIERRY NO. 569

Like Argonne Lodge No. 514, of San Francisco, Chateau Thierry Lodge no. 569, of Oakland, was organized by veterans of World War I, and maintained a military atmosphere for some years thereafter. Indeed the idea organizing it sprang from the minds of David Leroy Babcock, Markell Craig Baer, Ray Wall Fisher, and William Christopher Heim, all of whom had billeted together in France. And were joined by three other veterans – Steward Bruce Bowes, Adolph William Chase and Harry Leslie Lyle Roderick – who helped them to realize the idea. Roderick had been Senior Warden of Oroville Lodge No.103 before entering the army in 1917.

These brethren, who soon increased their number to twenty, received the enthusiastic support of Worshipful Master Robert M. Ford and Past Masters Charles Walter and Samuel Taylor of Oakland Lodge No. 188. But beyond that, little material is available on their earliest proceedings. It is sufficient to know that they received their dispensation from Grand Master Sherman on July 10, 1923, and their charter the following October 11, 1923. Roderick became their first Master; Baer, Senior Warden; and Fisher, Junior Warden.

At its first meeting, Chateau Thierry Lodge received the present of a set of officers' jewels, aprons, rods, and working tools from Oakland Lodge No. 188. The California Grays gave it a beautiful, silk American flag; and its first chaplain, Robert Maury Miller, presented his family Bible, which was used for many years.

In growth, Chateau Thierry barely missed breaking into that highly select circle of Lodges that have either stood still nor shown an annual net loss in membership since they were organized. It filed its first returns on 22 members in 1923, and on 326 in 1949. During that time, it never showed a loss, but it did stand still with 161 in 1933 and 1934.

This is one of the surest indications that, despite the early limitation of its membership to former service men, it has always been a popular Lodge.

It has also been a steady Lodge both in meeting place and procedure, it opened in the Oakland Masonic Temple at 508-12th street, July 11, 1923 and had met there until it moved to Castro Valley in the late 1960's. In procedure,

of a riddle involving February: "How many months have 28 days?"

The answer, for anyone unfamiliar with it, is "All of them!"

This seems like an amusing joke at first, but I think if we dig deeper into it, we can take from it an important lesson, which is that accurate communication is the key to mutual understanding and agreement. None of us would hesitate to give this answer if prompted with the question: "How many months have AT LEAST 28 days?" It is instead the lack of clarity in the question, leaving the listener to fill in the blank with "exactly" that leads to the riddler's intended trick- "why, only February!" is a not infrequent response, and is in fact correct, under the mistaken assumption that the questioner wants to know how many months have NO MORE than 28 days.

Thus, the lesson is: By carefully considering the questions we are posed, and answering them thoughtfully, we can all be more sure to give the answer to the intended question.

From the South

By Lyman Penning — Jr. Warden

Starting in February, I will be placing sign up sheets for the Stated dinner that will be held the following month. There will also be sheets for upcoming events. This should make it easier for everyone to make reservations and not have to use the telephone or computer.

If you did not sign the yellow sheet that was outside the dining room at last Month's Stated, please call either myself at (510) 441-3901 or Perry Klahr at (925)-425-3360 and place your reservations. Again, the sign up sheets will be on the dinner tables to place reservations for the March Stated Meeting dinner.

Crab & Shrimp Feed If you have not yet bought your tickets for the Crow

Canyon Crab Feed, please make them as quickly as possible. The tickets will be selling fast and I am sure that you won't want to miss this enjoyable dinner. Tickets can be purchased from Perry Klahr at \$50.00 for Crab or \$25.00 for Chicken. Garlic Bread, Pasta, Salad, and a Dessert come with the meal. The Crab Feed is at 6:00 PM at the Castro Valley Masonic Center.

On Thursday, February 9, 2023, we have a double second degree at 7:00 PM. Remember that there will be a light dinner before the degree.

See you at lodge everyone.



it has had the distinction of a special dispensation of permitting its officers to wear military uniforms when conferring degrees, and of originating the custom of "presenting and retiring the flag of our country."

The only other feature of special interest in this Lodge's history concerns one of its most prized possessions, a gavel made of wood from the Masonic Temple, at Chateau Thierry, France, which was destroyed by shell fire during World War I. This gavel was presented by the brethren of Loge Jean de la Fontaine Masonique of Chateau Thierry, France, who were honored to know that a Lodge in far off California had been named after their city.



Sunshine and Visiting



We would like to remind you of a valuable link in the support of our Lodge; the 'Sunshine Committee'.

The function of the Sunshine committee is to comfort and provide guidance and assistance that you and other lodge Brothers can call on in your time of need. They have access to resources (and the Worshipful's ear) in tackling whatever obstacles may lie in a Brothers path.

Their contact information can be found here in the Trestleboard and on our website.

Ernie Nidick—925.828.6993

Roy Tamez—510.684.3047

Tramaine Ellison—209.481.7430

Aaron Johnson—510.509.4312

3rd Degree Anniversaries

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

Orrin Benedict Jr. (4)
 Ronald Bessette (30)
 David Bode (37)
 Harold Burk Jr. (30)
 Ronnie Castia (31)
 Kishore Gidvani (23)

Jeffrey Hansen (25)
 Douglas Howe (17)
 Anthony Lloyd (54)
 Paul Makela (48)
 Allen Weisser PM (58)



February Birthdays

Christopher Boggess (02/03)
 John Smith (02/03)
 Anthony Lloyd (02/05)
 Alvin Rodes (02/05)
 Harold Rubin (02/05)
 Edward Auguadro (02/06)
 Robert Steen (02/10)
 Fred Jonke (02/14)

Brandon Moore (02/16)
 Mark Warzyniak (02/17)
 John Groff (02/19)
 Ronald Selvey (02/19)
 Brian Brunckhorst (02/25)
 Alan West (02/26)
 John Fischer (02/27)

Masonic Family Corner

I hope everyone is enjoying the new year! My name is Natalie S., and I am the Honored Queen of Bethel No. 1 Dublin! I was just recently installed on January 7th and I'm looking forward to a wonderful term as this year marks Bethel No. 1 Dublin's 100th year!

We held a fun bowling event at Earl Anthony's in Dublin on January 14th as our first event of the month. After we all went bowling, the girls came over to my place, where we prepared more than 200 Valentine cards to distribute to the Masonic Home in Union City! Following this, the 25th of January is the day of our first official meeting for the term. We all look forward to an exciting new year and term! We welcome any new members and JD to Bee's to the Bethel.



2023 Officers

Master — J. Emmanuel Rafisura (Maria)
516.519.1151 jecrafisura@yahoo.com

Senior Warden — Andrew Hawes (Jamie)
656.645.0175 awphawes@yahoo.com

Junior Warden—Lyman Penning, PM H.A.
510.441.3901 lymanpenning@gmail.com

Treasurer—Phil Busch H.A. (Teresa)
510.566.7019 tbusch_55@yahoo.com

Secretary—Perry Klahr (Joan)
925.425.3360 / 925.699.1786 pklahr1234@comcast.net

Assist. Secretary—Don Schauer, Sr. H.A. (Audrey)
510.258.0654 donschauersr@gmail.com

Chaplain—Brian K. Ross, PM (Theresa)
510.331.6935 br575653@gmail.com

Marshal—Pat Quinn, H.A. (Donna Jo)
925.201.3065 / 510.755.7891 cell pdq551@att.net

Senior Deacon—Alex Von Stade, P.M. (Yuki)
510.512.6569 cell avstade@gmail.com

Junior Deacon—Tramaine Ellison (Monique)
209.830.1513 / 209.481.7430 cell Tramaine.ellison@hotmail.com

Sr. Steward—Aaron Johnson (Sara)
510.509.4312 cell vwroadracer@gmail.com

Jr. Steward—Osman Ghani
860.655.7171 cell jozzie6935@gmail.com

Tiler—Bill Biddell, H.A. (Anne)
510.582.6207 / 510.589.0878 cell wbiddell@gmail.com

Officer's Coach—Robert Pinkerton, PM
510.851.6794 cell r-pinkerton@sbcglobal.net

Candidate Coaches

Bill Ferrell (Kathy) 510.520.7242 cell
Ron Katz (Jennifer) 510.375.3137 cell
Eric Korbas (Maribel) - Castro Valley 510.823.6334
Roy Tamez - Hayward 510.684.3047 cell

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

Where in the World

Each month we log visitors to our website. This month we were pleased to have guests from: Plymouth, UK; Angers, France; Chicago, IL; Ames, IA; Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia; Stevenage, UK; New York, NY; Zapopan, Mexico; Paris, France; Beaverton, OR; Plymouth, Montserrat; Sao Paulo, Brazil; Woodbridge, Canada; Tallahassee, FL; Leon, Spain; Shaunavon, Canada; Cagayan de Oro, Philippines; Sydney, Australia; Racine, WI; Johannesburg, South Africa; Walnutport, PA; Doneztebe-Santesteban, Spain



Committees

2023 Appointments

Audit: Pat Quinn HA, Aaron Johnson, Andrew Hawes

Charity Committee: Master and Wardens

Crab Feed: Roy Tamez PM HA, Perry Klahr, Tramaine Ellison, Phil Busch HA

Executive Committee: J. Rafisura, Andrew Hawes, Lyman Penning PM HA, Perry Klahr

FOSJ and White Table Night: Lyman Penning PM HA, Aaron Johnson, Jerry Garcia

Hiram Award Selection: HA Committee (All HA recipients)

Inter-lodge Relations: Aaron Johnson, Tramaine Ellison, Robert Pinkerton PM

Masonic Funeral: Bill Ferrell PM HA, Roy Tamez PM HA, Pat Quinn HA

Masonic Education: Bob Pinkerton PM

Masonic Hall Association: Brian Ross PM

Masons for Mitts: Brian Ross PM, Ozzie Ghani

Membership Retention: Andrew Hawes, Perry Klahr, Brian Ross PM

Picnic: Roy Tamez PM HA, Perry Klahr, Lyman Penning PM HA

Printing and Mailing: Don Schauer Sr.

Public Schools Night: Adam Korbas

Strawberry Feed: Perry Klahr, Ozzie Ghani, Scott Hamilton, Lyman Penning PM HA

Sunshine and Visiting: Ernie Nidick, Aaron Johnson, Tramaine Ellison, Roy Tamez PM HA

Sweethearts Committee: Phil Busch HA, Aaron Johnson, Tramaine Ellison

Trustees: Perry Klahr, Bill Ferrell, PM HA

Website and Trestleboard: Ron Katz, PM HA

Welcome: Aaron Johnson, Tramaine Ellison, Jesse Bridgeman, Lyman Penning

Youth Orders Liaisons: Andrew Hawes, Pat Quinn HA

Masonic Youth Orders

Castro Valley DeMolay—Steve Kolden—510.409.6118 [click to email](mailto:stevekolden@castrovalleydemolay.org)

Unity Assembly No. 65, Rainbow for Girls—Heidi Kolden - 510.693.1385 [click to email](mailto:heidikolden@unityassembly65.org)

Jobs Daughters Hayward No. 261—Joy Molina 510.754.4983 [click to email](mailto:joy.molina@jobsdaughtershayward.org)

Jobs Daughters Dublin No. 1—Kelly Hessler 925.980.3899, yo_hessler@yahoo.com

Monthly Trestleboard of
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Free and Accepted Masons
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510.556.4253 (lobby, kitchen)

Find us on the Web: <http://www.CCL551.org>

Editor: Ron Katz, PM 510.375.3137
info@CCL551.org

Secretary: Perry Klahr 925.425.3360
pklahr1234@comcast.net

To Reserve the Building
Bill Biddell - 510.589.0878 cell

February 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2 Stated Meeting 5:30 Social 6:15 Dinner 7:30 Meeting	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9 Double 2nd Degree— The Herricks— 7:00 PM	10	11 Sweetheart's Initiative	
12	13	14 DOSI at CVMC—1st Section / 2nd De- gree—6:30 PM	15	16 Degree or Practice— 7:00 PM	17	18 Breakfast w/Brothers @ Norman's CV— 8:00 AM	
19	20	21	22	23 Degree or Practice— 7:00 PM	24	25 Crab/Shrimp Feed— 6:00 PM	
26	27	28					