



Trestleboard

September 2026

Volume 22, Issue 9

**Crow Canyon Lodge
No. 551**

F&AM of California

Chartered October 11, 1923

WWW.CCL551.ORG



Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER 2026

- 09/02—Wednesday**—Officer's Meeting—7:00 PM
- 09/03—Thursday**—Stated Meeting and *Presentation of Golden Veteran's Award to Bro. Kurt Allen, PM, HA.*—Social/Dinner—6:15 PM / Business Meeting—7:30 PM
- 09/10—Thursday**—Past Masters' Role Call and Stag Dinner—6:00 PM
- 09/15—Tuesday**—Zoom Social—7:00 PM
- 09/17—Thursday**—Practice or Degree—7:00 PM
- 09/19—Saturday**—Breakfast with Brothers @ Manor Grill, San Leandro—8:00 AM
- 09/19—Saturday**—Hiram Award Presentation & Dinner—5:00 PM
- 09/24—Thursday**—Practice or Degree—7:00 PM
- 09/28—Monday**—Hall Association—7:00 PM

OCTOBER 2026

- 10/01—Thursday**—Stated Meeting—Social/Dinner—6:15 PM—*Masonic Outreach Presentation / Business Meeting*—7:30 PM
- 10/07—Wednesday**—Officer's Meeting—7:00 PM
- 10/09—10/11—Friday-Sunday**—Annual Grand Lodge Communication
- 10/16—10/18—Friday-Sunday**—Travel Degree to Pacific Grove
- 10/20—Tuesday**—Zoom Social—7:00 PM
- 10/26—Monday**—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-Obrien, PM—Master

Brethren and Families,

This past month brought plenty of hot August nights, and things were just as hot around the Lodge. We enjoyed our Annual Lodge Picnic at the Golden Gate Live Steamers in Tilden Park, officer practices for our August 27th Third Degree for Brother Ildjer Baron, the Strawberry Feed at the Masonic Home, and our First Annual OES/Mason BBQ. There certainly has been no shortage of opportunities for fellowship and Masonic activity.

With our Degree Team hard at work preparing for several Third Degrees that we will be conferring over the next couple of months, it became apparent that we would not have an opportunity to confer a Second Degree upon a worthy Brother who has been diligent in his Masonic studies until at least October or November. Fortunately, a solution was found with Pleasanton Lodge graciously allowing us to add our candidate to their scheduled Second Degree on August 22nd.

That made August 22nd an especially busy day for our Lodge officers. We had Brothers and officers participating in the Second Degree in Pleasanton, attending the Strawberry Feed at the Masonic Home, and helping with our OES/Mason BBQ. It was a full day, and CC 551 officers were represented at all three events.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Pleasanton Lodge, Wor. Bill Taylor, and their excellent Degree Team for allowing us to share in their event and welcome our newest Fellowcraft Mason, Brother Dennis Sumague. I wish we could have stayed longer to enjoy the fellowship and meal that followed. However, several of us officers needed to make our way back to CC 551 to help with the BBQ.

As I write this, we are only a few days away from conferring the Third Degree upon Brother Ildjer Baron on August 27th. I will report on the evening in the next installment of the Trestleboard. We are expecting Brothers from several Lodges to join us, and Uncle Roy is planning dinner for approximately 30 Brothers before the Degree. Your Officers and I are looking forward to a great evening as we welcome Brother Baron into the sublime degree of a Master Mason.

September will bring even more opportunities for fellowship. At our Stated Meeting, we will have the honor of presenting a Grand Veterans Award (50 year pin), to Wor. Kurt Allen.

Then, on September 19th, CC 551 will have the honor of presenting the Hiram Award to a Brother who has selflessly supported our Lodge throughout 2026. His



dedication and commitment have not gone unnoticed, and it will be our pleasure to recognize him with this very special honor.

But I am going to keep one detail a secret for now. Who will be receiving the Hiram Award?

You'll have to join us on September 19th, or read the next installment of the Trestleboard, to find out. Until then, I'll let the mystery remain.

As always, I encourage each of you to attend our Stated Meetings and dinners, degree work, and social events whenever you are able. We look forward to seeing you and your families again very soon.

From the West

By Alex Von Stadt, PM — Sr. Warden

Brethren:

Welcome to the month of September, the beginning of Fall. The name September can be attributed to the Latin word "Septem" meaning the number seven. In the old Roman calendar, September was originally the seventh month of the year; but it changed positions when the calendar was revised to a twelve-month format. In general, September marks the beginning of Fall and the start of crop harvesting. September in Old England was called "Haervest-month" which roughly translates to "Harvest Month". On September 22, we will experience the Autumnal Equinox and on that particular date we will experience an equal number of hours of the day and night. After the autumnal equinox, the days will become shorter than the nights and nightfall arrives earlier. One notable Federal holiday (Labor Day) occurs in the month September. Labor Day always occurs on the first Monday in September and was created to honor and recognize the American labor movement.

Until next month, have a pleasant September and a relaxing Labor Day holiday.

From the South

By Andrew Hawes, PM — Jr. Warden

Brethren, I am writing this to you from Portland, OR. Just came up for a day trip, no time to visit local Brethren (Hi, Ron!) and I thought I would share a thought with you about weirdness.

Portland where we are visiting is a bit weird. It is a city that embraces its weirdness, and celebrates it, or so it seems to me. As it should. We should all celebrate the weird, the unusual, the different, the divergent, the oddities and the peculiarities that may come into our lives. More, we should seek them out! How do you know if you like something until you consider it with an open



mind? Variety is the spice of life, and what dish doesn't use spice? Phil's chili comes to mind, but he likes it, and I respect his opinion to like it, as weird as it may seem to me to like that stuff. I mean, it beats eating matzoh. Who would want to eat nothing but unseasoned flatbread forever? Have you had matzoh? I mean, who would choose to eat that stuff and ONLY that stuff? No one that I want to know, let me tell you- but I would respect their choice, if they made it. Weird, but there you go. When we push back against things that seem strange to us, that seem odd, that seem a little weird... we deny ourselves salt, pepper, garlic... we eat our matzoh balls, with no soup. We chew our crusty bread of life with no butter or cinnamon sugar. WHY would we make that choice?

What's even worse is when we try to enforce our beliefs on others. No, no, we say, you cannot have cilantro on your tacos, it tastes like soap! You cannot have salsa, it is too spicy! You cannot have that meat, it is too heavily seasoned, that sour cream is too rich, those tomatoes too red, that lettuce too green, tortilla too flat. Here. Have a matzoh ball. No eggs in it, that's cruel to the potential little unborn chickies, so let's just use water... mmmmm... tasty. (...it's really not.)

As Masons, we should be better than that. If you want no cilantro on YOUR tacos, great... but don't take mine. You don't like spicy ok, no problem... but leave me my hot sauce.

You make choices for yourself (well unless you're married, but let's not get into that...) and you want and like it that way- we all do. So let us live and let live. Share, and share alike. Do unto others as we want them to do to us. Be kind, be caring, be honest, be true, and be a good person.

Be weird and embrace the weird in the world, it's what keeps it interesting.

If you don't want to be weird... well fine... but that's a bit weird to me...

3rd Degree Anniversaries

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

Johnnie Albanese (11)	Johnnie Laney (55)
Kurt Allen (50)	Ralph Larsen (62)
Denis Beaman (46)	Mark Leite (39)
Robert Eckstein (41)	James Luque (54)
John Freestone (56)	Patrick McCord (47)
Gerald Garcia (14)	Verl Rothlisberger (40)
Donald Jensen (43)	David Rupp (09)
Nolan Katz (70)	Larry Russell (59)
Anton Korbas (01)	Albert Thomas (47)



Masonic Family Corner

By Denise Jow—Past Grand Guardian

Hello from Job's Daughters Bethel No. 1, Dublin

September marks time for us to head BACK to BETHEL!

Bethel meetings will resume and plans for our Grand Guardian's Official Visit for 2026 on September 20th are underway. Eleven Bethels from the Northern California Guardian Council Committee will be participating.

Bethel One has many fun activities planned this term & encourage the Bethel Daughters to invite their friends. Some fun activities are a family picnic, activity with Castro Valley DeMolay, Sweet Treats & Bubble Beats promotion booth in Pleasanton, Truck or Treat at Los Positas College and fundraisers Saver's donations & Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 19th. Members are 10 to 20 years old with the opportunity for younger girls 7 to 9 years old to join our Bee Hive and become JD to Bees. Job's Daughters International allows girls and young women to bloom into their confidence to become leaders of tomorrow. This confidence and leadership development lets members soar into adulthood with the set of skills needed in today's world. If you would like more information on attending our activities or joining our Bethel please contact/email us: bethel1@cajdi.org.

The Miss California Job's Daughter Pageant was held in Bakersfield on August 15th. Miss Amina PHQ Bethel 109, Bellflower was crowned our new Miss California Job's Daughter 2026-2027. Her mother Pamela was Miss California Job's Daughter 1998-1999. This is the first time a mother & daughter have both worn the crown. Amina will be competing in the Miss International Job's Daughter Pageant at Supreme 2027 which will be held in Florida. We look forward to seeing Amina on her travels and wish her the very best.



**Job's Daughters
International®
of California**

September Birthdays

Michael Barnhart (09/01)	Mark Casperson (09/17)
Robert Marshall (09/03)	Brian Ross (09/17)
Gordon Warder (09/04)	Rowell Prosser (09/20)
Phillip Busch (09/05)	Mark Simens (09/22)
Robert Logan (09/06)	Adam Korbas (09/23)
Leonard Leavitt (09/07)	Robert Soule (09/25)
Sammy Tamez (09/07)	Gilbert Alston (09/26)
Douglas Howe (09/11)	David Bode (09/28)
Roy Tamez (09/11)	David Allen (09/29)
Lelend Allen (09/12)	Gary Tucker (09/30)
Mickey Benko (09/12)	
Larry Richardson (09/13)	
Jared Andreotti (09/16)	

Strawberry Feed Brings Sweet Fellowship to the Union City Masonic Home

On Saturday, August 22, the annual Strawberry Feed was held at the Masonic Home at Union City, bringing together residents, staff, and volunteers for an afternoon of fellowship, service, and fresh seasonal treats. The event was very well attended, with more than 100 residents and staff enjoying the gathering.

Food preparation took place at the home of Perry Klahr, where a dedicated group of volunteers helped make the event possible. Special thanks go to Pat and Donna Jo Quinn, Jerry and Mary Garcia, Al Kenyon, Robert Johnson, the Adam Korbas clan, Andrew Hawes, Jackie Ginn, Mark Fingers, Dan Sumague and Joanie Klahr for their time, effort, and generous support in preparing for the day.

The Strawberry Feed continues to be a cherished opportunity to serve the Masonic Home community and share a simple but meaningful tradition. Thanks to the volunteers and everyone who attended, the afternoon was a wonderful reminder of the friendship, care, and fraternal spirit that connect our Masonic family.

2026 Masons4Mitts 18th Season is on!

Now in its 18th year, Masons4Mitts has raised more than \$2.675 million for our four MLB partner foundations, equipping underserved young people all around the state with custom-made leather baseball mitts and ensuring they have access to enriching, high-quality youth baseball and softball leagues.

HELPING KIDS – ONE MITT AT A TIME!

Each year, regional teams of Masonic lodges compete to purchase high-quality leather baseball mitts for children who participate in charitable baseball programs.

Support young people in your community today by donating a mitt today.

Give a Mitt!

<https://givebutter.com/CBPL7F>



2026 Officers

Master — Paul Rodriguez-Obrien, PM (Diana)
510.461.1071 hal2pro@sbcglobal.net

Senior Warden — Alex VonStade, P.M. (Yuki)
510.512.6569 cell avstade@gmail.com

Junior Warden—Andrew Hawes, P.M. (Jamie)
646.645.0175 awphawes@yahoo.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

Assistant Secretary—Jerry Garcia (Mary)
510.909.8645 jerrygarcia1263@gmail.com

Chaplain—Alan Kenyon, PM (Karen)
510.520.7672 Alan.Kenyon@comcast.net

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

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

Junior Deacon—Aaron Johnson
510.509.4312 vwroadracer@gmail.com

Senior Steward—Adam Brissey
925.719.0103 adam.brissey@gmail.com

Junior Steward—

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

Officer's Coach—Robert Pinkerton, PM (Toni)
510.851.6794 cell bobpink@live.com

Officer's Coach—Brian Ross, PM (Teresa)
510.331.6935 br575653@gmail.com

Candidate Coaches

Bill Ferrell (Kathy) 510.520.7242 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

Committees

2026 Appointments

Audit: Pat Quinn, Justin Ortiz, Andrew Hawes

Breakfast with Brothers: Brian Ross, Bill Biddell, Phil Busch

Masonic Charity Committee: Master and Wardens

Community Outreach: Aaron Johnson, Paul Rodriguez

Crab Feed: Roy Tamez, Perry Klahr, Brian Ross

Executive Committee: Paul Rodriguez, Alexander Van Stade, Andrew Hawes, Perry Klahr

FOSJ: Bill Biddell

Hiram Award Selection: HA Committee (All HA recipients)

Masonic Funeral: Lyman Penning, Roy Tamez, Pat Quinn, Bill Biddell.

Masonic Hall Association: Pat Quinn—President

Membership Retention: Paul Rodriguez, Perry Klahr

Picnic: Roy Tamez, Perry Klahr, Bill Biddell, Brian Ross,

Printing and Mailing: Bill Biddell

Public Schools Night: Adam Korbas, Brendan Korbas, Roy Tamez

Sportsman Club: Brian Ross, Phil Busch.

Strawberry Feed: Perry Klahr, Robert Johnson, Brian Canton

Sunshine and Visiting: Alan Kenyon

Sweethearts Committee: Aaron Johnson, Jacob Herrick, Tramaine Ellison

Trustees: Robert Logan, Brian Ross, Perry Klahr, Bill Ferrell, Hank Andreotti, Adam Korbas

Website and Trestleboard: Ron Katz

Welcome: Adam Brissey

White Table Night: Perry Klahr, Brian Ross, Pat Quinn, Bill Biddell

Youth Orders Liaisons: Andrew Hawes, Pat Quinn

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—Kelly Hessler 925.980.3899, yo_hessler@yahoo.com

Where in the World

Each month we log visitors to our website. This month we were pleased to have guests from: San Luis Obispo, CA; Stockton, CA; San Diego, CA; El Sobrante, CA; Miami, FL; Sacramento, CA; Las Vegas, NV; Concord, CA; Hayward, CA; Hanoi, Vietnam; Newark, CA; Istanbul, Turkiye



Monthly Trestleboard of
Crow Canyon Lodge No. 551
Free and Accepted Masons
4521 Crow Canyon Road, Castro Valley, CA 94552
510.556.4253 (lobby, kitchen)

Find us on the Web: <http://www.CCL551.org>
Zoom Social and Study - Every 3rd Tuesday at 7: PM, at :
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89901030939?pwd=uejbsEg5bVvb1Nub6VhJUJi2kitU54.1>

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To Reserve the Building
Colleen Weaver—mamaweaver06@gmail.com

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Officer's Meeting - 7:00 PM	3 Stated Meeting and Presentation of Golden Veteran's Award—Wor. Kurt Allen - Dinner/ Social 6:15 PM	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Past Master's Role Call and Stag Dinner for all Mem- bers—6:00 PM	11	12
13	14	15 Zoom Social— 7:00 PM	16	17 Practice or Degree—7:00 PM	18	19 Breakfast with Brothers @ Manor Grill, San Leandro— 8:00 AM Hiram Award Presentation at CCMC—5:00 PM
20	21	22	23	24 Practice or Degree—7:00 PM	25	26
27	28 Hall Association— 7:00 PM	29	30			