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# Trestleboard

April 2015

Volume 11, Issue 4

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



## Calendar of Events

### APRIL

- Thu Apr 2, 2015—7:30 PM—Stated Meeting—5:30 Social / 6:15 Dinner / 7:30 Meeting
- Thu Apr 9, 2015—7:00 PM—3rd Degree Practice
- Tue Apr 14, 2015—7:00 PM—District School of Instruction—At Masonic Home (6:00 PM Dinner preceding)
- Thu Apr 16, 2015—6:00 PM—3rd Degree Practice
- Thu Apr 23, 2015—7:00 PM—3rd Degree—Bro. Accurso
- Tue Apr 28, 2015—7:00 PM—DMPS (Masonic Education)
- Thu Apr 30, 2015—6:00 PM—Public Schools Night (Dinner / Entertainment / Awards)

### MAY

- Sun May 3, 2015—11:30 AM—Sweetheart Event—Dino's on Castro Valley Blvd for Buffet Lunch followed by the Chanticleers' production of "The Nerd" at 2:00 PM. Contact Phil Busch for reservations (510) 566-7019
- Tue May 5, 2015—6:30 PM—Officer's Meeting
- Thu May 7, 2015—7:30 PM—Stated Meeting—5:30 Social / 6:15 Dinner / 7:30 Meeting
- Tue May 12, 2015—7:00 PM—District School of Instruction—At Masonic Home (6:00 PM Dinner preceding)
- Thu May 14, 2015—6:30 PM—3rd Degree Practice
- Sat May 16—Sun May 17—Rowell Ranch Rodeo Child ID
- Tue May 25, 2015—7:00 PM—DMPS (Masonic Education)
- Thu May 28, 2015—7:00 PM—Practice or Degree

### Appendant and Concordant Bodies

- Lake Chabot Chapter Eastern Star meets @ Castro Valley Masonic Center (CVMC) 1st & 3rd Friday (8:00 PM) <http://www.lakechabot103oes.org>
- Alchor White Shrine meets @ CVMC 2nd & 4th Friday (7:00 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 Bob Pinkerton, P.M.—Worshipful Master



As Master, I hear many things from the brethren and often do not comment on what I hear unless it has potential to effect the operation of the lodge as a whole. I have been hearing concerns from the older brethren that they believe the younger brethren do not want to do the same things that they have grown accustomed to. And from the younger brethren I am hearing that maybe the older brethren won't support them in the new activities and changes that they would like to bring to the lodge. When I talk to members of both groups in depth, these fears appear, to me, to be greater than they actually are. I truly believe, that although the concerns are there, that with time and patience, a balance will be struck because ultimately both groups want what's best for the lodge.

This is the fourth time in my life that I have been Master. And I must say, this is turning out to be my most interesting term. One would think that going through the line a number of times would prepare you for all contingencies that may arise, making the position easier as time goes on. In some ways that is true because you start to learn the capabilities and limitations of yourself as well as the lodge. The biggest thing one learns is that there is always change. Whether it is a change in ritual (sorry, no changes, just clarifications) or new legislation from Grand Lodge that we must incorporate into our lodge or temple association business processes. But most of the time, even when the change may seem painful or merely uncomfortable for a while, it ends up being beneficial.

Another source of change is the demographic making up lodge membership. Most of us are growing older, and with that, change becomes more uncomfortable. We get in the habit of liking to see things done in a certain way, and we tend to want to continue doing what we have been doing for many years. Then we add new members to the lodge, and they have a preconceived idea of what to expect from what we tell them. These younger gentlemen rightly think that we are going to be active in the community, that we are going to make good men better, that we are going to practice, partake in and share the traditions, history and mysteries of freemasonry, and most of all, that we're going to meet as a brotherhood of men, accepting of our differences, held to a higher standard.

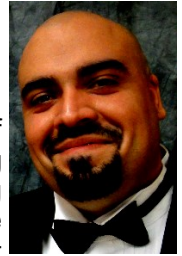
I remember having the same feelings when I joined Masonry, especially when in the line for the first time; the excitement and pride I had in contributing to the operation and well being of the lodge. I must admit that our fraternity has provided me with many chances to learn and grow in ways I never imagined, and it has also met all my expectations. But the average age of Masons in California was near 80 then, and due to many good men passing away, and younger men coming in, the average age of masons has now dropped to the mid 60's. As time goes on the lodges become smaller and the younger men start to take a greater role in our culture. I am now near 67, and our younger members are anywhere between 20 and 40 (or more) years younger than I am, just as I was 15 years ago when I joined. The fastest growing segment of our membership is 18-30 year old; there are about 2,000 men initiated into Masonry each year and their average age is 39.

The culture of our lodge, and all lodges, will obviously change as time marches on, but the key to its future is four-things: 1. Open, respectful, and frank communication 2) An open mind 3) Cooperation 4) Balance. By having open communication, keeping an open mind to new ideas, working together, and striking a balance between current and new activities, we can keep our lodge alive and vibrant, and maintain our

customs, even bring back some time honored traditions, explore our history, and understand the mysteries and philosophies of our forebearers as we walk in their footsteps towards the future.

## From the West

By Michael Ramos—Senior Warden



If you can believe it, we are already into the month of April; this masonic year is moving by at a quickening pace. And with the steady lapse of time, the only thing that is guaranteed is change. I believe that we can be honest with ourselves and plainly state that we are at a crossroads not only within our own Lodge but also within Freemasonry as a whole. Change is present; the reasons for why young men are choosing to enter our mysteries are at their peak of clarity and can be backed by statistical surveys taken by various Masonic organizations. And sadly to some, they are not for the same reasons men were joining 30+ years ago, but are far more akin to why men were joining 300 years ago. Authentic, scholastic information about Freemasonry is readily available everywhere from Amazon.com to a slough of educational websites, such as Pietre Stones. Universities are even offering courses in the organizational development, philosophical platform and esoteric elements of Freemasonry. With these resources at the fingertips of the curious, applicants are coming with expectations of a traditional, meaningful, thought provoking experience; we are no longer living in the days of hushed-up Masonry. Older traditions with a philosophically enlightening foundation is what is expected.

For some Masons, the "traditions" only go back 50-80 years. They recall a Masonry that wasn't talked about openly. Perhaps these traditions were a more "watered-down form of exoteric (surface level) Freemasonry. If asked, they might not be able to explain the rich undercurrents of our teachings and the beauty and solemnity of our labor or the history or deeper meaning that the Craft held.

With this being said, where do we go from here when two generations have to learn to agree to disagree? I believe open, honest and respectful communication is a start.

What do we want our lodge to look like in the future? A social club? A philanthropic organization? A ritual mill? A dinner club? Or something more lasting, more compelling, more enlightening? Times are changing. Younger Masons may be the longevity and future of the Lodge, however there would be no lodges for them to join were it not for the dedication of our more senior members. If our newest applicants are seeking a rekindling of older traditions, perhaps the time has come to consider what that looks like. Give and take is necessary. The core values and principles of Freemasonry will always remain the same. The flavor and face may change; the pendulum is swinging. I look forward to the next few years, but primarily, I look forward to the future that is further away. To keep a Lodge alive it must move with the times, such as was done before. This shift in the paradigm is aimed at keeping younger members active and excited about being a participant or maybe even becoming a leader. I believe the part that we should all find funny is that both ends of the spectrum are striving towards their version of "tradition". Young brethren are discovering the old charges, the earlier traditions. These thought of the earliest Masons tend to ring truer to this highly curious and resourceful brethren. We look loving back toward Freemasonry's past, we work in the present and prepare for a rich, enlightening future for our Craft.

## From the South

By Kem Apak—Junior Warden



The menu for the April Stated meeting will be Passover 'Seder'-Style including Matzah (unsalted crackers), Charoseth (apples diced finely with cinnamon, nuts and some Kosher wine), Hard Boil Eggs, Gefilte Fish (Cooked and Pureed White Fish formed into a ball), Tossed Green Salad, Roasted Chicken, Potato Latkes (Pancakes), Fresh Green Vegetables, and Dessert of Fruit Jellies and Cookies.

I want to thank you and our Lodge for sending us to the Masters and Warden Retreat this weekend. In one of the sessions, the presenter divided the Lodges into five types. Social, Service, Philanthropic, Family and finally The Research. What is our Lodge's character or type I asked? Can we have multiple personalities? According to Grand Lodge most of the younger brethren's expectations from Masonry is very different. As a new season approaches and as Spring knocks on our door, a new generation of men are knocking the door of Freemasonry.

The principle tenets of Freemasonry are Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Currently, it seems to me, we concentrate mostly in Brotherly Love and Relief. To the outside world we are a social and charitable organization. In my humble opinion we don't spend enough time speaking about Truth.

To walk uprightly before God and man. To thine own self, be true. Truth and wisdom are sought through divine knowledge in the schools of history, philosophy, mysticism, art, math and science. The study of truth is the life blood of our Craft. The future of our Lodge depends on our ability to adapt and execute these new "old" ideas. The new generation of Masons and those knocking on our door right now, do not seek out Masonry to join a social or charitable club. This new generation seeks a school of enlightenment and the opportunity to study these subject areas as our speculative brethren once did. May the light always be with you and all the Craftsmen.



**DMPS**  
Dead Masonic Poet Society

**Share, learn and discuss:**

Masonic history & mysteries  
Our Craft's ever-evolving practices  
Our true operative roots  
Our positive effect on society, personally and otherwise

**Every 4th Tuesday!**  
Open to all degrees!  
7:00PM



## Masonic Family Corner

**Jobs Daughters, Bethel No. 1 Dublin**—We have been very active. We served at a Crab Feed on Saturday March 7th with Pleasanton DeMolay and on Sunday the 8th we went to church in Castro Valley, afterward we went bowling in Dublin with Pleasanton DeMolay. On March 14th & 15th we were in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and had an information booth at the St. Patrick's festival. Also we are preparing for our Spaghetti Feed and Silent Auction on April 24th at the AAHMES Shrine Center. If you are interested in tickets please look for our ticket sellers.—Nicole H., Junior Princess

## From the Secretary's Table

By Don Schauer, Sr., H.A.



At our March 2015 stated meeting the amendment to amend our bylaws was passed. It allowed the dues to be rounded off to the next highest dollar. The Grand Master must sign off on the amendment. After approval is received the increase, if any, will become effective January 1, 2016. Example, this year the dues are \$99.50. Had this amendment been in effect the dues would have been \$100.00

CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT, CALIFORNIA MASONIC CODE § 802.020, ARTICLE III – FEES AND DUES, SECTION 2 (DUES)

Section 2. The dues of each member of this Lodge shall be the sum of \$ 60.00 plus the Per Capita sum approved by Grand Lodge at the immediately preceding Annual Communication, with the total thus determined rounded up to the next higher whole multiple of \$ 1.00 per annum, payable in advance on the first day of January.

I will be sending out dues reminders for the 44 members who have not paid their 2015 dues. Of which 16 have not paid their 2014 dues. Those 16 are looking at being suspended for non-payment of dues at our June stated meeting. Check your dues receipt's. June is just around the corner.

## Inspiring Words

By Irwin Fershleiser—Chaplain

On the back of my car I had a poster that read "To be a Mason Ask A Mason."

One day as I was about to get into my car after shopping, I heard these words "So I'm asking." I stepped back from my car and looked up at the smiling face of a young man. He again said, "So I'm asking." I asked, "Asking what?" He answered, "How does one become a Mason?" I said, "You just took the first step."

There was a coffee shop nearby and I suggested we go in, sit down, have a cup, and talk. We talked about a half hour. I answered all his questions, exchanged phone numbers, and as I was again getting back in the car, he asked, "By the way, what does it cost to become a Mason? I explained about dues and other fees needed. We shook hands and parted.

As I was driving home I realized I did not give him the full cost of becoming a Mason. I forgot to mention the personal costs that are so important. Such as:

The spending of a part of your strength when giving a helping hand to one another.

The faith you share believing in your fellow man.

The giving of your heart when you love and care for each other.

Come to think of it, isn't that also the cost not only of being a Mason, but also of being part of the human race?

If we keep the oaths we have taken at the altar and keep faith in the teachings of the Great Light in Masonry, it is not too high a price to pay. Remember, Masonry does not make a man good, it makes a good man better!





## April Birthdays

Robert Fabel (04/02)	Kenneth Mac Laughlin (04/16)
Donald Goodman (04/04)	Robert Peters (04/18)
Irwin Fershleiser (04/05)	Ronald Bessette (04/19)
Bruce Tellardin (04/05)	William Christensen (04/19)
Josef Kohlmann (04/06)	Jeffrey Hansen (04/23)
Craig George (04/08)	Cy Sidun (04/25)
Steven Kolden (04/08)	Henry Miller (04/26)
Richard Keihner (04/11)	Leonard Suokko (04/26)
George Lumm (04/13)	Harvey Kass (04/28)
Ron Katz (04/15)	Eugene Moore (04/28)
Ernest Nidick (04/15)	Warren Blomseth (04/30)
Leslie Yeffa (04/15)	



## 3rd Degree Anniversaries

*The following brethren were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in the month of April:*

Leslie Blake (49 years)  
 Warren Blomseth (63 years)  
 Christopher Boggess (9 years)  
 James Brown (38 years)  
 Charles Cammerer (39 years)  
 Gregory Cooper (28 years)  
 Robert Douglas (39 years)  
 Roy Eddy (66 years)  
 Michael Gallico (9 years)  
 Ronald Garcia (49 years)  
 Donald Goodman (56 years)  
 Gary Hughes [PM] (26 years)  
 Julius Kahn [PM] (41 years)  
 Alan Kenyon [PM] (33 years)  
 John Kralovansky (35 years)  
 George Lumm [PM] (22 years)  
 Robert Marshall (59 years)  
 Robert Rix [PM] (44 years)  
 Ronald Rourk (34 years)  
 Donald Schauer (45 years)  
 Sorrell Shiflett (3 years)  
 Ronald Stuart (52 years)  
 Richard Sullivan (64 years)  
 Gerald Woergoetter [PM] (22 years)

## Appendant/Concordant Bodies

*By Bud Warder, PM, KYCH*

While traveling around Europe visiting ancient buildings, ever wonder what were those strange markings on bricks? The companions of Doric Chapter and Siminoff Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, invite you to receive the first degree of the York Rite, the Mark Master degree. At no charge. Worshipful Bob will determine a date and time this May or June, we will transport and setup our paraphernalia at Crow Canyon Lodge, and confer the degree upon all brothers who attend. Worshipful Bob will give us an approximate headcount, so we can come prepared.

York Masonry is the oldest and best known of all Masonic Rites, worldwide, and dates from 923 AD. York, England, was the seat of the Ancient Grand Lodge, which became the Modern Grand Lodge about 1717. This is the basis upon which our present system of Blue Lodge Masonry is constituted. The Mother Grand Lodge of England, in its General Laws & Regulations, writes: "Pure Ancient Masonry consists of three degrees, Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch". Today, in England, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, is also head of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

The Mark Master degree is believed to have originated as a ceremony of registering a craftsman's mark on their work during construction. Scholars say it was the earliest degree, by many years, and is one of the most beautiful degrees of Masonry. It will be our pleasure to confer this beautiful degree, which takes about 1.5 hours to complete. Please let Worshipful Bob know of your interest.



## In Memoriam

Robert J. Christopher 97 years, 5 months, 10 days  
 Entered into Rest February 6, 2015



*Great Architect of the Universe, into thine hands we commend the soul of our dear departed brother!*

## 2015 Officers

**Master**—Robert Pinkerton, P.M.  
510.851.6794 [r-pinkerton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:r-pinkerton@sbcglobal.net)

**Senior Warden**— Mike Ramos  
510.208.1441/ 510.287.6366 cell [551dmps@gmail.com](mailto:551dmps@gmail.com)

**Junior Warden**—Kem Apak  
415.290.8093 [kemapak@gmail.com](mailto:kemapak@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**—George R. Lumm, P.M.  
510.791.0753/ 510.604.8513 cell [grlumm@pacbell.net](mailto:grlumm@pacbell.net)

**Secretary**—Don Schauer, Sr., H.A.  
510.258.0654 [DonRL7@pacbell.net](mailto:DonRL7@pacbell.net)

**Assistant Secretary**—William M. Ferrell, P.M., H.A.  
510.886.2288 / 510.520.7242 cell [kb6xa@att.net](mailto:kb6xa@att.net)

**Chaplain**—Irwin Fershleiser, P.M., H.A.  
510.476.6371 [imfersh@gmail.com](mailto:imfersh@gmail.com)

**Marshal**—Eugene Moore, Jr.  
510.783.8576

**Senior Deacon**—Alex Von Stade  
510.483.9574 [avstade@gmail.com](mailto:avstade@gmail.com)

**Junior Deacon**—Paul Rodriguez-O'Brian

**Sr. Steward**—Bill Biddell

**Jr. Steward**—Charles Hintz

**Tiler**—Sammy Tamez, P.M., H.A.  
510.706.5614 [samtamez551@aol.com](mailto:samtamez551@aol.com)

**Officer's Coach**—Kurt R. Allen, P.M., H.A.  
925.735.1233 [kurtrallen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kurtrallen@sbcglobal.net)

### Candidate Coaches

Kay Dunn—Castro Valley—510.537.9407  
Roy Tamez - Hayward 510.537.1077 / 510.684.3047 cell  
Mike Ramos—S. Leandro-Hayward—510.287.6366 cell  
Charles Hintz—San Leandro-Oakland— 510.499.9134. cell  
Ron Katz—Fremont-Hayward—510.375.3137 cell

### Inspector of the 319th Masonic District

Tom Kavishi, P.M.  
925.407.5954 [kavishi@comcast.net](mailto:kavishi@comcast.net)

## Sunshine and Visiting

If you know of an ailing brother or Masonic widow who needs some cheering up, don't keep it a secret.

Al Rodes—510-432-3270—Heart surgery at Stanford on March 16, 2015  
Corbit Ray—510-581-7917—Would appreciate a phone call from you.



Ernie Nidick —Sunshine Chairman 925.828.6993  
[bev2ern@comcast.net](mailto:bev2ern@comcast.net)  
Les Blake —Visiting Chairman  
510.581.8497 [cherllois@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cherllois@sbcglobal.net)

## 2015 Committees

### Appointments

**Audit** – Kay Dunn, Robert Logan, Arnie Weinstein, David Allen

**Funeral**—Kurt Allen, Bill Ferrell, Bob Pinkerton, Mike Ramos, Kem Apak, Alex Van Stade

**Masonic Charity** - The Master and the Wardens

**Masonic Hall Association**—John Smith-President, Howard Marmor, Ernie Nidick, Gerald Woergoetter, Ron Reynolds, Bill Ferrell, Hank Andreotti, Brian Ross, Pat Quinn

**Masonic Homes Endowment**—Robert Logan

**Membership Retention** – Don Schauer, Sr., Bob Pinkerton

**Sunshine**—Ernie Nidick, Les Blake

### Events

**Public Schools Night** (4/30) - Eric Unti, Bill Ferrell

**Child ID**—David Allen, Roy Tamez

**Sweethearts' Event** (5/3) - Phil Busch, Alex Van Stade

**Feasts of Saints John, Past Masters & Festive Boards**—Charles Hintz & Kem Apak

**Strawberry Feed**—Ron Katz, Bill Biddell

**Visitation to Columbia or Old Town Sacramento Lodge**—Mike Ramos, Don Schauer

**Senior Warden's Picnic at Kennedy Park**—Mike Ramos, Kem Apak

**Hiram Award Committee Leads**—Kurt Allen, Bill Ferrell

**Moonlight Siminoff Degree** (6/5) - Mike Ramos, Alex Von Stade

**Masonic Education**—Mike Ramos, Kem Apak

### Masonic Youth Orders

**Castro Valley DeMolay**—Pat Quinn—510.755.7891 [pdq551@att.net](mailto:pdq551@att.net)

**Unity Assembly No. 65, Rainbow for Girls**—Donna Allen 925.735.1233

**Jobs Daughters Hayward No. 261**—Laurel M. 559.696.0746

**Jobs Daughters Dublin No. 1**—Mrs. Donna Anthony, 510.537.6726

### Monthly Trestleboard of

**Crow Canyon Lodge No. 551 Free and Accepted Masons**  
4521 Crow Canyon Road, Castro Valley, CA 94552  
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**Editor:** Ron Katz, PM 510.375.3137 [rstephen94545@yahoo.com](mailto:rstephen94545@yahoo.com)

### To Reserve the Building

please call 510.258.0654

Email [crowcanyon551@att.net](mailto:crowcanyon551@att.net)

Or go to <http://tiny.cc/rentCVMC>

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# April 2015

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2 Stated Meeting— 5:30 PM Social 6:15 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Meeting	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 3rd Degree Practice—7:00 PM	10	11
12	13	14 District School of Instruction at the Masonic Home— 7:00 PM	15	16 3rd Degree Practice—7:00 PM	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 3rd Degree— Bro. Accurso— 7:00 PM	24	25
26	27	28 DMPS (Masonic Education)—7:00 PM	29	30 Public Schools Night—6:00 PM Dinner Entertainment Award Presentation		