

c/o Perry Klahr—Secretary
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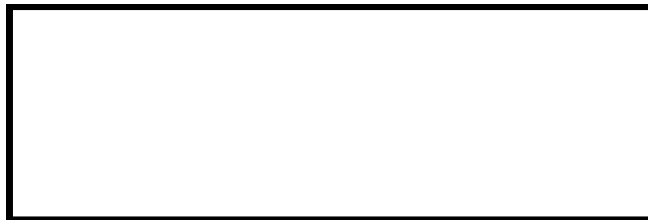
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Trestleboard

January 2021
Volume 17, Issue 1

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



WWW.CCL551.ORG



Calendar of Events

JANUARY 2021

FEBRUARY 2021

01/07-Thursday—"Virtual Stated Meeting"—Social: 6:30 PM/
Meeting: 7:30 PM—Zoom Meeting ID: 618-797-9982

01/14-Thursday-DARK

01/21-Thursday-DARK

01/26-Tuesday-Hall Association

01/28-Thursday-DARK

02/04-Thursday—"Virtual Stated Meeting"—Social: 6:30 PM/
Meeting: 7:30 PM—Zoom Meeting ID: 618-797-9982

02/11-Thursday-DARK

02/18-Thursday-DARK

02/23-Tuesday-Hall Association

02/25-Thursday-DARK

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

Lodge Virtual Stated Meetings will be held on the normal day and time via Zoom (Meeting ID: 618-797-9982) until the Grand Master of California issues an edict that live meetings may resume.
If you need assistance joining us in our meetings, please contact any of your principle officers.

From the East

By Paul Rodriguez-Obrien—Master

Brethren, your officers and I welcome you back as we embark on the 99th year of the founding of our lodge.



I am so very pleased to see that by the end of 2020 we witnessed a vaccine for Covid-19 being distributed in “Phase 1” to hospital workers, first responders, and residents and staff at long-term care facilities through the Presidents “Operation Warp-Speed” initiative. We observed that when it is of the most high importance, we as a country can come together to help those to which the call is the greatest.

Once those groups have been vaccinated the process will move on to “Phase 2”, which includes essential and critical infrastructure workers, older adults, people with underlying health conditions that cause higher risk of severe illness, and people in jail or prison or people living in other congregate settings. “Phase 3” includes children and young adults (as of Tuesday Ca. residents under the age of 16 will not receive the vaccines) as well as residents working in lower-risk settings. The final “Phase 4” will be administered to any remaining individuals who were not included the first three phases.

This opens the door to seeing some form of normality for 2021, and the cautious resumption of our Masonic activities within our lodge. So the obvious question would be as to when this would be allowed again? ...The best answer I can report back (via the Grapevine) is that it could be 1 month after our State Governor and/or Alameda County Health Officials deem safe; ‘Social and recreational gatherings’, and that the “Grand Lodge” then gives their blessings as well.

Until then, your officers are always looking (and requesting) creative ways to keep us connected.

12/12/2020 - CC-551 2021 Installation of Officers.

This event was definitely enhanced by some tips and techniques in conducting a smoother more professional “Zoom” presentation by Bro. Steve Kolden and Bro. SD. Andrew Hawes.

12/26/2020 - The virtual “The Feast of St. John the Evangelist” officiated by JW. J. Rafisura.

This event happened after the time in my writing of this article, but I’m sure it went over with the precision that Bro. J. is known for as our Junior Warden. Great Job Bro J.

01/07/2021 - CC-551 January Virtual Stated Meeting.

02/04/2021 – CC-551 February Virtual Stated Meeting with SW. Brian Ross sitting in as Master.

Preparations for a possible Valentine Virtual Event on 02/11/2021.

It’s going to be an exciting year, this I can guarantee!

So my Brethren and families, 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, and on our website.

From the West

By Brian Ross—Senior Warden

By the time you read this the holidays will have either run their course or will be coming to a close for all of you. We celebrate the coming of 2021 at Crow Canyon Lodge with the hope that we can return in the coming months. There is true hope that the pandemic is about to start closing in the face of a terrible uptick. As the medical professionals recommend – wear your mask – wash your hands – keep your distance – delay your holiday parties or make them virtual. There is nothing “macho” about ignoring the health and welfare of those around you and your “freedom to act as you see fit” will survive with those insignificant qualifications.

I am personally happy that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are starting to be administered to true heroes – the front line medical professionals who risk their lives every day to save those suffering from the Corona virus and other infirmities. I truly believe that these folks have gone over and above in the face of a flood of sick patients and I thank them dearly as I know you do as well. The Masonic Home’s staff has been especially hard hit with the virus and those folks deserve a special prayer from us all for taking such good care of our brothers and their spouses under less than desirable conditions. The same is true for our brothers who are working on the front lines and seek no recognition.

In the meantime, I pray that the vaccines do their job so we can all meet again in the very near future. Stay safe and well!

From the South

By J. Rafisura —Junior Warden

Greetings to all my fraternal brothers. May this holiday season bring warmth and happiness to our respective families despite this ongoing challenges.



As of this writing, your newly-install officers had been planning to hold the Feast of St. John (The Evangelist) on December 26, 2020 at 5 pm. Just like the FOSJ (The Baptist) held last June of this year, this will still be done virtually via Zoom Video Conferencing platform. Thanks to technology, we are still able to carry-out these time-honored tradition of our ancient and honorable fraternity.

The Feast Saint John The Evangelist marks the beginning of Winter Solstice and is the second celebration of the Holy Feast of Saints John, the first being that of Saint John The Baptist in June. The best thing about being part of preparing and organizing for these activities is that you get to do little bit of research, know a little bit more about it and reflect on its meaning. Let me share with you some of my readings:

In one of the articles written by WB John E. Frey posted in The Midnight Freemason's website, it read in part:

"It we look at the St. John the Evangelist symbolically within the context of the Masonic journey, John is every individual initiate. John is initiated by John the Baptist into the mysteries and purified, similarly how the entered apprentice is given a white apron to represent a new sense of purity. John travels with his Master and it indoctrinated in the parables of truth, similar to the Fellowcraft traveling the different compartments of the Temple being indoctrinated with the spiral staircase leading to truth. Similar to the Master Mason, John is witness to the death and resurrection of his master...."

As we continue our journey into this world, my prayers are for all of us to be able to travel into places that will provide us opportunities to practice the teachings of our craft, honor our obligations and learn from our own experiences and from those that are before us. Let this journey be an adventure towards self-purification, to travel in the smooth, as well as in the rough and rugged roads, guided by the Wisdom of this ancient craft, sustained by the Strength of our time-tested fraternity and still able to find Beauty of this mortal, worldly life.

In welcoming the new year, I look forward to a new beginning. So much to look forward to in 2021. Covid-19 vaccine distribution have started and Tier 1 health care providers are now being vaccinated. However, the situation remain very fluid as cases continue to rise. The Grand Lodge of California is continually assessing the situation and planning how to slowly "normalize" the activities of the craft while adhering to CDPH and CDC guidelines. These are crucial times, but our hopes are high and victory is in sight. I trust that it will not be long for us to meet again in person, gather in groups and break-bread in a banquet (in a tuxedo, top...and bottom!)

Please do not hesitate to reach out to our lodge if you need any assistance. Happy New Year, my worthy brothers!

From the Secretary's Table

By Perry Klahr. —Secretary

I'd like to start off by first thanking Bro. Donald Schauer for his friendship and mentorship this last year as he prepared me to take on the responsibilities as your Lodge Secretary. Also a thank you Bro. William Ferrell for his willingness to answer the many question that I've had, but more importantly the many yet to come.

I am looking forward to serving the lodge in this capacity and will strive to live up to standards set by Don and others before him. If I can be of any assistance or if you have questions please feel free to reach out to me anytime at:

Perry Klahr
3278 Clifford Circle
Pleasanton, CA 94588
pklahr1234@comcast.net
(925) 699-1786



Now onto the housekeeping side of things:

Today CCL 551 has 246 Members of which 57 have Life Memberships. Our average age is 72.1 with our youngest member being 37 and our most mature being 98.

The Grand Lodge has taken over dues communication and collection this year for our 2021 dues. They've send out emails and US mail to all non-life members so you should have seen something from them by now. Our dues this year are \$116 of which \$55.50 goes to the grand lodge as per capita. Our lodge dues remains unchanged as it has for many years at \$60. (plus 50 cents to make it a whole dollar amount)

Starting this year you have the option of paying your dues via a credit card on the new iMember 2.0 site at: https://member.freemason.org/users/sign_in

If this is your first time at the site you can register and setup a userid and password using your member number.

If you would prefer to pay by personal check please sent that to me at the address above made out to CCL 551.

Once you pay your dues you can also personally print out your dues card using the Virtual Card option on the My Portal page.

If in these challenging times payment of your dues causes any hardship, please reach out to me to discuss.

I also ask that while you are on the imember site that you confirm your contact information including your email address (if you use email). We are currently missing over 70 email addresses and given that we are doing virtual meetings and sending other communications a number of you are missing out. I will start reaching out to you individually to gather this information to ensure we are able to communicate with you.

In closing I want to wish my brothers and their families a healthy and prosperous New Year. I am looking forward to getting back to the lodge and enjoying time with the fraternity.

Oakland Masonic Center Building

Back in 1987, All Masonic Lodges in the area were asked by the 'Oakland Masonic Center Board of Directors' if their lodge wanted to invest in the Oakland Masonic Center located on Broadway in Oakland. Our lodge voted and agreed to purchase 400 shares for a total of \$16,000. This equates to 3.58% ownership of that building.

OMC is now looking to list the building and property on the market, and to do so, there is a process to follow with Grand Lodge. We are now being asked to send out the following notification, in addition to having voted on this during our November Stated meeting. Listing price has been set at \$15.3M.

(continued next page)

From the Oakland Masonic Center Board of Directors November/ December 2020 Report

The Hall Association is still abiding by what local health officials have recommended. The only tenant operating is Cuisine Catering.

We have had the final walk thru with the American Red Cross and their lease expires January 01,2021. This leave us with three income streams; Verizon, Cuisine Catering and the Masonic entities that rent from the OMC.

At the last OMC Board meeting, we discussed our options. This is what we are facing in 2021;

Income \$67,610/ Yr. \$5,634/ Mo.
Expenses \$277,325/ Yr. \$23,111/ Mo.
(\$209,715) for the year

The reserve study we have showing \$1.3 million needed for repairs in the next few years.

As of January 01,2021, we are estimating \$230,000 in checking and \$57,000 in reserves. The numbers are based on current/actual Profit & Loss figures.

We looked at three options; List the building for sale, keep trying to find tenants for the vacant space or just hang on and try to weather what is happening in the market.

The representative from Colliers came in and went over the current rental market in the Bay Area. There are over 3,000,000 rentable square feet available right now with more coming to the market. The market is dried up due to Covid and the economy. We need a special type of tenant to rent our space.

The next option is to list the building to see what the market might bring. We are running into the same as renting, a down market with hardly any movement. We as a Board have gone through the preliminary steps to list the building IE Grand Lodge procedures.

The third option is to hang on and try to ride this out. It was explained to the Board, current market conditions are very unstable and unpredictable. The recovery is estimated 2 to 4 years out. We were given market data and numerous Real Estate data to back this up. It was discussed if this is the option we took, where would the money come from? The shareholders brought up they may be able to fund some of the costs. We discussed that, but how would they secure their money? We have a 1st mortgage and 2nd mortgage. Although minimal to what the building is worth, refinancing is not an option with no anchor tenants or income.

The Board decided to list the building. To do this we need to meet a certain requirement by Grand Lodge. We have done everything but one. Each shareholder's entity has to vote in a Stated Meeting to list the building. Those minutes need to be included with the package the Board would send to Grand Lodge for their approval. It does not

mean we are selling the building; we are listing to see what value it will bring. If we do get an offer it goes back to the Board, the entities (stated meeting) and then final approval from Grand Lodge.

The Board of Directors have been very involved with what has happened since March of this year. We are still battling the homeless/drug dealing on Manila. Trying to find tenants for the space, with prospects driving by and seeing what is happening on Manila, they do not want anything to do with our building, have all brought us to where we are today.

Only Master Masons are eligible to vote. The vote will take place at our virtual November Stated meeting. A simple majority will be needed to list the building. This is listing only.

Fraternally Yours - Phil Williams—Board President

Message from the Grand Master of Masons in California

This New Year, I have only one resolution: to remain positive and push this jurisdiction forward into its bright and glorious future. I am committed to re-opening as soon as prudence dictates. I am committed to implementing our 2025 Fraternity Plan. I am committed to increasing Masonic family unity. I hope you will embrace these same resolutions and these same commitments as we move forward together in the next evolution of our beloved craft.

Barbara and I wish you a most happy and joyous New Year.

Sincerely and fraternally—Arthur H. Weiss

Sunshine and Visiting

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

Mark Casperson, Woody Hibbs

Please contact Secretary Perry Klahr 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

Donald Goodman 92 years and 5 days.
Entered into Rest December 30, 2019

Riddick (Mick) Bowers 77 Years and 5 days
Entered into Rest December 9, 2020

Thomas E. Robertson 92 years and 3 days
Entered into Rest October 21, 2016

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

January Birthdays

William Warnecke (01/01)	Kurt Allen (01/18)
Frank Thrall Jr. (01/03)	Paul Makela (01/20)
Keith Dilliplane (01/05)	Jack Tornio (01/20)
Andrew Hawes (01/06)	Billy Martens (01/25)
Martin Nilson Jr. (01/08)	James Johnston (01/27)
Greg Rapp (01/08)	Louie Garcia (01/28)
Randy Daniels (01/12)	John Laney (01/28)
Jerry Garcia (01/12)	John Davenport Jr. (01/29)
Mark Kahn (01/13)	Delbert Kraft (01/29)
Albert Thomas (01/13)	Ronald Nobriga (01/30)
Geoff Linder (01/15)	Gary Frisvold (01/31)
David Stevenson (01/17)	

celebrate!

3rd Degree Anniversaries

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

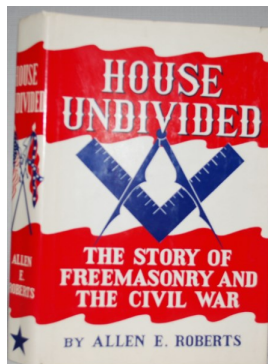
Peter Amato (63)	Frank Russell Jr. (40)
William Ferrell [PM] (40)	Jerome Samelson (35)
Joseph Gottardi (57)	John Smith (19)
Roger Hamilton (45)	Sammy Tamez [PM] (41)
Forrest Hibbs [PM] (69)	John Teixeira (22)
Geoffrey Linder (9)	Dain Warton (17)
Raymond Newman (31)	Jose Zamora [PM] (45)
Gary Orr (36)	

A CIVIL WAR STORY

By John Hohenstein—Zerubbabel Lodge #15, Savannah, Georgia

It was a time not long after Fort Sumter and The War of Northern Aggression was well under way. The Yankees, as they are still wont to do, had promptly flocked to Hilton Head and Tybee Islands, the barrier islands on opposite sides of the mouth of the Savannah River. The Savannah Folks didn't mind much that the Yankees had stolen the good beaches, for the water was still a bit cool for Southern preferences and, besides, they knew the gnats and mosquitoes would teach the Yankees a lesson they'd never forget. So, the Southerners, as Southerners are wont to do sometimes, just waited.

They didn't have to wait very long before the Yankees on Hilton Head sent out a messenger under a white flag. It seemed that the Yankees had among them a young fellow who had passed through the Fellow Craft Degree before



shipping out. The Yanks were just sitting around slapping gnats when it occurred to one of them that, just maybe, there was a nearby lodge that could test him in the Fellow Craft Degree and raise him to that of a Master Mason.

As luck would have it, there was indeed a lodge in Savannah that would soon be having a Masters Degree.

One morning, not too many days later, a detail of Confederate Cavalry slipped across the Savannah River into South Carolina and traveled through Bluffton to the shore opposite Hilton Head Island.

From there they escorted one Fellow Craft Mason and, I believe, a number of Master Masons of the Northern Persuasion, safely through the Confederate Lines and back through about 35 miles of Confederate defenses to Savannah where the candidate and his witnesses were delivered into the lodge.

The records note that this Brother was indeed proficient in the Fellow Craft Degree and he was raised to the Degree of a Master Mason.

That night another detail of Confederate Cavalry, no doubt Brothers to a man, slipped back across the Savannah River and safely escorted their Brothers back to Hilton Head.

CHANGES

by William R. Fischer—MASONIC SHORT TALKS (mastermason.com)

We live in a country where change is a way of life. The United States is based on change.

A change from a Monarchy
A change from oppression
A change from one president to the next

A change from the 19th century technology to the 20th, and then to the 21st century. All in the same century, actually all in a 30 year period.

Our forefathers agreed that we should be able to change the constitution to meet the needs and situations of the future. That is why amendments can be added.



Everything changes; transportation, homes, energy, government, environment, food, religion, and even families. We talk about dysfunctional families, common law spouse, living together, living apart, living alone, and just plain living. Some of us think that this is unsatisfactory, but it's only

change.

Even the Holy Scripture makes reference to change, for if we do not change we stagnate.

We must make changes to meet this new and ever changing world. Those who say "The old ways are the best ways" better look again, THEY ARE NOT WORKING! The saying "If it ain't broke don't fix it" only works for machines, and at the rate our membership is dropping, it's broke.

Masonry, like the United States, the constitution, religion, and our families will always keep their core values, ideas and ideals but we must change to meet the future.

Forty years ago Lipton Tea had little saying on the paper tag attached to their tea bags, on one of those tags was printed these words; "The best way to cope with change is to help make it."

We now have an opportunity to move Masonry into the future, to make the changes.

2021 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 — Pat Quinn, H.A.
925.201.3065 / 510.755.7891 cell [click to email](#)

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

Assist. Secretary — Don Schauer, Sr. H.A.
510.258.0654 [click to email](#)

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

Marshal — Tremaine Ellison
209.830.1513 / 209.481.7430 cell [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 — Aaron Johnson
510.509.4312 cell [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

2021 Committees

2021 Appointments

Audit:

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 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 Bowie, MD; Ljubljana, Slovenia; Thonex, Switzerland; Tel Aviv, Israel, San Juan Capistrano, CA; Marysville, WA; London, UK, Faribault, MN; Schenectady, NY; Chicago, IL; Cordova, TN; Accra, Ghana; Long Valley, SD; Florence, SC; Brno, Czechia; Zagreb, Croatia



**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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