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Trestleboard

May 2023

Volume 19, Issue 5

Crow Canyon Lodge
No. 551

F&AM of California

Chartered October 11, 1923

WWW.CCL551.ORG



Calendar of Events

MAY 2023

- 05/01—Monday—Master Mason School (Martinez) 8:00 AM
- 05/03—Wednesday—Officers'/Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 PM
- 05/04—Thursday—Stated Meeting—Social/Dinner 6:00 PM / Business Meeting 7:00 PM—*Cinco De Mayo*
- 05/05—05/07—Friday-Sunday—Masters' & Wardens' Retreat
- 05/09—Tuesday—DOSI at Castro Valley—6:30 PM
- 05/11—Thursday—Degree or Practice—7:00 PM
- 05/16—Tuesday—Zoom Social—7:00 PM
- 05/18—Thursday—Degree or Practice—7:00 PM
- 05/20—Saturday—Breakfast w/Brothers @ Normans CV 8:00 AM
- 05/23—Tuesday—Hall Association—7:00 PM
- 05/25—Thursday—Degree or Practice—7:00 PM
- 05/31—Wednesday—Officers'/Executive Committee Mtg—7:00 PM

JUNE 2023

- 06/01—Thursday—Stated Meeting—Social/Dinner 6:00 PM / Business Meeting 7:00 PM
- 06/08—Thursday—Degree or Practice—7:00 PM
- 06/13—Tuesday—DOSI at Livermore—6:30 PM
- 06/15—Thursday—Degree or Practice—7:00 PM
- 06/17—Saturday—Breakfast w/Brothers @ Normans CV 8:00 AM / (Tentative Feast of St. John—7:00 PM)
- 06/22—Thursday—Degree or Practice—7:00 PM
- 06/27—Tuesday—Hall Association—7:00 PM
- 06/29—Thursday—Potluck—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

Spring has sprung, and finally we are in the start of the second quarter of the year! A lot is in store for our lodge as we move forward and continue our lodge events. For the month of April, we are going to have our Public Schools Night where we will be honoring



two outstanding teachers from the Castro Valley Unified School District. I would like to congratulate Elementary School Counselor/Social Worker Emma Ruiz of Castro Valley, and English and AVID Teacher Aiden Gutierrez of Creekside Middle School. Special thanks to brother Adam Korbas who has once again stepped forward to coordinate the event and

act as host for this worthy project.

As I write this article, I am sitting in one of our country's federal buildings, waiting for my passport to be issued. That being said, I am again going on a 4—5 weeks trip to the Philippines to visit my relatives and family. This trip gives me mixed feelings of joy, excitement and a bit of sadness as I will be missing some of our lodge and grand lodge events. However, while Freemasonry and its set of philosophies play an important part of our life, it also teaches us to prioritize things, even to the point of putting “Freemasonry” itself in the back burner and focus on what is more important at hand. God, family, work, Freemasonry – all in good order.

My special emphasis on “Freemasonry” vis-a-vis Masonry in this article is intentional. I always believed that when we say Freemasonry or Free and Accepted Masons, I view it as the fraternity itself - the organization with all its structure, by laws and constitution, the hierarchy of its members and officers and its traditional roles, rituals and activities. In all its glory, it is a beautiful structure with time honored rituals, practices and protocols. Freemasonry is your membership to the fraternity (as you continue to pay your annual dues), your attendance to stated meetings and rituals, going into the chairs and occupying certain positions within the structure of the organization.

“Masonry”, on the other hand, is the manifestations of Freemasonry's teachings and practices. It is the application of masonic teachings such as brotherly love, relief and truth. It is a demonstration of fidelity, temperance, prudence, justice, reverence to God, among other things. Thus, a member can say, “yes, I strive to live up to my obligations and practice “masonry” in my day to day life. And yes, I am a member of the oldest

fraternity in the world, the Free and Accepted Masons, otherwise known as Freemasons”. Masonry, therefore, is how you convince the world by your actions and that on becoming a mason, you have become a better man. If I am to venture into a little bit of a sensitive topic here, I may say that, all members of the fraternity are Freemasons. I then dare to ask: Is everyone a Mason? Are you a Mason?

As I am embarking on this overseas trip, I leave the lodge in good and capable hands to our Senior Warden, Andrew Hawes. He will be sitting in the East for the May stated meeting as well as during the DOSI (exemplification) on May 9 to be held in our lodge. I have no doubt that he will do a fantastic job! Thank you, Bro. Andrew!



I look forward to be stateside in Mid-May and shortly thereafter, will start setting dates for third degrees. Oh, why do I smell warm ocean breeze and feel small-town vibe when thinking about an upcoming traveling third degree? Wink!

From the West

By Andrew Hawes — Sr. Warden

The year isn't yet half gone, but I'm already starting to stress out about preparing for next year, which will (if all goes well!) be my Master's year for the lodge. May 5th weekend is the date for the 2022 Master's and Warden's retreat in Tahoe – I'm very much looking forward to this year's chance to meet with grand officers and other Masonic officers from all over the area who are going into the Oriental Chair next year, and learning about the hurdles and pitfalls that others have faced and overcome, to try and do my best to plan on overcoming any that may come my way!



May holds an important holiday- Memorial Day. I know that many of our brethren have served, and many have fallen, earning and continuing to defend our freedoms. While today it is often more about the backyard barbecue, and spending a long weekend enjoying the company of friends and family, it's important that we take the time to make ourselves truly remember why we celebrate it, and honor those who served, and continue to serve in our military. While we are circumscribed to keep our passions within due bounds towards all mankind, and our



A Blast from the Past into the Future

By William M. Ferrell

The first meeting of record of the proposed Ashland Masonic Club was held April 24, 1957, at the home of Brother Cyril T. Stevens. The May 14, 1957 meeting of Ashland Masonic Club was held at the Bower Boy Scout Cabin Community Center, San Lorenzo. At the meeting of June 11, 1957, the by-laws of Ashland Masonic Club were presented and read. A Charter Fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) was agreed upon. The by-laws were now ready for approval by the members.

A letter, dated June 18, 1957, was mailed to the Grand Lodge of Masons in California, to the attention of the Very Worshipful Lloyd E. Wilson, Grand Secretary, requesting that an Inspector be appointed for the Ashland Masonic Club and stated that their meeting place was Bowers Scout Cabin, San Lorenzo Community Center.

The June 25, 1957 meeting of the Ashland Masonic Club was held at the Masonic Home, Decoto, California. The purpose of this meeting was to practice degree work. Brother Cyril Stevens was in the East for this practice. At the meeting of November 18, 1957, an agreement was reached with the directors of the San Lorenzo Masonic Building Association to use their temple. The Ashland Masonic Club held their February 14, 1958 meeting at the San Lorenzo Temple and put on an exemplification of the Third Degree for Worshipful Edward C. Will, Inspector of the 367th Masonic District.

At the business meeting of April 4, 1958, a minute of silent prayer was observed in memory of the late Cyril T. Stevens, President and founder of the Ashland Masonic Club. Most of the club members attended the funeral of Brother Cyril Theodore Stevens, who passed on March 21, 1958, (73 years, 6 months, and 29 days), which was held under the auspices of Lorenzo Lodge No. 709 F. &A.M.

On August 27, 1958, the Ashland Masonic Club journeyed to Alisal Lodge No. 321 F. &A.M. in Pleasanton and conferred a Third Degree on one of their candidates, with Worshipful Harold Short in the East.

At the September 5, 1958 business meeting of the Ashland Masonic Club, Worshipful Harold Short presented to the club the Holy Bible for the altar.

The Ashland Masonic Club received a letter on February 11, 1960 from the Most Worshipful Grand Master stating that Ashland Lodge (U.D.) would be instituted on the evening of Monday, March 14, 1960. He also advised that he would be in attendance.

holy books urge us to be forgiving and turn the other cheek, there are times when being the better person is not enough, and we must take up arms against our foes. The holiday we enjoy has been earned by the brave men and women who have done so on our behalf, putting their own lives at risk – and indeed paying with them – to secure our freedoms and our happiness. This Memorial Day, try to make sure you honor a veteran. If you don't know one – go find one, reach out to them, and thank them, for allowing us the opportunity to meet in our lodge without persecution, to relax in our backyards and barbeque without fear, and overall to pursue the lives we have chosen for ourselves. It is because of their choice to defend us, that we have those choices available to us.

Not all things are dark and serious, however - May flowers are here again! The poppies blooming across the hills are a glorious sight, and we should all enjoy the coming of yet another summer, and of our being able to look forward to enjoying it!

From the South

By Lyman Penning — Jr. Warden

Our Stated Meeting dinner for May will be a meal that you will not want to miss. Yes, this will be our Cinco de Mayo (Fifth of May) dinner. If you missed the sign up sheets last month, please call Perry Klahr at 925-425-3360 or 925-699-1786. You can also call me at 510-441-3901 and I will relay your reservation to our Secretary. Please remember to put your reservations in by Thursday, April 27th in order that enough food is purchased to cover everyone that shows up. Thank you very much everyone.



Crow Canyon Lodge #551 will be hosting the DOSI on Tuesday, May 9th. There will be a dinner at 6:30 PM followed by the school at 7:00 PM. Again, please call Perry or myself in regards to the meal, as we will be serving three lodges.



Finally, I would like to give a big thank you to Colleen Weaver and everyone who helped her in putting on the dinner on Thursday, April 20th for our Public Schools Event. We all appreciated it very much. Also, thank you Roy Tamez for your part in preparing the dinner.

Sorry! Not enough space to recognize Masonic Anniversaries and Birthdays this month. We will recognize you in next month's issue.



The granting of this dispensation was the culmination of many hours, days, weeks, months and years of hard work by the officers and members of the club, which started in April 1957.

On March 14, 1960, Grand Master Joseph Shell, other Grand Lodge Officers, and approximately 350 Master Masons were in attendance at the Institution, held at San Lorenzo Temple. The Grand Master installed Worshipful Harold E. Short, P.M. as Charter Master, Brother Merle J. Fisher, Charter Senior Warden, and Brother Edward D. Fernandes, Charter Junior Warden.

The Grand Master surrendered the gavel to Worshipful Master Harold Short, who installed the following: Brother James Nicholson, Charter Secretary, and Brother Eugene Armstrong, Charter Treasurer, and appointed charter officers. The Lodge was opened on the Third Degree for transaction of business required by a Lodge under dispensation.

The Master declared Ashland Masonic Club dissolved and all records and moneys incorporated in Ashland Masonic Lodge U.D.

The By-Laws of Ashland Lodge U.D. were read by the secretary and approved by unanimous vote of the lodge.

The master then called on the Grand Master for a few remarks and he delivered an inspiring speech.

The Inspector of the 367th Masonic District, Worshipful Edward C. Will, introduced the officers of Grand Lodge and each responded and wished Ashland Lodge success.

Letters were read by the secretary from Estes Kefauver, Senator from Tennessee and Most Worshipful Harry S. Truman, Past Grand Master of Missouri. Both letters wished Ashland Lodge success. The letters were address to Brother Marvin D. Carrigan, our Charter Junior Steward.

Lodge was closed in due form and refreshments prepared and served by the wives of the charter officers.

Ashland Masonic Lodge No. 798 at San Lorenzo, in the County of Alameda was chartered at the Grand Lodge communication Friday, September 30, 1960, A.L. 5960. At the time of charter, it shows there were 35 members.

On October 15, 1960 Most Worshipful Alfred Breslauer, Grand Master of Masons in California, opened Grand Lodge in the Lorenzo Masonic Temple and constituted Ashland Lodge No. 798. The Grand Secretary read the Charter, which named Worshipful Harold E. Short, P.M. as Charter Master, Merle J. Fisher as Charter Senior Warden and Edward D. Fernandes as Charter Junior Warden.

The Charter Master introduced the first secretary, treasurer, and the charter appointive officers.

The Grand Master gave an inspiring message and explained the ceremonies of the Charter of a new lodge.

The Master introduced many Masters, Past Masters and officers, representing approximately 50 lodges from the East Bay and many from other jurisdictions. Grand Lodge closed at 9:50 P.M.

At the November 7, 1960 Stated Meeting, seven applications for degrees and one application for affiliation were read. The master announced that at the December 5, 1960 Stated Meeting election of officers for 1961 would be held.

At December 5, 1960 Stated Meeting, the following members were elected to office for the year 1961: Brother Merle J. Fisher, Worshipful Master; Brother Edward Fernandes, Senior Warden, and Brother Edward Clark, Junior Warden.

Brother Fisher announced he had appointed Brother Floyd Johnson Junior Steward for 1961.

On December 16, 1960 Open Installation of Officers for 1961 was held. Brother Merle J. Fisher was installed Worshipful Master for 1961. Worshipful Harold E. Short, P.M. was installing Officer and Worshipful Edward Will was Master of Ceremonies. The Installing Chaplain was Linford W. Hunter, P.M.

The preceding is just a condensed version of the beginnings of Ashland lodge. The complete history will be in the centennial publication.

This concludes the overview of the eight lodges that comprise Crow Canyon No. 551. Last call for any information about your home lodge. And, yes there will be an overview of our lodge from the September 1997 consolidation to the time of the centennial publication.

Sunshine and Visiting

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

Ernie Nidick—925.828.6993

Roy Tamez—510.684.3047

Tramaine Ellison—209.481.7430

Aaron Johnson—510.509.4312

In Memoriam

Brother Victor N. Smalley
Entered into Rest

91 years and 9 days
November 8, 2022

Brother Glen L. Sears Jr
Entered into Rest

69 years, 8 months and 1 day
April 13, 2023

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



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: Columbus, OH; Las Vegas, NV; Brooklyn, NY; Austin, TX; Nashville, TN; Bandung, Indonesia; Skagway, AK; Charlotte, NC; Houston, TX; Aiken, SC; Sherwood, AR; Sun Valley, CA; Hamilton, New Zealand; Lynchburg, VA; Lisburn, UK; At Tuwal, Saudi Arabia; Cebu City, Philippines; Asuncion, Paraguay; Calgary, Canada; Ashburn, VA; Chicago, IL; Cagayan de Oro, Philippines; Izmir, Turkey; Tokyo, Japan; Nairobi, Kenya.



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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To Reserve the Building
Bill Biddell - 510.589.0878 cell

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Master Mason School hosted by GL (Martinez)—8:00 AM	2	3 Officers' / Executive Committee Meeting—7:00 PM	4 Stated Meeting—6:00 PM—Social/Dinner 7:00 PM—Business Meeting	5 Masters' & Wardens' Retreat in Lake Tahoe	6 Masters' & Wardens' Retreat in Lake Tahoe
7 Masters' & Wardens' Retreat in Lake Tahoe	8	9 DOSI @ CVMC—6:30 PM	10	11 Degree or Practice—7:00 PM	12	13
14	15	16 Zoom Social—7:00 PM	17	18 Degree or Practice—7:00 PM	19	20 Breakfast with Brothers @ Norman's CV—8:00 AM
21	22	23 Hall Association—7:00 PM	24	25 Degree or Practice—7:00 PM	26	27
28	29	30	31			