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Trestleboard

December 2019
Volume 15, Issue 11

Dated Material Enclosed
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**Crow Canyon Lodge
No. 551**

F&AM of California

Chartered October 11, 1923

WWW.CCL551.ORG



Calendar of Events

DECEMBER 2019

- 12/04-Wednesday-Officers' Meeting-7:00 PM
- 12/05-Thursday-Stated Meeting-Social 5:30 PM / Dinner 6:15 PM / Open 7:30 PM
- 12/07-Saturday-Annual Installation of Officers - 5:00 PM
- 12/12-Thursday-DARK
- 12/14-Saturday-Lodge Christmas Party - 11:30 AM
- 12/17-Tuesday-Hall Association - 7:00 PM
- 12/19-Thursday-DARK
- 12/26-Thursday-DARK
- 12/30 - Monday-Officer's Meeting - 7:00 PM

JANUARY 2020

- 01/02-Thursday-Stated Meeting-Social 5:30 PM / Dinner 6:15 PM / Open 7:30 PM
- 01/09-Thursday-First Degree Practice-7:00 PM
- 01/14-Tuesday-DOSI-Livermore-7:00 PM
- 01/16-Thursday-First Degree Practice-7:00 PM
- 01/23-Thursday-First Degree Conferral-Mr. Osman Ghani & Mr. Roger S. Hamilton-6:30 PM
- 01/28-Tuesday-Hall Association - 7:00 PM
- 01/30-Thursday-Practice Third Degree - 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 Robert Eckstein, PM—Master

Brethren:

Welcome to the first month of winter.

Our new officers were elected at the November Stated Meeting. They are a fine group of Officers in whose hands the Lodge's future is safely deposited. We hope you will attend the Installation on December 7th at 5PM which will be followed by dinner.

By tradition, the retiring Master reflects on his year as Master. I enjoyed two years in the East! 2018 & 19 were so enjoyable there is not any single event that defined my term. For me, a Master's success is determined by the Brothers and Officers that surround him and I thank them, and you, for a productive and fun 2018 & 19. A Brother has a special relationship and fondness for the Lodge where they were raised. For me that was Foothill 564 in Hayward, which no longer exists. I always felt Foothill was the best, until I joined and became Master of Crow Canyon 551. This Lodge truly exercises Brotherly love. Several Grand Lodge Officers, over the last two years, have said "Oh yes, I've heard a lot about Crow Canyon how busy, friendly, welcoming, and involved in the community you are!" My best years as Master have been spent in Crow Canyon!

Our last get-together in 2019 is the Children's and Adult Christmas Party on Saturday December 14th from 11:30 to 1:30. Don't forget "When we meet, we eat."

I have seen Worshipful-Elect Paul's calendar and it will be a fun and busy 2020. Please put the Lodge on your calendar for a visit and some good fellowship!

Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

From the West

By Paul Rodriguez-O'Brien—Senior Warden

My Brothers,

As we close the year this month, I look back at my time serving the craft, as Your Senior Warden.

It has been my singular honor to have had the privilege of working with all the Officers, and my Brothers as we supported each other and did good deeds through our Lodge.

I would especially care to give my highest regards and respect to WM Robert Eckstein who led steadfastly this year and last, giving us opportunities, ideas and direction, to chart a strong course toward becoming a Lodge all can be proud of. With his experience serving as a WM in 3 different lodges, he was able to bring different ideas and traditions which allowed us to try different things, and we have.



As the Senior Deacon declares, "To carry orders from the Worshipful master in the East, to the Senior Warden in the West..." It has been a joy to be part of the resurgence of Crow Canyon Lodge, by spurring our team to do things differently, while encouraging and promoting an Officers line with fresh new faces.

In our projects and events, we have seen a new attitude, not only throughout the Officer Line, but also with you, the Craft, that showed a new enthusiasm, dedication and work, pitching in to help at every turn. All of us have been infused with a new energy to do the things necessary, to bring Masonry out to our communities.

The strength of a Lodge lies in you – not in a few men who volunteered to lead. I am profoundly grateful for your willingness to join in the tasks. Leadership isn't about wielding authority – it's about empowering people, and I for one, feel ready and well supported to be your WM in the ensuing year.

Working with all, "On the Level", and especially on the Level of Time, proves that we as Masons can best work and best agree all the time, when working toward a greater cause.

It has been a pleasure serving this year, and I thank all of you for your support and confidence.

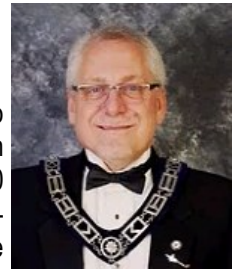
From the South

By Brian Ross—Junior Warden

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! I look forward to being installed as your Senior Warden on December 7, 2019 (5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.) and ask that you get your reservations to me as soon as possible so Uncle Roy can purchase the right amount of vittles. Afterwards, the Lodge will have its Christmas Party on December 14, 2019 (11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) – reservations a must – especially the number of children you plan to bring so plans for gifts can be made! Santa Claus will be present and photographs will be taken. Contact me on both accounts.

I would ask each of you to consider giving to charities that focus on the plight of foster children now and throughout the year. As an attorney, I was once involved in the legal side of the foster care system. I can tell you from personal experience that these kids have a tough time even in the case where loving parents have taken on their care. The fact is, most of us spoil our children and grandchildren this time of year with gift after gift after gift – do they truly appreciate it? I think a lot of time they don't just because of the number of things we give them. This year think of a child who is lucky to receive one meaningful gift – give to a foster child. You can locate many legitimate charities online to do so – or just bring a toy by Mattress Firm – a company who has always sought to fill the needs of foster children.

Again, HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all!



From the Secretary's Table

By Don Schauer, Sr., H.A

As we embark upon another year I am looking forward to serving as the Lodge Secretary. Our new Master has a busy year planned. Last month I received 17 changes of address. These changes cost 65¢ each. The total cost to the lodge was \$11.05. This is money that did not have to be spent. Please, when you change your address, let me know. By notifying me of the change of address not only will we save the expenses from the post office, but there will be no interruption in service for your lodge mailing.



I wish to thank all the life members who sent a donation on behalf of the lodge and the per capita tax.

There are currently 104 members who have not yet paid their dues for 2020. There are still 15 members who have not paid their 2019 dues. As of this date 165 members have paid their 2020 dues. So we are off to a good start. Our costs keep rising each year so it is important that you remember your obligation.

The membership voted that the Secretary should begin using Intacct, a Grand Lodge accounting program. It is going to take some time for me to learn this new program. Once I learn it, the lodge will no longer have to submit a lot of the reports that we are now required to.

December is the time of year to be spend with family. Christmas soon will be upon us and then New Years. It is my hope that each of the members of Crow Canyon Lodge, along with the Masons around the world have a wonderful 2020.

At the November Stated meeting we elected Mr. Roger Hamilton and Mr. Osman Ghani to receive the degrees of Masonry. There will now be some first degrees in January. Welcome and I hope you each find your masonic journey; rich and rewarding.

I am looking forward to the new year and the fellowship at the lodge.

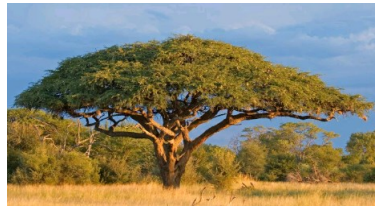
The History of the Acacia

By Brian Nichols

In the scriptures it is always called Shitta and in its plural is Shittim. The Acacia or shittah was esteemed a sacred wood among the Hebrews.

Moses was ordered to make the Tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant, the table for shewbread and the rest of the sacred furniture.

Isaiah, in recounting the promises of God's mercy to the Israelites on the return from captivity, tells them that among other



things he will plant in the wilderness for their relief and refreshment the cedar, the acacia (or as it was rendered in our common version Shitta), the fur, and other trees.

We notice the symbol of the Acacia has been always consecrated from among the other trees of the forest by the sacred purpose to which it was devoted. To the Jews, the tree whose wood the sanctuary of the Tabernacle and the Holy Ark had been constructed, would ever be viewed as more sacred than the ordinary trees.

Early Masons, therefore, very naturally, appropriated this hallowed plant for an equally sacred purpose. . . as a symbol to teach a very important Divine truth in all ages to come. For us it represents the immortality of the Soul. In closing I would like to say live long and prosper my Brothers.

Excerpts taken from new and revised Edition Encyclopedia of Freemasonry and its Kindred Sciences, comprising the whole range of Arts sciences and literature is connected to the institution by Albert G Mackey MD and Charles T McClenachan copyright 1884 by L H Evarts & Company

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

December 14th will be our annual Lodge Christmas party for the children at the CVMC beginning at 11:30 AM. Bring your young charges (kids, grandkids, etc.) and a small wrapped present for St. Nick to deliver. Food and fun for all. Come join us!

Sunshine and Visiting

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

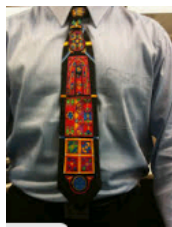


Mark Casperson, Woody Hibbs

Please contact Secretary Don Schauer 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](#)

WEAR YOUR UGLIEST TIE!



Wear your ugliest tie to the December Stated Meeting for a chance to be recognized and honored for your valiant effort. The ugliest tie contest is an annual reoccurrence which has been passed down unimpaired from generation to generation.

CVSan Awards Employees of 4R Star Business Program

Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) awarded three environmentally conscious employees of certified 4R Star businesses at the 6th Annual 4R Star Business Employee Recognition Brunch on Friday, October 25th. Businesses certified through the 4R Business, 4R Planet program maintain recycling and composting rates well over 60% in large part due to the efforts of their employees who implement programs and practices to promote the 4R's - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot (organics).

These 4R Star business employees made waste reduction a priority at their workplaces and were recognized by CVSan.

- 4R Star Green Venue Award: Roy Tamez of Castro Valley Masonic Center.
- 4R Star Waste Reduction Award: Johnson Chan Tran of Donut Express.
- 4R Star Excellent Composter Award: Denis Shapland of Doss Sheet Metal.



From left to right: Roy Tamez of Castro Valley Masonic Center, Denis Shapland of Doss Sheet Metal, and Jerry Johnson for Johnson Chan Tran of Donut Express

This year's brunch also featured a presentation from Carolina Miranda with the Alameda County Green Business Program which is currently offering a \$500 rebate for newly certified Green Businesses. Learn more at www.greenbusinessca.org.



New Officers Installed

On December 7th, 2019, your new officers were installed to a packed house. After the ceremony we enjoyed hand-carved Prime Rib, mashed potatoes, green beans almondine, garlic bread and a salad bar. Dessert was chocolate mousse cake.



Your 2020 Officers (Top) Perry Klahr, Steven Kolden, Andrew Hawes, Robert Eckstein, Phil Busch, Orrin Benedict, Anthony Tancredi. (Bottom) George Lum, Brian Ross, Wor. Paul Rodriguez-O'Brien, J. Rafisura, Don Schauer, Sr. (Missing) Bill Biddell, Kurt Allen

December Birthdays

Bill Biddell (12/03)	Ron Castia (12/19)
Eric Unti (12/04)	Fred Wilson (12/19)
Verl Rothlisberger (12/05)	Norvalle May (12/22)
Dave Baratto (12/06)	Clarence Teeters (12/22)
Thomas Robertson (12/11)	J Rafisura (12/24)
Robert Deleon (12/12)	Alex Von Stade II (12/27)
Gilbert Brownfield (12/13)	Kanti Patel (12/29)
Blain Deaton (12/14)	Jose Zamora (12/29)
Chris Limnios (12/18)	David Middleton (12/30)

3rd Degree Anniversaries

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

Fred Avery [PM] (35)	James Hooks (54)
Peter Dinos (49)	Scott West (6)

In Memoriam

Clyde M. Lyerla
Entered into Rest
92 Years and 16 days
November 2, 2019

Robert E. Lee
Entered into Rest
78 Years 2 Months and 29 Days
June 6, 2019

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



2020 Officers

Master — Paul Rodriguez-Obrien
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—George R. Lumm, P.M.
510.791.0753/ 510.604.8513 cell [click to email](#)

Secretary—Don Schauer, Sr., H.A.
510.258.0654 donschauersr@gmail.com

Assist. Secretary—Perry Klahr
925.925.3360 [click to email](#)

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

Marshal—Steve Kolden
510.409.6118 / [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— Anthony Tancredi
510.476.4819 [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

2020 Committees

2020 Appointments

Audit: Mick Bowers

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, Mick Bowers, 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—Laurel M. 559.696.0746 [click to email](#)

Jobs Daughters Dublin No. 1—Jessica Keene 510.755.6312 [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?

Our lodge website records the location of our visitors and reports them to our Webmaster. Here are some cool locations which checked into our site this month: Virginia Beach, VI; North Royalton, OH; Bellevue, WA; Columbus, IN; Frisco, TX, Toronto, ON, Skenderag, Albania; Dogenham, UK; Gibsonia, PA; Belgrade, Serbia; South Africa; Petaling Jia, Malaysia.

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)

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

Editor: Ron Katz, PM 510.375.3137

info@CCL551.org

Secretary: Don Schauer, Sr. H.A. 510.258.0654

donschauersr@gmail.com

To Reserve the Building

Bill Ferrell - 510.520.7242 cell



Crow Canyon Lodge #551 December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 Stated Meeting - Social 5:30 PM Dinner 6:15 PM Opening 7:30 PM	6	7 Installation of Officers - 5:00 PM
8	9	10	11	12 Lodge Dark	13	14 Lodge Xmas Party - 11:30 AM
15	16	17	18	19 Lodge Dark	20	21 Winter Solstice
22 First Night of Chanukah !	23	24	25 Merry Christmas !	26 Lodge Dark First Night of Kwanzaa !	27	28
29	30					