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Trestleboard

April 2016
Volume 12, Issue 4

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



Calendar of Events

APRIL

Apr 5th—Tues—Officers' Assembly—7:00 PM
Apr 7th—Thurs—Stated Meeting —5:30 PM Social—6 :15 PM Dinner—7:30 PM Meeting
Apr 12th—Tues—DOSI @ Masonic Home—6:00 PM Dinner—7:00 PM School
Apr 14th—Thurs—First Degree—Mr. L Rizzo—6:30 PM Dinner—7:30 PM Open
Apr 21st—Thurs—Public Schools Night—6:00 PM Social—6:30 PM Dinner—7:30 PM Festivities
Apr 26th—Tues—DMPS—Examining Anderson's Constitutions—7:00 PM Meeting
Apr 28th—Thurs—Entered Apprentice Formation Night—7:00 PM Meeting

MAY

May 3rd—Tues—Officers' Assembly—7:00 PM
May 5th—Thurs—Stated Meeting —5:30 PM Social—6 :15 PM Dinner—7:30 PM Meeting
May 10th—Tues—DOSI @ Masonic Home—6:00 PM Dinner—7:00 PM School
May 12th—Thurs—Fellowcraft Formation Night—7:00 PM Meeting
May 19th—Thurs—Master Mason Formation Night—7:00 PM Meeting
May 24th—Tues—DMPS—Examining Dermott's Ahiman Rezon—7:00 PM Meeting
May 26th—Thurs—Practice—2nd Degree—7:00 PM Open

SAVE-THE-DATE!†

3RD ANNUAL†

WHITE TABLE NIGHT†

*An enchanted evening designed to
celebrate the special women in our lives.†*

Saturday, May 28th, 2016—5:30 PM†

†

APPETIZERS & SPECIAL DRINKS—PRIME RIB DINNER WITH THE EXPECTED ACCOUTREMENT†

PHOTOGRAPHS—MUSIC—DANCING†

More Details in Next Trestleboard

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 Michael Ramos—Worshipful Master

I hope April finds you healthy, happy and optimistic.

To our newly initiated Entered Apprentices, Leland Allen and J. Emmanuel Rafisura – our Lodge and Institution welcome you with open arms and high hopes for the future erection of your own moral and masonic edifices. Our peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols has proven itself a most valuable path for men seeking something deeper than the overabundant superficialities of daily life. I hope you attend our ceremonials with an aim towards educating the mind, nourishing the heart and partaking in merry fellowship. I hope the time spent with your mentors will be enlightening and joyful, and that with the working tools, of which you have been bestowed, you will ever endeavor to make a daily advancement in Masonic Knowledge. I know the entire Lodge looks forward to getting to know you both, and I especially look forward to seeing you at our future Entered Apprentice Formation Nights - the very best to you, my Brothers.

Bro. Alex Von Stade, Wor. Bro. Robert Eckstein and I recently returned from the 2016 Masters' and Wardens' Retreat in Monterey, CA. We found this year's program to be the very best any of us have participated in. The classes were extremely educational and thought provoking, and we found the breakout sessions to be a fruitful experience where many new ideas and potential solutions, to commonplace themes throughout most California Masonic Lodges, were heavily and collectively discussed. After the evening's classes came to a close, we three were able to have long discussions in regards to the current state of affairs at Crow Canyon; the upsides and the downsides, the bare facts verses wishful thinking, and the concept for a 5 year plan that will strengthen our Lodge at its core and help guarantee its future existence. Our prime directive was aimed at the engagement of our newest and future membership, and also how to collectively support a Lodge model that will keep them active, enthusiastic and feeling fulfilled. The largest bracket of men joining our Institution today are between the ages of 18 and 35, yet, the top three reasons why new membership retention is lacking, as found in the most recent Grand Lodge survey, is the following in no particular order 1) Lack of education 2) Lack of mentoring, solemnity and structure 3) Lack of activities that interest younger and newer members. So, even though some Lodges may be on the upswing in the application department, maintaining those members' interest, after their degrees have concluded, is a well-known challenge.

In order to help address these issues in a well organized and thoughtful manner, we three also decided to utilize one of the many tools proposed to us in our weekend's classes; hence, we have formed an Executive Committee, with one fully attended kickoff meeting on the books. This Executive Committee is composed of Wor. Bro. Kurt Allen, Bro. Don Schauer, Sr., Bro. Paul Rodriguez-Obrien, Bro. Alex Von Stade, Wor. Bro. Robert Eckstein and myself. One of the immediate changes that many will see in place is a new format for those wishing to apply for the degrees of Masonry at our Lodge. We have decided that the best 'Prospecting Program' for Crow Canyon will be as follows; applications will no longer be granted upon request, with the exception of the applicant being immediate familial legacy of a current member. Any prospect wishing to find out more about Masonry or our Lodge must attend 4 Stated Meeting Dinners where the Master will delegate a welcoming



committee of 2 different Brothers, at each dinner, to sit with, chat and engage the prospect. After which dinner, those 2 Brothers will setup separate times, within that month, to meet with the prospect socially outside of the hall for coffee, lunch, etc. and will return their, hopefully, pleasant findings to the Brethren. This will happen at 3 Stated Meeting Dinners with the 4th being where a decision will be made to then give an application to the prospect if he, or we, be still interested. This will eliminate fly-by-night candidates, promote a form of dedication and value to becoming a member, and will strengthen our Lodge by remembering that it is quality not quantity that we are after. It is only fair to both our Lodge and the prospect that we honestly gauge whether they are right for Crow Canyon (or Masonry), or if Crow Canyon is right for them, so neither side is left wanting.

Another element that we will be kicking off immediately is an informal phone survey with EAs, FCs and newly raised MMs. We want to find out why they joined, what they are interested in, and how we as a Lodge can better facilitate their wants and needs - as they are the future. And to follow up on this survey, the Executive Committee will also be holding regular Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason specific Formation Nights where questions may be asked and answered, Masonic etiquette will be taught, Officer roles explained, additional proficiency help and education will be given etc. The potential formation of degree specific committees may also be a fruitful way of bonding our Brethren through their own interactions while generating new ideas for our Lodge in regards to charity, education and activities.

These are only two of the many plans we have in place to better help keep our Lodge well rounded, relevant and desirable for many years to come.

Crow Canyon Lodge will host its annual Public Schools Night on Thursday, April 21st, where we will honor teachers of the Castro Valley School District with a banquet and honorariums. I do hope that many of you will attend, for I can think of nothing more important than honoring those that teach our youth. William Butler Yeats once said 'education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire'. A good teacher is one capable of igniting that spark, and has the capability to inspire a child's God given faculties; two of the most important being curiosity and imagination. Without education, Masonry will cease to flourish. And it is our responsibility to ensure we do our part in supporting and honoring those that go above and beyond to provide our youth with the very best, every day.

A list of this month's events can be found in the attached Trestle Board calendar, but I will continue to call them out in my articles. Our monthly Stated Meeting will be held on Thursday the 7th – dinner at 6:15 pm, lodge opens at 7:30 pm. On Tuesday the 12th we will have our DOSI at the Masonic Home, light dinner at 6:00 pm, class starting at 7:00 pm. On Thursday the 14th we will be holding a First Degree for Mr. L. Rizzo, dinner and 6:30 pm, lodge opens at 7:30 pm. On Thursday the 21st we will be holding our annual Public Schools Night, social at 6:00 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm, festivities at 7:30 pm. On Tuesday the 26th DMPS will be examining the 'Anderson's Constitutions' of the Premiere Grand Lodge of England, meeting starts at 7:00 pm. And on Thursday the 28th we will have an Entered Apprentice Formation Night.

I look forward to seeing all of you this month and wish you the very best.

From the West

By Alex Von Stade—Senior Warden

Brethren:

Now that we are officially into the month of April, I can clearly state that “Spring has sprung!” The cold blustery days of winter are once again a thing of the past. Rainstorms and thundershowers have been replaced with clear and bright skies. During this month, we celebrate a variety of holidays including April Fool’s Day, Earth Day, and Arbor Day. During last month, I attended the annual Master and Wardens Retreat in Monterey, California for the first time. I found the lively presentations and discussions very interesting and very informative. Although a variety of topics were covered, the ones I enjoyed the most were the discussions centered on meaningful and memorable ritual and degrees. Ritual is what sets us apart from other fraternities and is the common language and experience that we, as Freemasons, share. When we perform degrees, we have an obligation to every candidate to make the event a serious and solemn occasion. All of the brethren (officers and sideliners) should make every effort to make this life changing event a special experience for the candidate. The degrees that we conduct should be a moving and transformative process. The following statement, which was said at the annual retreat, sums it up best: “Every word may not be right, a step might be out of place-but a really meaningful and memorable experience leaves everyone in the room, candidates and brethren, transformed.”

One final note, when most of you read this monthly article, I will be in Japan, the land of the rising sun (No, this is not an April Fool’s joke!). I will be attending a stated meeting at a local lodge in Yokohama, as well as paying a visit to the Grand Lodge in Tokyo. Next month, I will report on my lodge visits and experiences. Happy April!



From the South

By Alvaro Reynoso, PM—Junior Warden

In the month of March initiated two new brothers. I am impressed that our Lodge has many “mature” members, and also we have a great number of “middle aged” brethren. I think that the community of new members coming along will provide the healthy balance necessary to insure our future

The Bible says, “For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” This passage applies to our Lodge, “as we attract new members so shall we prosper.” We only have been able to achieve this thanks to the establishments of programs such as the Masonic education started by Charles Hintz, revived by Wor. Mike Ramos and now in the hands of our beloved brother Jonathan Prestage.

I will like to finish by personally thanking those above mentioned for your contribution to the growth of our Lodge.



From the Secretary’s Table

By Don Schauer, Sr., H.A.

From the Grand Master of Masons of the State of California, Most Wor. David M. Perry:

“You might have read of recent events in Georgia and Tennessee where the Grand Lodges there have adopted new rules or enforced existing rules to discipline Masons because of their sexual orientation.



The Grand Lodge of Georgia ratified Grand Master McDonald’s Edict No. 2015-4 at the last Annual Communication of their Grand Lodge, thereby adding the following language to their Grand Lodge law: homosexual activity with anyone subjects the offender to discipline. The Grand Lodge of Tennessee recently suspended two brothers from Masonry for violating a provision of the Tennessee Masonic Code when they posted photographs of their wedding to each other on Facebook. The Tennessee Masonic Code states that it is a Masonic offense to promote or engage in homosexual activity.

In each case, I construe these actions as a sectarian stand which is inconsistent with and does not support the General Regulations of Freemasonry. I have therefore suspended recognition of The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Georgia and the Grand Lodge of Tennessee F. & A. M. until the next Annual Communication of our Grand Lodge.

I am happy to share with you further details about my decision, if you so desire.”

3rd Degree Anniversaries

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

Roger Accurso (1)	Gary Hughes [PM] (27)
Leslie Blake (50)	Julius Kahn III [PM] (42)
Warren Blomseth (64)	Alan Kenyon [PM] (34)
Christopher Boggess (10)	John Kralovansky (36)
James Brown (40)	George Lumm [PM] (23)
Charles Cammerer (40)	Robert Marshall (60)
Gregory Cooper (29)	Robert Rix [PM] (45)
Robert Douglas (40)	Ronald Rourk (35)
Roy Eddy (67)	Donald Schauer Sr. (46)
Michael Gallico (10)	Ronald Stuart (53)
Ronald Garcia (50)	Gerald Woergoetter [PM] (23)
Donald Goodman (57)	

April Birthdays

Robert Fabel (04/02)	Robert Peters (04/18)
Donald Goodman (04/04)	Ronald Bessette (04/19)
Bruce Tellardin (04/05)	William Christensen (04/19)
Craig George (04/08)	Jeffrey Hansen (04/23)
Steven Kolden (04/08)	Cy Sidun (04/25)
Richard Keihner (04/11)	Henry Miller Jr. (04/26)
George Lumm (04/13)	Leonard Suokko (04/26)
Jim Gibbon (04/15)	Harvey Kass (04/28)
Ron Katz (04/15)	Warren Blomseth (04/30)
Ernest Nidick Jr. (04/15)	
Leslie Yeffa (04/15)	



2016 Officers

Master — Michael Ramos

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510.377.1594

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Jr. Steward — Arnold Weinstein

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510.582.6207 / 510.589.0878 cell wbiddell@gmail.com

Officer's Coach — Kurt R. Allen, P.M., H.A.

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Candidate Coaches

Roy Tamez - Hayward 510.537.1077 / 510.684.3047 cell

Mike Ramos — S. Leandro-Hayward — 510.287.6366 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

In Memoriam

Earl L. Oliver 96 years, 6 months, 11 days
Entered into rest December 20, 2015

Joseph M. Clare 93 years, 5 days
Entered into rest February 28, 2016

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

2016 Committees

Appointments

Executive Committee: Mike Ramos, Alex Von Stade, Robert Eckstein, Kurt Allen, Don Schauer, Sr.

Masonic Charity: Three Principle Officers

Sunshine: Ernie Nidick & Les Blake

Masonic Hall Association: Pat Quinn

Masonic Homes Endowment: Don Schauer Sr.

Membership Retention: Don Schauer Sr. & Mike Ramos

Audit: Bill Biddell, Arnie Weinstein & Bob Pinkerton

Masonic Funeral: Kurt Allen, Bill Ferrell & All Officers

Web Master: Ron Katz

Events

White Table Night: Alex Von Stade & Mike Ramos

Hiram Award Festivities: Alex Von Stade & Mike Ramos

Festive Boards & Feasts: Jonathan Prestage & Mike Ramos

Crab & Pasta Feed: Don Schauer & Roy Tamez

Strawberry Feed: Ron Katz

Public Schools Night: Eric Unti & Bill Ferrell

Child ID: David Allen & Roy Tamez

Sweetheart Events: Phil Busch & Kurt Allen

Visitation: Don Schauer, Kurt Allen & Mike Ramos

Masonic Formation and Education: Jonathan Prestage & Mike Ramos

Children's Holiday Party: Bill Ferrell & Mike Ramos

Masonic Youth Orders

Castro Valley DeMolay — Pat Quinn — 510.755.7891 pdq551@att.net

Unity Assembly No. 65, Rainbow for Girls — Helen J. Zidek

HelenJ.Zidek@comcast.net

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
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please call 510.258.0654

Email crowcanyon551@att.net

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

More Useful Links

Read the Trestleboard online — <http://tiny.cc/551news>

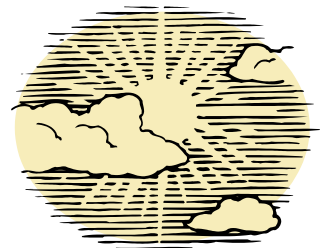
Our Website — <http://www.calodges.org/no551>

Read the Trestleboard on your Device — <http://ccletbd.blogspot.com>

Subscribe to our calendar — <http://tiny.cc/551subcal>

Sunshine and Visiting

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



Ernie Nidick — Sunshine Chairman
925.828.6993 bev2ern@comcast.net

Les Blake — Visiting Chairman 510.581.8497
cherlois@sbcglobal.net

Crow Canyon No. 551 April 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Officer's Assembly Meeting—7:00 PM *installed officers only	6	7 Stated Meeting Dinner—6:15 pm Open—7:30 pm	8	9
10	11	12 DOSI @ Masonic Home Dinner—6:00 pm School—7:00 pm	13	14 First Degree Mr. L Rizzo Dinner—6:30 pm Open—7:30 pm	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Public Schools Night Social—6:00 PM Dinner—6:30 PM Festivities—7:30 PM	22	23
24	25	26 DMPs—Examining Anderson's Constitutions Meeting—7:00 pm	27	28 EA Formation Night Meeting—7:00 PM	29	30

WAMMΔ Michael J. Ramos: 510-287-6366 (Mobile) / 510-208-1441 (Office) / 551dmps@gmail.com (Email)

*All degree conferrals, practices, and LOIs will **not** include dinner service unless otherwise noted in the calendar made by the Master.

Celebrate Public Schools Month



This April, how will you make a difference?



Join Crow Canyon Lodge F&AM

Public Schools Night

Honoring All Teachers

April 21st, 2016

6:00 PM—Social

6:30 PM—Dinner

(reservations highly encouraged)

7:30 PM—Program

Musical / Choral Entertainment

*Special Awards Presented to Two Teachers from the
Castro Valley Public Schools*