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Trestleboard

December 2021
Volume 17, Issue 12

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



WWW.CCL551.ORG



Calendar of Events

DECEMBER 2021

- 12/01—Wednesday—Zoom Officer's Meeting 7:00 PM
- 12/02—Thursday—Hiram Award Presentation and Stated Meeting—Social 5:30 PM—Dinner 6:00 PM —Presentation—7:00 PM—Stated Meeting 8:00 PM
- 12/04—Saturday—Installation of Officers 5:00 PM
- 12/09—Thursday—Practice—7:00 PM
- 12/16—Thursday—Practice—7:00 PM
- 12/18—Saturday—Feast of St. John—6:15 PM
- 12/23—Thursday—Merry Xmas—DARK
- 12/28—Tuesday—Hall Association—7:00 PM
- 12/30—Thursday—Happy New Year—DARK

JANUARY 2022

- 01/05—Wednesday—Zoom Officer's Meeting 7:00 PM
- 01/06—Thursday—Stated Meeting—Social 5:30 PM—Dinner 6:00 PM —Stated Meeting 7:30 PM
- 01/11—Tuesday—Zoom Social Gathering—7:00 PM
- 01/13—Thursday—Practice—7:00 PM
- 01/15—Saturday—Breakfast with Brothers @ Normans, CV.
- 01/20—Thursday—Practice—7:00 PM
- 01/25—Tuesday—Hall Association—7:00 PM
- 01/27—Thursday—Practice—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 Paul Rodriguez-Obrien — Master

Its with a heavy heart that this will be the last Trestleboard article I will write for some time to come. It being my 48th in a 4-year span. So, as I step down from Worshipful Master, I would like to speak of how you my Brothers and this lodge have made me a better man.

When I became a Mason, it was my desire to progress up the officer's line, and from each chair, I learned a little bit more of what it meant to be a Mason. My confidence grew in public speaking and implementing organized events with your Officers in serving our lodge, and community.

I soon became a Senior Deacon. Which was a very rewarding chair to momentarily possess. Yes, I took the orders from the Worshipful Master, but I was his primary secretary or soldier. Through him, I directed all activity upon the lodge floor. The Second Degree work of that chair was a big challenge, very satisfying, and it would prepare me for the chairs still yet to come.



The Junior Warden chair was instrumental in learning how to schedule and host events and coordinate people and talents. This chair taught humility because you were serving your brethren, families, and assuring that everyone was enjoying the event you helped to produce with the help from the Junior and Senior Stewards.

As the Senior Warden, you are always watching for what the Worshipful Master may have missed or learning what works and doesn't in preparation for your coming year. You setup your calendar of events, select your Officers, teams, and committees. At this point, you look at the officers below you and you realize you have a great team ready to support you and make things happen.

You finally become the Worshipful Master and you think, "Wow, this is more difficult than I thought!" So many things happening all at once. Your phone is ringing off the hook from brothers who would like to inform you of challenges, and ask for you to make decisions, "because you're the Worshipful Master".

You then make it halfway through the year, and it occurs to you that "Yes, I'm doing this." Things are getting done. This stuff is working because I had already planned out on how my year would look. You are very busy. You have teams that extend your reach and who are also working on your goals for your year.

About this time, it hits hard as you realized that this wasn't just my own journey. I'm on this journey with very good friends that I care for and trust. My Brothers. I'm watching them become better men, more intelligent, more self-esteem. And you realize that we are a strong united team, we are very successful, we are all making positive



change, and we are building and forging this lodge forward, advancing faster and gaining more momentum. The guys behind you are all revved up, they're putting themselves into a higher gear. They are getting ready to hit their Warden chairs, and soon become the Worshipful Master.

Then all of a sudden, you're at the end of your year and you fall off the back side. You're now a bystander to your own team. It's a tempting thought to try to somehow keep a portion of that feeling. "Of course, I'm now fully qualified, and that newest Worshipful Master can sure use my new expertise in helping him. He would benefit from knowing how I did it in my year" thus reliving some of my glory through him. ...



No, that's exactly the time when you need to step down. This is now his glory, his legacy. I helped build and sustain something, and its standing strong on good foundation, and its being well kept by those same guys who supported you, and it will

continue to grow still by those again who will support them. And it's a beautiful thing. And that's the way it should be.

This is all a journey and we are all ships that sail together towards the common place. The best thing that has ever happened in my entire life was in becoming your Worshipful Master, and I want to thank you all, thank you for allowing me to take this journey, and I look forward to new and different roads as I continue to support this thriving lodge.

From the West

By Brian Ross — Master-Elect

Well . . . Christmas is upon us and that means we're starting to plan for our Lodge Christmas Party. The party is open to all members and their families so mark your calendars for December 19, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. The Lodge will serve "kid food" such as french fries, hot dogs, and mac & cheese. Santa Claus will make a stop at the Lodge during his hectic schedule to see the children before heading off to make his final plans.



Our Christmas Edition of the "Breakfast with the Brothers" will occur on December 11, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. Hope to see you there!

As we all know this month's Stated Meeting will be Worshipful Paul's last of the year - let's all show up both to give him the support he deserves and to show him how much we appreciate the job he has done over the last two years - we all know how much he genuinely deserves it!

From the South

By J. Rafisura — Sr. Warden-Elect

Four brothers, raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, in one month! In my book, that is a record. I congratulate Master Masons Aaron Johnson, Tremaine Elison, Scott Hamilton and Usman Ghani!



Your perseverance has

allowed you all to progress and became Master Masons! May you continue to search for light and truth to become better men! As you continue your journey to the lodge above, please do not also forget the joy of your travels below - fellowship with your friends, brothers, family and service to your community and humanity.

Speaking of travels, on October 2, I had the pleasure of taking a trip to Mendocino Lodge for the 3rd degree conferral of Bros. Aaron and Tremaine. Started my drive at around 4:30 in the morning from my home in East Contra Costa County. It was still dark and nippy outside. I drove my truck from Highway 4 to I-580 and through the majestic Redwoods of Highway 29! The sceneries were just magnificent, travelling through the winding road beneath the canopy of perhaps century-old trees. After going through the tree tunnels, the road opened up to the coastal Highway 1 where the drama of the fog and ocean mist aligned into a seemingly endless splendid landscape. What a road-trip.

As I reached Mendocino, the "3rd degree team" of Crow Canyon Lodge #551 had already been in the historic lodge of Mendocino Lodge #179. It is one of the oldest building in the area having been completed in 1873 and now registered in the National Register of Historic Places. The lodge was granted its dispensation in October 1865. It was a pleasure meeting some of the members of the host lodge. The Degree went so smoothly and efficiently that we felt that we could have done one more (degree) on that same day! Following the rituals and ceremonies, Worshipful Master Paul invited the brethren and the ladies to some fellowship with refreshments in his hotel room in Harbor Lights Hotel, Fort Bragg. It was a blast! We had corn, wine and oil, or at least, their representations thereof and it was more than enough! Everyone knew, that after the lodge shutdown, virtual meetings and a series of degree practices, it was what we needed – an in-person bonding in a historic location!

I would like to encourage the rest of our brothers, if you want to have fun, camaraderie and good old refreshments after long days of labor, please get involved in our lodge. As we draw closer to a new Masonic Year, you may let any officers know if you want to take a more active role in our fraternity. There will always be room for any brother that is willing to serve, in his own free will and accord!



Brethren, as the year comes to an end, it also marks a new beginning for the next year. Our hopes and prayers are for the following year to be better than the last two years and for it to be full of happiness and good health and in-person-activities. No face-masks, hopefully!

In December, we will be having our regular Stated Meeting, Installation of Officers, Feast of St. John and Holiday Party. I'm excited to participate in all these upcoming activities, however, the last two events are tentative depending on the number of participants who will sign-up in advance. So please, if you want the Feast of St. John and the Holiday Party, let us know. Our WM-elect will soon make his determination.

As for the next year, I am grateful and honored to be the Senior Warden serving alongside our WM-elect Brian Ross and the rest of the officers. I'm so glad to see our newly-raised brethren taking active roles in our lodge. I can see it is going to be a fun year—a year to celebrate freedom from virtual meetings and stay-at-home orders. It is also a year in anticipation of Crow Canyon Lodge's centennial anniversary

in 2023. I invite the rest of the brothers to please participate in our activities and be a part of our events and planning sessions.

Lastly, I wish everyone Happy Holidays. May the spirit of the season

3rd Degree Anniversaries

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

Fred Avery, PM(37)
James Hooks, (56)

Scott West, (9)



December Birthdays

William Biddell (12/3)
Eric Unti (12/4)
Verl Rothlisberger PM (12/5)
Dave Baratto (12/6)
Gilbert Brownfield (12/13)
Ronnie Castia (12/19)
Freddie Wilson PM (12/19)
Norvalle May (12/22)

Clarence Teeters (12/22)
John Gordon (12/24)
J Rafisura (12/24)
Alexander Von Stade II PM (12/27)
Jose Zamora PM (12/29)
Kanti Patel (12/29)
David Middleton (12/30)

Greeting from Bethel No. 1

The young ladies of Bethel No. 1 are looking forward to an exciting new spring term. With the new line officers and the plans that have been made for our community projects and fund raisers we are hoping to make a positive impression in our community. As always we are reaching out to the Masonic fraternity to help us increase our membership. Bethel No. 1 in California was chartered in June of 1923 by Job's Daughters International. With the help of the brothers and sisters of the concordant bodies we are confident that the 100 year celebration will be one that we all can be proud of for years to come.

Considering the strict guide lines given us from the supreme council we are planning an installation of the new spring officers on January 8, 2022 at the Castro Valley Masonic Center.

Bill Ferrell, Associate Bethel Guardian



In Memoriam

Brother Edgar G. Smith
Entered into Rest

87 years and 189 days
March 29, 2021

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



The Grand Principle of Relief

https://info.acgl.eu/html/Short_talks/MASONIC%20CHARITY.pdf

Freemasonry, we say, is founded upon three Grand Principles--Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. It is with the second of these Grand Principles--Relief--that this Prestonian Lecture is concerned. In simple terms our early brethren understood Relief to mean the alleviating of the suffering of a brother, or the dependents of a deceased brother, by giving money or sustenance until circumstances improved.

In modern terms we see Relief in its wider context of Charity, that is not simply providing money to relieve distress but actually caring and giving of our time and talents in the service of our communities as a whole and not just to our brethren and their dependents. The practice of Charity has been so inextricably linked with our Institution that I would claim it as a landmark of the Order.

If we define a landmark as being something in Freemasonry which if it were removed its removal would materially alter the essence of our Institution then Charity is certainly a landmark. Without the second of its three Grand Principles Freemasonry would be a different organization.

That Charity was important is clearly shown in our earliest surviving documents. The manuscript Old Charges or Gothic Constitutions are a marvelous series of documents comprising a 'history' of the mason craft followed by a series of Characters in which were outlined a masons' duties to his God, his master, his family and society in general. It was from these Old Charges that the Rev. Dr. James Anderson 'digested' the Antient Charges which prefaced the 1723 Book of Constitutions, and all of its subsequent editions.



Over one hundred versions of the manuscript Old Charges survive today, dating from circa 1390 to the mid-18th century. The earliest versions are clearly operative in character but the later have a much greater speculative content. In operative terms the Old Charges enjoined the stone masons to assist a strange mason with up to two weeks' work and lodging.

In speculative terms they enjoined a mason to succor the needy and act with Charity towards all mankind. This is not the occasion to discuss the origins of Freemasonry but it has been suggested in recent years that charity might have been one of the reasons for the founding of Freemasonry.

Whatever its origins, it is certain that even after the formation of the premier Grand Lodge of England in 1717, Masonic Charity was carried out on a very casual basis, and that casual relief of necessity has continued to be an important function of Masonic Charity. In 1725 the Immediate Past Grand Master, proposed that Grand Lodge should set up a central Fund of Charity to provide financial relief to brethren or their dependents.

A Committee was set up to investigate ways and means and like many good Masonic Committees it met regularly, argued long, presented an unworkable scheme and was sent back to think again. Their new scheme was accepted in 1727 and resulted in the formation of the Committee of Charity. To be comprised of the Grand Officers (then only the Grand Master, his Deputy, the Grand Wardens and Past Grand Masters) and the Masters of Lodges 'within the Cities of London and Westminster' the Committee of Charity was empowered to receive and deliberate on petitions and to grant assistance of up to five guineas to each case. If they believed that a case warranted greater assistance it could be recommended to a meeting of the Grand Lodge itself.

In the late 1730s the work of the Committee of Charity was greatly extended. Compared with today's meetings of the Grand Lodge those in the 18th century were much less structured and all manner of subjects and proposals would be raised from the floor and complaints and quarrels would be aired at great length. Not surprisingly this led to lengthy meetings and on a number of occasions the minutes end with the statement that 'the hour being late the Grand Lodge was adjourned without the business being completed'.

The Committee of Charity having proved its worth began to be used as a general committee of the Grand Lodge having referred to it for investigation, report and recommendation, complaints, discipline cases, proposed amendments to the Book of Constitutions and many other matters of general policy. In effect from the late 1730s to the Union of the two Grand Lodges in 1813 the Committee of Charity had a dual function of looking after Grand Lodge's charitable affairs and being a forerunner of the Board of General Purposes and its Committees.

Is there a future for Masonic Charity? In what seems to be an increasingly selfish and materialistic world constantly at the mercy of economic forces over which no one seems to have any real control I think that the answer to that question is not only a resounding YES, but a yes carrying with it the implication that we will have to dig even deeper into our pockets. One thing that is often forgotten is that charity in its widest sense is more than just collecting and disbursing money. It is also the giving of time and talents selflessly in service of the community.

One of the things that came through in the evidence to the Bagnall Committee in the early 1970s was the unquantifiable evidence of lodges,

groups of brethren and individuals adopting the local hospital, children's or old people's home and in addition to providing money and equipment doing the simple things such as providing a new face, a new ear to hear someone's troubles and in many cases providing the only social life that long stay residents ever have.

That non-financial aspect of Charity is one which I think that we will see emphasized more and more in the future.

Over the last decade Freemasonry has come under considerable attack from outside. Many brethren have asked how they can help to counter the misinformation peddled by the media. Surely the best counteraction is to show by example that we live by those principles and tenets which we obligate ourselves to uphold as we go through the three ceremonies to become Master Masons. By showing the world that we do not just give in-service but put into practice those three Grand Principles--and in particular, the greatest of all: CHARITY.

Bro. Hamill is a member of QUATUOR CORONATI Lodge No. 2076, the premier Research Lodge in Freemasonry. This article is taken from Bro. Hamill's Prestonian Lecture for 1993 and was published in Vol. 108 of Ars Quatuor Coronatorum in Oct. 1996. The full article has been condensed to give the reader an idea of how Masonic Charity developed from its earliest beginnings and concludes with an insightful look at the question "Is there a future for Masonic Charity?" --Editor



2022 Officers

Master — Brian Ross
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Senior Warden — J. Rafisura
516.519.1151 [click to email](#)

Junior Warden—Andrew Hawes
510.886.7131 [click to email](#)

Treasurer—Phil Busch
510.566.7019 [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—Alex Von Stade, P.M.
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Marshal—Tremaine Ellison
209.830.1513 / 209.481.7430 cell [click to email](#)

Senior Deacon—Lyman Penning, PM
510.441.3901 [click to email](#)

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

Sr. Steward—Jerry Garcia
510.481.3005 / 510.909.8645 cell [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—Paul Rodriguez-O'Brien, PM
510.461.1071 cell [click to email](#)

Candidate Coaches

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

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Wor. Allen Cuenca 916.390.1003
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Where in the World

Each month we log visitors to our website. This month we were pleased to have guests from: Woodbridge, VA; Marietta, GA; Albany, NY; Zabreb 21, Croatia; McKinney, TX; Reading, PA; Sanford, NC; Imus, Philippines; Cleveland, OH; Nicosia, Cyprus; Baulkham Hills, NWS, Australia; Ipswich, UK; Leiden, Netherlands



Committees

2022 Appointments

Audit: Pat Quinn, Aaron Johnson

Charity Committee: Master and Wardens

Crab Feed: Roy Tamez, Don Schauer Sr., Perry Klahr, Tremaine Ellison

Executive Committee: Brian Ross, J. Rafisura, Andrew Hawes, Perry Klahr.

FOSJ and White Table Night: Andrew Hawes

Hiram Award Selection: HA Committee (All HA recipients)

Masonic Education: Paul Rodriguez O'brien, PM

Masonic Funeral: Bill Ferrell, PM HA, William Biddell, Pat Quinn HA

Masonic Hall Association: Paul Rodriguez, O'brien PM

Masonic Homes Endowment: Don Schauer Sr.

Masons for Mitts: Brian Ross, Scott Hamilton

Membership Retention: J. Rafisura

Picnic: Sr., Roy Tamez, PM HA, Perry Klahr, Brian Ross

Printing and Mailing: Don Schauer Sr.

Public Schools Night: Adam Korbas

Strawberry Feed: Perry Klahr, Ozzie Ghani, Scott Hamilton, Paul Rodriguez O'brien, PM

Sunshine and Visiting: Ernie Nidick, Les Blake, Ozzie Ghani, Aaron Johnson

Sweethearts Committee: Phil Busch, Aaron Johnson, Paul Rodriguez, PM

Trustees: Perry Klahr, Bill Ferrell, PM HA

Visiting /Traveling Degree: Jerry Garcia, Lyman Penning, PM HA.

Website and Trestleboard: Ron Katz, PM HA

Welcome: Aaron Johnson, Tremaine Ellison, Ozzie Ghani, Scott Hamilton

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](#)

LEARN MORE ABOUT MASONIC YOUTH ORDERS

DeMolay - demolay.org

Jobs Daughters - jobsdaughtersinternational.org

Rainbow for Girls - gorainbow.org



Monthly Trestleboard of
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To Reserve the Building
Bill Biddel - 510.589.0878 cell

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Stated Meeting / Hiram Award—Dinner 6 PM / Presentation 7 PM	3	4 Annual Installation of Officers—5 PM
5	6	7	8	9 Practice—7 PM	10	11 Breakfast with the Brothers—8 AM
12	13	14	15	16 Practice—7 PM	17	18 Feast of St. John the Evangelist (tentative)
19 Children's Xmas Party— 11:30 AM	20	21	22	23 DARK—Merry Xmas	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 DARK—Happy New Year	31	