

## From The East



### My Brethren,

As a teacher, the start of the fall semester means a time of new beginnings. In order to prepare for the new students, new administrators, new co-workers, and new curriculum I have to engage in a fair amount of self-reflection and planning. I have to analyze what I am planning for my class and why. Am I running class a particular way because it has always been that way? Because of a fad in education? Or because I truly believe it will be what is best for them in the long term? Sometimes this means change, though often it means taking the well-worn path. But I can never be complacent lest I find myself using outdated means that are less efficient than the modern ones.

While I am engaging in self-reflection and planning professionally, it makes sense that I would also engage in it with regards to the Lodge. What are our goals as a Lodge? How can we reach them? What are the procedures that we use? Why do we use them? Are there other ways that may be worth trying? And most importantly: who will lead the Lodge as time moves on?

We have a multitude of opportunities for people to serve the Lodge in various leadership roles. They can chair or serve on a committee, help implement one of our Lodge events, or even serve as an Officer of the Lodge. We, as a Lodge, are blessed with recent Masons who are full of potential and drive.

When I look to them, I know that the Lodge will be in good hands. That said, we also have many openings for more experienced Masons and Past Masters to serve the Lodge, and not just as Officers. I firmly believe that a healthy Lodge will have a blend of new masons and experienced ones active in Lodge.

I consider this time from August to January a perfect time to “get your feet wet” in regards to leadership. We have a recognition event for our Mason of the Year, a Holiday Party, Degrees, as well as the Hall Association work parties. Each of which needs Brothers to help plan and implement. I encourage every Brother to ask themselves what they can give to help make our Lodge a successful one. “Many hands make light work” and the more Brothers we have helping out on these events the easier the rest of the year will be.

And who knows? You may discover that you wish to continue in a leadership role for the next year. Remember that a Lodge is functional only as long as there are Masons to make it run. Will you be one of them?

Fraternally,

Alexander Saslow  
Master



## From The West



### Brothers,

This is part three of a three-part story recounting a journey of exploration that I took in order to understand where we came from as Masons and what we have to offer to the world.

These three parts starting in the June issue of the Trestleboard and continuing in the next, are excerpts from a paper I delivered to NCRL and a talk I delivered to Yaunt lodge in Napa entitled “Masonic Tradition and Medieval Roots: A Resource for Future Civil Society.”

In part 1, I said that Masonic historians tend to fall into at least two camps -- those who see Freemasonry only as an outgrowth of the western European stonemason guilds that built castles and cathedrals in the 16th and 17th century; and those who see connections to medieval guilds but also to ancient mystery schools as transmitted through migration, Muslim society, and the Knights Templar.

Part 3 continues as follows: Did Friday, the 13 of October, 1307 (the day the French king made mass arrests) mark the end of the Templars? No, but the organization fragmented and mutated. Aragon and Castile were busy fighting a mutual enemy of the Knights and those early Iberian kingdoms. There, the Order

*Continued On Page 3*

---

### *From the West Continued*

---

of the Knights Templar was simply re-named to the Order of Montessa and in Portugal to the Order of Christ.

In France, 232 Brothers were arrested on that Friday<sup>19</sup> with over 30 tortured to death declaring the innocence of themselves and their order. Arrests continued in different countries and in March, 1314, Jacques de Molay was burned to death after saying that his original, false confession was extracted by torture. However, because the organization had been tipped off, many brothers escaped through secret activity and mutual aid.<sup>20</sup>

In England, not much action was taken at first. The English King wrote to many other European monarchs and suggested that there was no basis in the claims King Philippe had made against the venerated order and that no arrests of the members should be made, but he later caved to the order of the Pope.

Still, arrests in England were not as bad as those in France; the authorities were reluctant to use the same level of torture at first and the trials mostly proved the men innocent. The church had to save face by letting them off on a minor charge, but a few died in the tower refusing to even admit the charge of basically absolving sins without a license. Only two were detained in Scotland.<sup>21</sup>

Most of the Templar property in present-day Germany, England, and France was handed over to another order, but some property and organizational resources were not.<sup>23</sup>

Sanford Holst says that practices, language, clothing, symbols and ancient documents of Freemasons show a connection to the Knights Templar. Holst and John J. Robinson say language is an indicator of connection.

For example, according to Robinson, the words Tyler and Cowan, among others are sourced in medieval French. French, the language of the English elite since the days of William the Conqueror was given up in the 1300s by English organizations during the 100 years war.<sup>24</sup> “Tailleur” referring to one who cuts became Tyler, not one who places tiles.

Hard stone masons would not have needed armed guards. Regarding clothing, white gloves and the lamb-skin aprons, symbols of purity, were not worn by stone masons because these would have been to easily torn and soiled.

Gloves were worn by Templar priests to keep their hands clean for communion. The apron resembles a loincloth or girdle worn by Knights Templar to remind them of chastity.<sup>25</sup> Symbols such as the Square and Compasses when overlapped represent the Seal of Solomon – an important symbol to Knights Templar.<sup>26</sup>

In reviewing historical documents and Robinson’s book, *Born in Blood*, Holst says, “The Peasant Revolt [of 1381] gave indications that the Templars who went underground... seemed to remain in touch with each other, and... act together to represent their interests.... And that they were doing so in secret.”<sup>27</sup> Holst considers this Freemasonry’s beginning.

Regarding masons, he says “Freemasonry already existed in the 1300s – and continued in the 1400s . . . Its members were clearly meeting separately from any stonemason activities. The two existed in parallel in those days [original emphasis].”<sup>28</sup>

Holst goes on to examine ancient documents including the Cooke Manuscript and Regius Manuscript. There were about 120 ancient documents know as Old Charges that predate the 1717 founding of modern Freemasonry.<sup>30</sup>

Cooke, the second oldest of the Old Charges dates from 1450.<sup>29</sup> Regius, the first Old Charge dates from circa 1390. All the “Old Charges and Constitutions” refer to this document.<sup>31</sup>

He says that these documents talk extensively about highly educated gentlemen and non-inheriting sons of nobility becoming masons and applying geometry to the work. This characteristic inclusion of a gentleman class was common in Templar and Freemason organizations but not stonemasons.

One of Holst’s strongest points is made when he says “The symbols of Freemasonry contain numerous references to ancient works,” like the

**Stated Meeting Dinner Menu:  
Thursday, August 1st, 2019 6.30pm**

**POTLUCK DINNER  
Please bring a dish to share with your  
fellow brethren and families.**

**Please RSVP to  
707-762-4171**

---

### **Lodge Contact Info:**

**<http://freemason.org> (CA Grand Lodge) ~ <http://masons180.org> (Pet.-Ham.#180 website)  
Lodge Phone Number 707-762-6513, For Reservations call 707-762-4171  
Master, Alex Saslow, 707-303-0244 E-Mail: [saslow.alexander@gmail.com](mailto:saslow.alexander@gmail.com)  
Secretary, Guy Chalmers: 707-477-3046 E-Mail: [JMC329@aol.com](mailto:JMC329@aol.com)**

## Happy Birthday

- William Purdy August 4th
- Albert Breeden August 6th
- Arul Sivalingam August 6th
- Robert Young August 6th
- John Dias August 8th
- Wayne Johnson August 8th
- Matthew Shutman August 9th
- Ernest Bennett August 11th
- Henery Torget August 11th
- Daniel Giddings August 19th
- James Walker August 19th
- Harold Kwan August 22nd
- Eugene Jeane August 23rd
- Randy Steward August 29th

great pyramid and Solomon's Temple. It refers to the twin pillars, arches, and working tools known to the ancient craft, but "there are no significant symbols in Masonry relating to Medieval building such as cathedrals [original emphasis]."32

He also says:

"The Masonic symbols that constitute the core of Freemasonry suggest that the connection with stonemasons did not take place [more recently] during the Medieval period. Instead they point to stonemasonry as it existed in ancient times. Following that thread causes us to again look at the green-robed clerks among the Knights Templar. The Lebanese Christians in this group clung strongly to their Phoenician roots.... Their Phoeni-

cian forbears had been present at the building of the Great Pyramid, and provided Hiram Abiff ... for the raising of Solomon's Temple."33

There is a legacy that we owe to Freemasons, Templars, Muslims, Phoenicians, and stonemasons. This legacy is illustrated by the reaction of the Roman Catholic Church to the idea that Freemasons originated with the Knights Templar.

Pope Leo XIII issued a major Papal Bull in 1884 titled Humanum genus denouncing Freemasons because they advocated separation of church and state, promoted public education of children by people not part of the church, and supported the election of government leaders by the people.34

These very ideas are what the world needs to challenge the vested interests of the religious, governmental and corporate hierarchies which have created so many problems. Leo was a voice for those hierarchies. In the 20th Century, the Church reversed its anti-mason stance.

Now, in the 21st century, the global population of human beings is beset by numerous challenges and problems that ultimately could threaten our very existence. Real problems and threats range from what at first may seem like science fiction, such as asteroid strikes and polar shifts, to what is commonly accepted in the scientific community as science fact -- overpopulation, environmental degradation, and runaway global warming. We can and should address these problems today and many communities are beginning to act in their long-term self



## Masonic Homes of California

Need Help or Assistance ?  
Contact Masonic Assistance  
visit: [www.masonichome.org](http://www.masonichome.org)  
email: [intake@mhcuc.org](mailto:intake@mhcuc.org)  
or call: 888/466-3642.

preservation and the preservation of the earth as a whole.

What are the key lessons to be learned from Freemasons, Muslims, Knights Templar, Phoenicians, and stonemasons that will help us solve 21st Century problems? Values, moral lessons, and even technical knowhow will be essential for solving this century's problems.

What legacy do we leave to those ten generations in the future? What better legacy is there than to train brothers and sisters to think for themselves? We must understand that mutual aid, humility, democracy in our organizations (rather than elitism), brotherly love, unity, and collective support -- "one for all and all for one" are not just essential qualities that should be applied to help ourselves and our neighbors, but also to help people different than ourselves and to children yet to be born.

We also owe it to ourselves to be tolerant and work together with all good people alive today of different races and creeds. It is a recipe for disaster if we take an attitude of "them versus us" or "now versus then" when many of the "them" are, or will be people of good will.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram



<https://www.facebook.com/PetalumaMasonry/>

<https://www.instagram.com/petalumamasonry/?hl=en>



Values and skills passed on from the secret, medieval societies are imperative for building consensus.

Freemasonry has been an agent of change in history by taking good men, making them better, and even making some great. It will help men in the future who seek to address 21st century problems. If you would like to be an agent of change; if you would like to provide a benefit to many generations in the future consider the past.

19 Sanford Holst, Sworn in Secret, Freemasonry and the Knights Templar, p. 155.

20 Ibid, pp. 155-7.

21 Ibid, pp. 176-8.

22 Ibid, p. 162.

23 Ibid, pp. 160-1.

24 John J. Robinson, Born in Blood, The lost Secrets of Freemasonry, pp. 224-31 .

25 Ibid, p. 239.

26 Ibid, pp. 240-1.

27 Sanford Holst, Sworn in Secret, Freemasonry and the Knights Templar, p. 291.

28 Ibid, p. 324.

29 Ibid, p. 301.

30 Ibid, p. 314.

31 Ibid, p. 318.

32 Ibid, p. 311.

33 Ibid.

34 Ibid, p. 279.

#### Bibliography

##### Books

Baigent, Michael and Leigh, Richard. The Temple and the Lodge. New York: Arcade Publishing, Inc., 1989.

Cantor, Norman F. The Civilization of the Middle Ages. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1963, 1968, 1974, 1993.

Harrison, David. The Genesis of Freemasonry. Hershaw, Surrey: Lewis Masonic, an Imprint of Ian Allan Publishing Ltd., 2014.

Holst, Sanford. Sworn in Secret, Freemasonry and the Knights Templar. Los Angeles: Santorini Books, 2012.

Phoenician Secrets, Exploring the Ancient Mediterranean. Los Angeles: Santorini Books, 2011.

Robinson, John J. Born in Blood, The lost Secrets of Freemasonry. Lanham, Maryland: M. Evans & Company, 1989.

Ridley, Jasper. The Freemasons, A History of the World's Most Powerful Secret Society. New York: Arcade Publishing, 1999, 2001.

Seward, Desmond. The Hundred Years War, The English in France, 1337-1453. New York: Atheneum, 1978.

Thorndike, Lynn. The History of Medieval Europe. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The Riverside Press, 1928

Wallace-Murphy, Tim and Hopkins, Marilyn. Templars in America: From the Crusades to the New World. Boston, Massachusetts: Weiser Books, 2004

## Hall Association



Bretheren,

I would like to extend my appreciation to all those Brothers who give of their time and energy to the Hall Association; including, our building manager and rental coordinator. It is your work that helps enable our Lodge to both support worthy causes and continue to be a community icon.

We currently have a vacancy occasioned by the transfer of Brother Navarra. Fortunately, we also have some talented up-and-coming Brothers whom, we hope, will take an interest in the management of our building by becoming a director, once they are raised to Master Mason.

Still, one can be of service at any degree by attending our next work party on August 10th at 8:00 AM. A light breakfast will be served.

Amazingly, it has already been one year since we installed AED's in our building. In the months to come, we will be having an AED group training session which will be open to all members of the Lodge.

Finally, I will be giving my semi-annual financial report at the next Stated Meeting.

Fraternally,

Tim Giddings;  
Hall Association President



## From The Editor



Bretheren,

As with all great adventures in life, not everything goes to plan. I unfortunately bear the burden of announcing that the 3rd Annual Masonic BBQ Competition slated for later this year has been canceled until further notice.

Brothers Richard Fonseca, John Monahan and myself have been diligently attempting to plan this event. We had made arrangements to host this years competition at the Scottish Rite Center in Santa Rosa.

As many brethren may already be aware, the Scottish Rite Center was on the market and sold recently. Due to time constraints we opted to postpone the event till next year.

The selling of the property also affected the hosting of the Mason of the Year Dinner. During our last stated meeting Petaluma Hamilton members brought up the question, "Can we not have our own dinner to honor the Mason of the Year." The brethren present felt that this was a great idea. As the elected recipient for the Mason of the Year award, I humbly requested a BBQ. And so it came to pass that a BBQ filled with comradery, friendship, and brotherly love was not lost.

With excitement and reverence, I am pleased to announce we will be having a Masonic Octoberfest BBQ to honor of the Mason of the Year Award recipients on Saturday, October 5th, 2019. The location is being finalized and will be shared later in August via email. We encourage our fellow local lodges to join us in celebrating their mason of the year recipients at this event as well.

~ David Sonnenberg



Petaluma-Hamilton Lodge No. 180 F&AM  
 P.O. Box 727  
 Petaluma, Ca 94953-0727

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S.POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 Petaluma, CA  
 Permit No. 20



Dated material-do not hold

## AUGUST 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			Hall Association	1 Potluck Dinner & Stated Meeting	2	3
4	5	6 Rainbow #6	7	8 Fellowcraft Degree 7pm	9	10 Masonic Work Party 8 am
11	12	13	14	15 *Dark*	16	17
18	19	20 Rainbow #6	21	22 *Dark*	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 *Dark*	30	31