
From The East

Brethren and extended Masonic Family,

In this month's proclamation from Grand Master Wright we are encouraged to remember our families, and especially the widows of Brothers. He reminds us that "partners and spouses of our lodges hold a vital and esteemed role in our Masonic family", a sentiment very near and dear to my own heart. My wife and two children are the lights of my life, and deserve all of the love and support I can provide. We must do our utmost to do as much as we can not just for our families, but for the families of our Brothers as well.

During this month's Stated Meeting we will be discussing how best to recognize and support our families and widows, and build a committee with that end in mind. If you have a passion for this, or any ideas for how to achieve this goal, I would love to see you in Lodge. "Many hands make light work", as the saying goes, and together I am sure we can adequately provide the love and support our loved ones deserve.

My theme for the year is to strengthen the bonds of friendship among the Brothers. And to that end we have a variety of activities ahead of us. Next month will be our first Fellowship Night, where I hope you will join me in an evening of boardgames, conversation, and generally enjoying each other's company. To start off the night we are going to have some very brief Committee meetings to ensure that everyone understands their duties, and then we will break to spend time with our Brothers.

We are also looking ahead to the many degrees we have coming up this year, specifically a 3rd Degree we are giving at the beginning of March. If you have any interest in taking part as a member of the degree team for either of the three degrees, please reach out! We are looking at a busy year and I want to ensure that we include everyone who wants to join us. Being a member of a Degree Team is a lot of fun, and Practices are a great time. If you are working on a Proficiency, consider joining the appropriate Degree Team! The practice will be invaluable, and really speed along your learning.

~Alexander Saslow
Worshipful Master

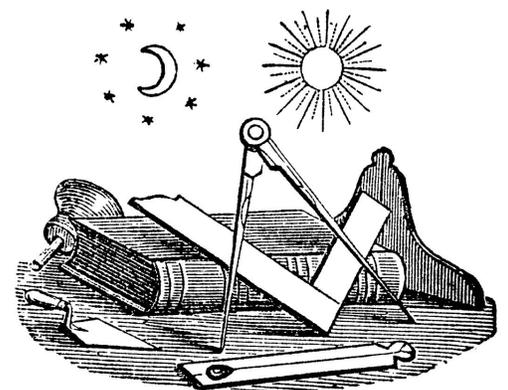


From The West

Brothers, we had a very nice installation of officers at the lodge this year with over 50 people in attendance. Certainly, congratulations are in order for our new Worshipful Master who has spent weeks planning the event and to all those brothers who worked hard to have a successful day. Most of those attending enjoyed themselves at the luncheon and during the ceremony; the event came off very smoothly. It was a fun family affair and I'm sorry if the reader of this article missed the event not only because you missed a great time but also because it highlights our need -- and the present state of our ability -- to bring the tradition of Petaluma Masonry into the future.

The future of our lodge in Petaluma depends on new master masons stepping forward to experience the opportunity of leadership in the ranks of the officers. It also depends on the Past Masters and other experienced members who are willing to coach new leaders. We have heard it reported at state leadership retreats that most Masonic lodges that fail do so because of the lack of leadership not because of the lack of a building or membership. We have a strong set leaders in the current group of officers, but isn't the fact that we have a lack of an installed Junior Warden indicative of something -- we don't have a complete first string of players and what about the second string or back bench. We need to beef up our officer lineup in number and quality. We need to have brothers who can step into those chairs when we have an absence or who are ready to step up next year. We need to have more brothers coming out for practices on Thursday night. If we increase our number of active members it should help. But there also needs to be the realization in the minds of active Masons that they can do the job and that the lodge needs them to do it.

Continued on Page 3





Hall Association

Brethren;

The past year has seen much progress in the work of the Hall Association; and, the coming year will see more.

Last year was marked with the renovation of the Past Master's Gallery; a well-deserved tribute to those who have gone before us. Also, we became emblematic of service to the community by being among the first to install AED units in our building.

All this, in addition to the regular upkeep and improvement that make our lodge an icon in the community. This year has already seen men step up to fill the shoes of Directors who had to step down due to the demands of life outside of the Craft.

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A longer-term matter is the requirement that a fire-suppression sprinkler system be installed in our building.

Of immediate concern is the upgrade of the antiquated electrical wiring in the Lodge, as well as other health, safety and security issues. A longer-term matter is the requirement that a fire-suppression sprinkler system be installed in our building.

This is an expensive and on-going project that we will be working on for the next several years.

We will continue to collect rent from our tenants, encourage the rental of our building by private parties and support both the Craft and the Lodge by pursuing a policy of fiscal conservatism.

Ultimately, it is people being of service, rather than a building, which make a lodge. Thus, I encourage all of the Brethren to participate in our monthly work parties.

This is an opportunity to both be of service to the lodge and to save money that would, otherwise, be paid to outside contractors.

Fraternally,

~Tim Giddings

President of the Hall Association.



Grand Master's Proclamation:

FEBRUARY 2019 IS

MASONIC WIDOWS MONTH

Freemasonry: The Difference Is You

Whereas, upon our obligation to each other, we pledge to keep our brothers' families close to our hearts, treating their loved ones with the same respect we would afford to our own; and

Whereas, the partners and spouses of our lodges hold a vital and esteemed role in our Masonic family; and

Whereas, we endear that Masonic widows' connection to their husband's lodges will be a lifelong source of friendship, comfort, and support; now,

Therefore, as grand master, I proclaim February 2019 as Masonic Widows Month in California. I urge all California Masons to pledge to recognize the widows in our Masonic family throughout the month of February 2019. Reach out to those widows in your lodge whom you have not heard from in some time to pledge your friendship and extend an invitation to lodge.

Organize a service project to give back to the widows in your lodge through grocery delivery, home improvements, or rides to medical appointments.

Organize a special program in honor of sweethearts at your lodge, and arrange transportation for widows who live alone. Write or call members

Stated Meeting Dinner

Thursday February 7th, 2019

Dinner menu: Spaghetti with Meat Balls (or marinara), Salad, Garlic

Bread, Tiramisu for Dessert

Reservations 707 762-4171

Please make reservations before February 2nd

February Birthdays



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|-----------------|-------------|
| *Robert Taylor | February 4 |
| *John Gause III | February 12 |
| *Martin McKeay | February 12 |
| *Richard Warren | February 17 |

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

Secretary, Guy Chalmers: 707-477-3046 E-Mail: JMC329@aol.com

of your lodge who reside at our Masonic Homes in Union City and Covina

Remember your pledge to your brothers, and to their families in kind. Treat their widows with the respect, devotion, and care you would bestow on the honored women in your life.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Stuart A. Wright
Grand Master

From the West Continued....

We need to have more brothers coming out for practices on Thursday night. If we increase our number of active members it should help. But there also needs to be the realization in the minds of active Masons that they can do the job and that the lodge needs them to do it.

Certainly the lodge needs you involved in the leadership building process one way or another, but I want to stress to the newer Master Masons in the lodge that it's a wonderful opportunity to become a greater man not only by giving of your time to your brothers and the community but also by developing a greater understanding of the ritual that is presented to Entered Apprentices, Fellowcrafts, and Master Masons.

I am always amazed to hear about men who don't participate in Masonry any more after going through the three degrees. It's like quitting school after the 3rd grade. There's quite a bit of learning that you receive from teaching anything from fixing a flat to getting back on your feet after falling flat. You really get a deeper understanding by teaching and so far I've begun to understand how men become enlightened in Masonry not just in

the first 3 degrees but also in participating in the offices that are associated with the 5 or 7 leadership chairs. By becoming an officer you become a teacher of younger Masons and others. Even through the simple repetition of lines, a deeper meaning from the ritual begins to seep in to the mind of the officer. It is not through Geometry alone that men are enlightened, but it helps to work at it.

Any of the good men that go through the line at the Petaluma-Hamilton Lodge will improve their leadership skills because of the support of mentors and coaches but it takes a willingness on the part of a Master Mason to grasp the opportunity. There is the possibility that you will be able to use these skills to improve conditions for your family and our community. Please join me on this journey as a mentor or lodge officer.

~ Don Nicodemus
Senior Warden

From the Editor

What is Masonic Homes? The first time I heard the term Masonic Homes I thought "Retirement Community". Little did I know Masonic Homes is "Masonic Assistance". They provide support and serve Masons and their families not just Seniors.

Masonic Assistance is here to meet the Masons needs within the residential communities for seniors and provide outreach programs for Masons and their families alike. There are four basic programs.

The first is **Masonic Homes for Seniors**. This program is a continuing care retirement community (CCRCs)

and offers an active senior living while providing companionate care for Masons and their spouses.

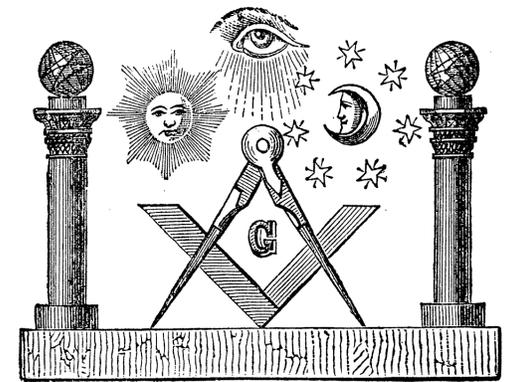
The second program is **Masonic Senior Outreach Services (MSOS)**. This program assistance and resources to seniors who prefer to remain in their own home or within their own local retirement communities.

The third program is **Masonic Family Outreach Services (MFOS)**. This provides assistance to families dealing with complex issues including but not limited to divorce, unemployment, foreclosure, children with special needs, as well as information on local resources.

The fourth program is the **Masonic Center for Youth and Families (MCYAF)**. This program offers assessment and treatment services for children from 4 to 17 challenged by learning, behavioral, and mental health issues.

For more information I encourage you to visit masonichome.org, email intake@mhccuc.org, or call 888/466-3642.

~ David Sonnenberg
Editor



Find us on Facebook and Instagram

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

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





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Petaluma, Ca 94953-0727

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Permit No. 20

Dated material-do not hold

February 2019

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|-----|--------------------------|------|-----|---|-----|-----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Lodge #180 Family Dinner/ Stated Meeting | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 DARK Valentines Day | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 Presidents Day | 19 | 20 | 21 3rd Degree Practice/ Comittee Meetings | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 3rd Degree Practice | | |