



# On the Hour

July 2019, Issue 6

## From The East



### My Brethren,

I recently had the privilege of being a name reader at the Graduation Ceremony of the high school I work at. Being a part of that major milestone for my students was an incredible experience. The speakers were all well spoken and to the point. The speeches surprised me because they all shared a common theme. Each speech spoke about how it will fall to their generation to one day do all that they can to help heal the world. Each speech spoke about overcoming any and all obstacles to accomplish this goal. It was very inspiring, which sparked a question in me: "How can I help them achieve success?"

At last month's meeting we had the pleasure of hearing about Let's Write the Future, The Masonic Foundation's campaign to raise money for two causes near-and-dear to all of our hearts: Raising a Reader and Masonic Homes. I see Let's Write the Future as a two pronged approach to answer the question I posed myself, and to do real tangible good in our community.

By supporting Raising a Reader we will be funding local classrooms, and putting books in the hands of children who might not otherwise have books at home. Early childhood literacy is one of the most accurate predictors for future success. If we can give at risk children the needed support early in life, it will pay dividends for decades to come. By supporting Masonic Homes

we provide a safe place for our Brethren, and their families, to live and be taken care of when they need it most. It is a way of thanking them for their tireless service to improve the world around them.

Sometimes a problem can be solved by direct intervention. Something immediate and tangible that will result in positive change for years afterwards. More often, however, real change is enacted in the world by a series of smaller actions, maintained over a long period of time. Many Lodges are making long term commitments to these causes, promising to give a certain amount of money over a 5-year interval. Instead of focussing on one large action, they are instead promising a series of much smaller actions.

At our upcoming July Stated Meeting we will be discussing the future goals of Petaluma-Hamilton, and plotting out the multitude of small actions that will carry us there.

I hope to see you then,

Alexander Saslow

Master



## From The West



### Brothers,

Our Masonic family is an ancient and honorable one. In 2020, we will talk about a "Vision of Charity" for Petaluma Hamilton Lodge No. 180. That is a vision of where we are going as a Lodge and a vision of where we came from.

This is part two 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 last 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 2 starts as follows on page 3 and 4.

*Continued On Page 3 & 4*

## Treasurer's Corner



### My Brothers

It is a fantastic thing to see members of our great Fraternity come together and work on our ancient ceremonies. Having them attend practice not because they were told to or because it's expected, but because they want to ensure that the candidate has the best possible experience through their Initiation, Passing, and Raising. It is joyous to see everyone gathered on Thursday nights to study not only the words of Freemasonry but the lessons also, making us—collectively and individually—better.

To the candidates working through our mysteries, I am impressed at the progress you have made, many in a very short time. It is evident by your zeal that you care a great deal about self-improvement and involvement in our rich history. To the officers diligently rehearsing their roles in all of our rituals, I commend you on the dedication and camaraderie I see each time I step into Lodge. To those visitors who enrich us by their presence, I thank you and hope for your soon return.

I want to take this opportunity to specifically recognize the men who have come before us, either in ages of antiquity or those still in living memory. Many of our coaches, advisors, and friends were not Masters or even officers of the Lodge, but each left an indelible mark on our character. Modern nights are busy, hectic, and

filled with other pursuits both necessary and trivial. I would love to see all those Brothers who have taken breaks from the Lodge return, if even just to see the great strides their legacy has allowed us to achieve.

Our Lodge is beautiful, vibrant, and filled with good cheer, all of which is a direct result of the hard work, dedication, and personage of the Brothers who have come to define Freemasonry in Petaluma.

Thank you all for your dedication, I sincerely look forward to seeing you soon.

Christopher C. Wright. PM  
Lodge Treasurer

### Happy Birthday

- Bynum Craig Jr. July 2nd
- Arthur Gearing July 2th
- Ralph Hawkins July 3rd
- Richard Hunt July 10th
- George Cavalieri July 11th
- George Whitten July 11th
- James Moulder Jr July 13th
- Mark McLoughlin July 14th
- James Stern July 14th
- Donald Fowler July 19th
- Ronald Lipe July 20th
- Charles Severson July 26th
- Michael Nadal July 27th
- Raymond Robinson July 29th

### Grand Master's Proclamation:



JULY 2019 IS  
SUPPORT OUR VETERAN'S  
MONTH

Freemasonry: The Difference Is You

Whereas, our fraternity has always championed patriotism and heartfelt service to country, from the Founding Fathers who established our great nation through the Masons who continue to bravely serve on our behalf today; and

Whereas, tens of thousands of our Masonic brothers and sisters have fearlessly devoted their lives to public service through the armed forces to protect the freedoms we treasure as citizens of this great country; and

Whereas, each July 4 on Independence Day, we celebrate the freedoms achieved by these brothers and sisters through their sacrifices and unwavering devotion to protecting and championing democracy; now,

Therefore, as grand master, I proclaim July 2019 as Support Our Veterans Month in California. I ask all lodges to express gratitude to the veterans in your lodge and community at a special pro-

Stated Meeting Dinner Menu:  
Thursday, July 11th, 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)

gram during the July stated meeting. And, I encourage you all to continue your recognition of these brothers and sisters, and their profound sacrifices, throughout the remainder of the year.

Each one of us – through our individual and collective efforts – can make a lasting difference in a veteran's life. As California Masons and as honorable men, our acknowledgement of and gratitude for our veterans is meaningful. Let us ensure that we recognize, support, and celebrate those who have risked their precious lives so that we may pursue all the ambitions that our glorious freedom provides.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Stuart A. Wright

#### *From the West Continued*

France, Cyprus, Anjou, Jerusalem, England, Aragon, Portugal, Italy, Tripoli, Antioch, Hungary, and Croatia all had a Templar presence and had a Master of the Order. All of whom were subject to the Grand Master who oversaw the order's military efforts and their financial holdings. The Grand Master exercised his authority via the visitors-general of the order, who were knights specially appointed by the Grand Master to visit the different provinces, correct malpractices, introduce new regulations, and resolve important disputes.<sup>8</sup>

Jasper Ridley falls into the guild-only camp of historians. In 1999, while not a Mason himself, but having been provided with access by Freemasons to historical documents, he has been able to refute many of the outrageous

claims made by anti-masons. In his book *The Freemasons*, Ridley says that Masonic guilds, which built castles and cathedrals starting as early as 1050 in France were the predecessor organizations of modern freemasonry. He says that Masons in those early years were of two types: the rough masons, the hewers of the hard stone that was the support structure in cathedrals and the free stone masons who were more highly skilled and "carved the fine façade on the cathedral face."<sup>9</sup> The softer stone in which they worked was called free-stone. Ridley says free-stone mason was shortened to freemason.

Tim Wallace-Murphy and Marilyn Hopkins in their book *Templars in America: From the Crusades to the New World* clearly draw the Templar connection to Masonry. They cite the work of Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh (authors of *The Temple and the Lodge*), and John Robinson (author of *Born in Blood*), saying that these authors all "confirm with hard historical fact the traditions passed down in French Freemasonry."



**La Rochelle Temple Comanderie**

Tim and Marilyn claim a substantial number of Knights Templar carry-

## 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.

ing a horde of treasure "was sent for safekeeping to Scotland" from La Rochelle, a hotbed of Templar activity, along with a fleet of eighteen ships and many brothers.<sup>10</sup>

They took refuge in Scotland because King Robert the Bruce and his nobles had been excommunicated "and the entire country was under papal interdict. This meant that the Pope's writ [to arrest Templars and disband the order] did not run in the kingdom of the Scots, making it a safe refuge for Templar Knights in flight from the clutches of the Inquisition."<sup>11</sup>

The authors claim that the Beauseant, the black and white banner of the Knights Templar and a fresh force saved the day for the Scots at the battle of Bannockburn in 1314.<sup>11</sup>

The claim that Freemasonry has its roots in the Order of the Knights Templar has been made by Freemasons and anti-masons alike since the 18th century, when modern Freemasonry was first formed.<sup>13</sup> It is also clear that almost all modern Masonic Knight Templar lodges were created years after modern Freemasonry was founded; they were formed with sympathy to the idea that there might be a

**Find us on Facebook and Instagram**

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

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





### Temple Church in London

connection to the Templars. The original claim of Templar ancestry was based on somewhat flawed evidence, causing the idea to be somewhat discredited. This original, poor case is what, I believe, has led Ridley to say that “some Freemasons have thought that it was more romantic to be descended from a persecuted religious order of chivalry than from a trade union of operative masons.”<sup>14</sup> Ridley certainly concludes after exploring the history of the Knights Templar that while it is “not impossible” that some Templars went to Aberdeen and Edinburgh in Scotland and even joined masons’ lodges, “they played no part in the development of speculative Freemasonry in Scotland and England.”<sup>15</sup> He says that while there are similarities, there are also big differences. The biggest difference being that the members of the Knights Templar were Roman Catholics, not deists.

How similar or different are the Freemasons from the hard stone masons’ guilds? Where do traditions come from? Consider organizational culture or a code of conduct or the ideas of religious tolerance or mutual aid for that matter; where do these aspects of Freemasonry come from? More recent scholarship in Masonic history has highlighted hard evidence of Templar connection and heritage. Sanford Holst, who has been elected to the Royal Historical Society in England, has written several books that address this question of the



### Templar Convent of Christ Castle, Tomar, Portugal

legacy that modern Freemasonry has enjoyed. Of note is his book *Sworn in Secret, Freemasonry and the Knights Templar*; it gets past uninformed claims and explores the hard evidence supporting the cultural and organizational heritage which connects the Knights Templar to modern Freemasonry. He talks of the traditions like the one involving the Knights Templar at Bannockburn, which he admits is disputed by hard evidence,<sup>16</sup> but he draws on the work of John J. Robinson and adds his own analysis of symbols and ancient documents. He goes on to make the case for the evolution of the Templars’ organization into Freemasonry.

He says that on Friday, October 13, 1307, the French King, Philippe le Bel, in an attempt to appropriate the wealth of the Templars, trumped up charges against them and arrested many leaders. Later he had his appointed Pope and relative, Clement V officially disband the order.<sup>17</sup> Holst says that there were about 4,000 brothers in the Order at that time, but says that only 500 were arrested. He rightly asks, “what happened to the 3500 others?”<sup>18</sup> Most of the property and men of the Templar Order were outside the reach of the French King in places like England, and Bordeaux in Aquitaine which was then under English control, Aragon & Castile (Spain), the Holy Roman Empire (Germany), La Rochelle, an independent community, and importantly

Scotland. Did that day mark the end of the Templars? Stay tuned to until the next issue of the Tresleboard. In the mean time here are some pictures of Templar masonry.

### Some Knights Templar Sites

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Knights\\_Templar\\_sites](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Knights_Templar_sites)

\* La Rochelle Temple Comanderie

\* Temple Church in London

\* Templar Convent of Christ Castle, Tomar, Portugal

<sup>8</sup> Wikipedia, “Knights Templar,” [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knights\\_Templar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knights_Templar).

<sup>9</sup> Jasper Ridley, *The Freemasons, A History of the World’s Most Powerful Secret Society*, p. 26.

<sup>10</sup> Tim Wallace-Murphy and Marilyn Hopkins, *Templars in America: From the Crusades to the New World*, p 17.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, p 18.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Jasper Ridley, *The Freemasons, A History of the World’s Most Powerful Secret Society*, p. 27.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid, p. 26.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, p. 28.

<sup>16</sup> Sanford Holst, *Sworn in Secret, Freemasonry and the Knights Templar*, p. 193. Holst says that the accounts given in the 1300s generally agree that no Templars were seen at Bannockburn, but “disproving one possible link does not mean all possible links have been disproved.”

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, p. 155.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

## Hall Association

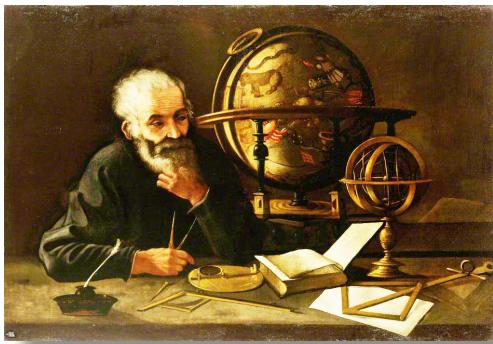


Bretheren,

Due to exigent circumstances, the Hall Association was not able to muster a quorum for the June meeting. Needless to say, there will be much on the table in the coming month as we tackle lease renewals, insurance issues, building maintenance and rental requests.

Fraternally,

Tim Giddings;  
Hall Association President



## Geometry Corner

Nature is filled with beautiful proportions. By determining these proportions humans have been able to learn about how the universe works, and then use that knowledge for the betterment of all. As Freemasons we use the tools and lessons of architecture as a guide to important moral truths. As such, I wanted to share with you a small lesson on one of these marvelous proportions found in nature, that architects have long employed.

The Pythagorean Theorem states that the three sides of a right triangle are dependent upon each other by a specific mathematical relationship. The legs of the triangle are the two sides that intersect each other at a right angle, or 90°. The hypotenuse is the longest side, which is directly opposite this right angle.

Geometry shows us that regardless of the lengths involved the lengths of the two legs and the hypotenuse will always be related by the following equation:

$$(lengthA)^2 + (lengthB)^2 = (length \text{hypotenuse})^2$$

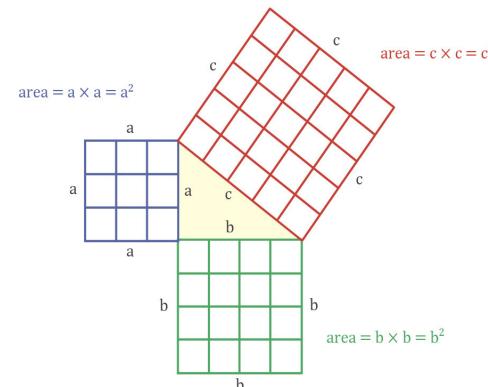
More commonly written as  $a^2+b^2=c^2$

A note: the area of a square (which has four sides of equal length) is equal to the length of one leg squared. Putting these two things together we get that:

The area of a square with lengthA

sides, plus the area of a square with lengthB sides, is equal to the area of a square with lengthC sides (the hypotenuse).

Visually represented as:



Which we find in our own symbolism.

Notice that the number of panels in the two smaller squares do indeed add up to the number of panels in the largest of the square.

## Masonic Quotes of Wisdom

**"If it's your job to eat a frog, it's best to do it first thing in the morning. And If it's your job to eat two frogs, it's best to eat the biggest one first."**

Mark Twain

From the Editor



Over the past few months I have been talking about different working tools, and sharing my insights in relation to them. The 24-inch gauge is an instrument to reminds us of time management. This month will focus on tips and tricks to help us all better manage your time.

In todays world it is easy to lose sight

of what is most important to us and manage all the tasks at hand without sacrificing aspects that are most near and dear to our hearts.

Time Management is not about making more time in a day, it is about utilizing what we have and making the most of it. Many professionals will tell you to create a to-do-list. The next step is prioritize your list by most important to least important.

This months Masonic Quote of Wisdom reminds us that we should always take care of the most important tasks first, and not procrastinate. This holds true to your list.

Other steps include looking to see what you can delegate to others. In addition its important to set time limits to each task.

Outside of creating a To-Do-List manage your time by creating a routine with healthy habits. These habits should focus on healthier lifestyles such as exercise, meditation, ample sleep and eating healthy. When we feel rested & good about ourselves. We are apt to be able to focus better and accomplish more. Within your routine set designated times to check email or voicemails as to not be a distraction in the middle of focusing on another task.

Utilize a digital calendar on your phone so that you can help plan ahead for future events.

Faternally,  
David Sonnenberg  
Trestleboard Editor

For more information on time Management please visit the following sights:

\*<https://www.forbes.com/sites/johnrampton/2018/05/01/manipulate-time-with-these-powerful-20-time-management-tips/#64e89f2a57ab>.

<https://www.thebalancesmb.com/time-management-tips-2947336>



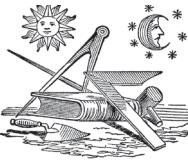
Petaluma-Hamilton Lodge No. 180 F&AM  
P.O. Box 727  
Petaluma, Ca 94953-0727

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

Dated material-do not hold



## JULY 2019

| SUN   | MON             | TUES             | WED                    | THURS                                 | FRI | SAT                       |
|---|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|
|  | 1<br>Royal Arch | 2<br>Rainbow #6  | 3                      | 4<br>Independence Day                 | 5   | 6                         |
| 7   | 8               | 9                | 10<br>Hall Association | 11<br>Potluck Dinner & Stated Meeting | 12  | 13<br>2nd Degree Practice |
| 14  | 15              | 16<br>Rainbow #6 | 17                     | 18<br>Fellowcraft Degree              | 19  | 20                        |
| 21  | 22              | 23               | 24                     | 25                                    | 26  | 27                        |
| 28  | 29              | 30               | 31                     |                                       |     |                           |