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## From The East

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Brethren,

We have a busy few months ahead of us! Early this month we will be Raising a Brother to the degree of Master Mason, and in the months following we are looking at two Brothers to be passed to the degree of Fellowcraft, as well as a handful of Initiations. Keep your eyes on the calendar, and I encourage all to attend as many Degrees as possible! There is no better way to learn your proficiency than to attend a Degree, except perhaps participating as part of the Degree Team.

Grand Master Stuart Wright has declared March Youth Order's Month. It is incumbent upon us, as Masons, to do all that we can to foster the growth of our Youth Orders. These groups are instrumental in fostering leadership, a sense of morality, and life skills in the youth of today. It is our responsibility, as the adults in their life, to do all that we can to help in these regards.

This is a topic close to my heart as an educator. The goal of our public school systems is to teach all of our students varied content knowledge, life skills, and (most importantly) the ability to learn. Although there is no way of knowing exactly what skills and knowledge they will need as adults, we can be assured that skills like leadership, public speaking, the importance of hard work, team work, and the ability to learn will always be

necessary. In fact, they are fundamental to their success not only as individuals, but also the success of our society as a whole. For what society can function without leaders, innovators, problem solvers, and (what we in education call) "life long learners"?

As such I ask that all Masons do their utmost to attend a regular meeting of one of the local youth groups this month. I also want you to ask them two questions:

How can we, as a Lodge, support them?

How can you, as an individual, support them?

The Youth Groups deserve our support, and the best way to give them what they need is to show up at a meeting and ask what it is they need from us. It is my hope that we can participate in at least one community service project this year with our local Rainbow and Demolay groups. More on that in months to come.

I'll see you at the Stated Meeting!

Alex Saslow  
Master



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## From The West

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Brethren,

In the 1980 film, *The Blues Brothers*, two brothers, played by Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi, see the light and go on a "mission from God" to save the orphanage in which they were raised from foreclosure. Through a series of comic misadventures and musical expression that often leads the audience to sheer joy and bliss, they succeed in rescuing the home which raised them through no small effort on their part, a good deal of luck, and perhaps divine intervention.

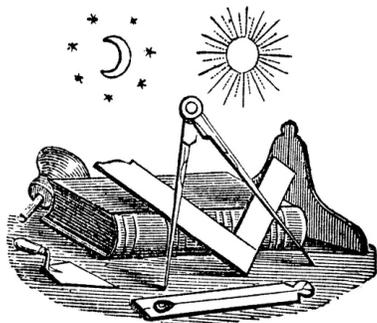
Freemasons are not unfamiliar with the idea of a mission from God. In fact, many historians and authors believe that in addition to the freestone masons guilds, our organization had its roots in the ancient order of The Poor Knights of the Temple of Solomon, a.k.a. the Knights Templar whose original mission was to protect those religious travelers on their way to Jerusalem seeking enlightenment, self-redemption, or simply to worship, etc. Many of those knights, who went back to the cradle of their religion about 1,000 years ago, were inspired at mass gatherings and departed with shouts of "God wills it."

My intent is not to glorify crusaders, nor Jake and Elwood Blues for that matter, because heaven knows, they did some terrible things as well as good deeds. It's part of the mysteries of life

## FROM THE WEST CONTINUED...

and history that sometimes, not so great men who have their failings are called on to do great things. Men can be inspired to do great things for their fellow creatures and their associations which raised and inspired them. Do modern Freemasons have a mission? To help the homeless or aged brothers or widows, to assist with the education of the next generation who will help us when we are less able, to aid the victims of disaster are all part of the mission of the Petaluma-Hamilton Lodge.

Some might well ask, are we doing enough, and indeed we can do more and still share the joy, bliss and music of our community. There may be one or two brothers who say that, due to the lodge's recent financial circumstances beyond most brothers' control, the lodge is not able to give away as many scholarships, assist as many fire victims, cheer up as many widows or give away as many gifts to children during our holiday season. I say we must do more and I know our brothers will personally be generous even if they cannot be as active as they like. Others might say, show me how we can do this when we don't have enough active leaders. I say, we do need more brothers to step forward, and having a vision of our mission will help build that leadership.



What is the mission of our brotherhood? I think that can be found in the three principal tenets of Freemasonry -- brotherly love, relief, and truth. Our mission is important even though it might not be clear in any particular stated meeting. Just as participating in Freemasonry means different things to different men, so too do different

Masons have different abilities and greatness within them. The practical interpretation of that mission each year, for each local lodge, falls on the Worshipful Master and it falls on the leadership of the lodge to communicate and execute that vision. With your assistance I think we will succeed. May you enjoy unity, peace and prosperity.



* Don Nicodemus	March 2nd
* Lawrence Runstrom	March 3rd
* Vern Dorethy	March 4th
* William Padgett	March 4th
* David Letasi	March 5th
* Michael Marham	March 6th
* Guy Chalmers	March 8th
* Alexander Saslow	March 14th
* Michael Sullivan	March 16th
* Jeffery Lister	March 19th
* Brian Brozavic	March 27th
* James Warnken	March 29th



## Grand Master's Proclamation:

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MARCH 2019 IS  
YOUTH ORDERS MONTH

**Freemasonry:** The Difference Is You

Whereas, as we strive to make a difference in the world, it is natural to consider the generations that follow us as a source of inspiration that guides and inspires us; and

Whereas, the Masonic youth who participate in DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Rainbow for Girls hold an integral role in the future of our Masonic family, acting as a catalyst for great ideas, new possibilities, and future leadership; and

Whereas, since these youth share the treasured values of Freemasonry, they are strengthened alongside us as we

### Stated Meeting Dinner

Thursday March 7th, 2019

Dinner menu: Salad with Bread and butter, Marinated Spring Lamb served with Red Potatoes and Carrots

Reservations 707 762-4171  
Please make reservations before  
February 28th

### 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)

exemplify these values in our own lives; and

Whereas, our 2020 Fraternity Plan calls upon us to make a positive impact in society; now,

Therefore, as grand master, I proclaim March 2019 to be Youth Orders Month in California. I call upon all California Masons to make a difference for the future of our fraternity by supporting the incredible young people who have turned to Masonic values for guidance. Reach out to the local youth orders in your community to learn how your lodge may provide supporting roles as mentors, chaperones, or ritual coaches. Offer to host meetings or events at your lodges. Plan events at your lodges for youth order members and their families to enjoy.

Our Masonic youth are the leaders of tomorrow. Imagine what they may achieve with the full support of our brotherhood!

Sincerely and fraternally,

Stuart A. Wright  
Grand Master

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### From the Assistant Secretary

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Brethren,

It is vitally important to maintain your membership to be able to participate in Freemasonry, and all the rights and benefits therein. If you have not paid, demitted, or remitted your dues, you are in arrears. Those memberships in arrears cost the Lodge each year through the per capita tax to Grand Lodge. Please pay your dues as

soon as possible to avoid suspension. Please reach out to the secretary by email or phone to make arrangements to pay them post haste.

Fraternally,

William "Woody" Purdy PM  
Assistant Secretary

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### From The Editor

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Brethren,

In this issue of the trestleboard I would like to share an interpretation how we as free and accepted Masons can make use of the plumb for a more noble and glorious purpose. As the fellowcraft ritual teaches us, this tool "admonishes us to walk upright in our several stations before god and man". To me this invokes the idea of situational awareness. Only through having situational awareness can we truly offer relief, charity, and hope to our communities and society as a whole. Before continuing lets first address the definition of situational awareness. According to Wikipedia, situational awareness is defined as "the perception of environmental elements and events with respect to time or space, the comprehension of their meaning and the projection of their future events."

Let's break this definition down. Understanding environmental elements and events basically means understanding what is going on in the direct world around us, how it affects us and how we can affect it. Let's revisit the plumb's lesson to us and walking upright. If we walk upright, with our



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email: [intake@mhcuc.org](mailto:intake@mhcuc.org)  
or call: 888/466-3642.

heads held high, we are more able to see and recognize what is going on in the world around us and our direct environment.

If we have our heads down and are-focused on our smart phones, tablets or what is directly in front of us, then we miss what is happening around us and won't catch the important details that will allow us to stay safe and keep others safe. In addition it enables us to be the catalyst of change and make a difference in the world around us. In turn we continue to benefit our communities and society as a whole.

One of the best levels of defense, as well as the best way to gauge the situation is to make eye contact with those around you. By doing so, we recognize their presence and they recognize ours.

The other aspect to situational awareness and walking upright is that it stops us from becoming a victim. By being aware of what is around us, we begin to recognize the potential threats as well as those who could use our help.

Only by being aware of our surroundings can we truly offer help to those in need while ensuring our safety. No doubt this is a very deep topic that can be explored more so and I encourage you to do so at your leisure.

~ David Sonnenberg

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

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





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Petaluma, CA  
Permit No. 20

Dated material-do not hold

## March 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 3rd Degree	15	16
17 St. Patricks Day	18	19	20	21 Fellowship Night/ Comittee Meetings	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28 Degree Practice	29	30