

From The East



Bretheren

The January 2020 Masonic activities of Petaluma-Hamilton Lodge #180 F&AM were stimulating, entertaining, and educational.

We had the installation of officers on January 12. Although not all of our elected officers were installed at this annual public event, we did have a great time and let friends and family know more about Masonry. The event was educational and entertaining. Live classical music was played by Jonathan Davis, the Assistant Grand Organist of California. His music was sublime, beautiful, and offered a great counterpoint to talks that discussed the roles of officers at our lodge and examples of how Masons have benefited society in the past. Several more officers will be installed at one of the upcoming stated meetings in a private Masons-only ceremony.

I want to especially thank Worshipful Glen Hallaway, Past Master of Petaluma-Hamilton, for coming all the way from his home in Nevada to deliver the eloquent comments as the Installing Officer, Worshipful Alex Saslow, Past Master, for being the Master of Ceremonies, and Worshipful Richard Fonseca, Past Master, for invoking the blessing of God as Chaplain. Also, all brothers who heard Jonathan Davis play and who happen to see him in the months ahead should thank him for his terrific musical accompaniment at the Petaluma-Hamilton cere-

mony that Sunday. If you missed the event please check out some of the photos in this issue which portray some of the fellowship and community interest expressed that day.

We had the raising of Eugene Jeanne on Saturday, January 25 which took him through the third degree to become a Master Mason. Every man present played an important role and I certainly want to thank Michael Paynter who provided more historical depth to the lecture and whose slides were a great addition. We also had the assistance of Ray Schmalz, past Grand Lodge Treasurer, in playing a role because we were missing brother Martin Mc Keay, PM who was to play his traditional role, but could not do so because he was still recovering from an accident. He is still in our prayers for a speedy recovery.

We also expected the raising of Brother Steve Christensen on January 30 to go very well but with a slightly different cast of characters. Check with the brothers who may have been there as that was due to happen as we were going to press with this Trestleboard.

I'm sorry that we missed some of you at these events, but hope to see you at our future events, particularly the raising of David Letasi on Thursday, February 13 at 7 p.m. where Michael Paynter will present his talk for Master Masons only.

A couple of fellows from Petaluma and I attended a lecture by the Grand Lodge Secretary, Very Worshipful

Brother Allan Casalou who presented his paper entitled "The Apron and the Robe: The Masonic Influence in the Life and work of Chief Justice Earl Warren." The event was open to all Masons and their guests. The Northern California Research Lodge presented Allan with the 2020 John L. Cooper III Fellowship Medal. The lecture was very informative and detailed how important Earl Warren was in promoting public education in California. I also learned that April 2020 is the 100th anniversary of Public Education Month among California Freemasons. Public education support activities were conducted in April at California Masonic lodges, including Petaluma-Hamilton, from 1920 to 2020.

This April we will commemorate this 100th anniversary of the great work that Masons have done in California to promote free public education. There will be presentations, news and activities that you can participate in as we begin to do more for the California Raising-a-Reader program in Sonoma County and elsewhere. This year we will also be providing more scholarships for local graduating seniors and more teacher mini-grants. We hope to see you at our public education tribute dinner on April 2 at 6:30 p.m. which will be open to the public and will showcase what Petaluma-Hamilton Lodge #180 is doing this year to support public education. We will send out special invitations for this event and hope that more educators will find out more about Freemasonry.
Don Nicodemys
~ Worshipful Master

Installation Comments



We are truly blessed by the Great Archetect, the supreme intelligence which pervades all nature. Masons believe in brotherly love, mutual aid, relief, and truth. The theme for Petaluma-Hamilton Lodge #180 this year is 2020: a Vision of Charity and our symbol for the year is the coastal redwood. In these ideas there is a personal story of what Masonic charity, love, relief and truth has meant to me and my family even though we did may not have realized it at the time.

My mother who was from a southern share-cropper family of limited means in Arkansas was born with a severe disabling condition in her right arm and leg – a condition which could have been of considerable detriment

February Stated Meeting Family Dinner Menu:

Thursday, February 6, 2020 6.30pm

Old Fashioned Spaghetti
and Meat Balls
Caesar Salad
Rolls and Butter
Special Dessert

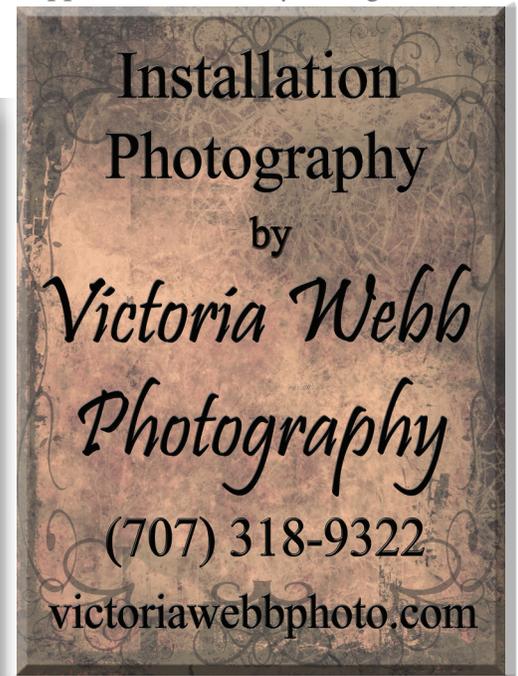
Prepared and served by the Adults
and Girls of Petaluma Assembly #6
I.O.R.G.

Please make a reservation by calling
707-762-4171 by February 3, 2020
If you special dietary needs please
leave info with your reservation.

to her future life and family. Fortunately, an uncle who was a Mason got her admitted to Shirners' Hospital in Shreveport Luisiana, the first hospital of it's kind in the nation committed to treating disabilities and supported by donations from the Shrine, a Masonic organization. Thousands of Masons throughout the nation made small donations to create and support the Shirner's Hospitals in America.

My mother as a very young child spent several months in the hospital with operations and treatments, all at no financial cost to her family. After leaving the hospital her ability to walk was much improved and she was able to eventually develop into a beautiful 16 year old young woman who met and married a very intelligent and hard working serviceman who was a baker in the Air Force. With her support and that of the G.I. bill he was able to obtain a Masters in Theology. They created a great family of 7 children who went on to have their own children all of whom are good, loving people who have a strong moral compass and have helped our society grow and improve. Nicodemus Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners typically include about 45 people.

Today when I am giving thanks for family and supportive friends, I realize that the work at Shirners' Hospital those many years ago made the difference in the ability of my parents to raise and support a large family. That happened almost 80 years ago, but



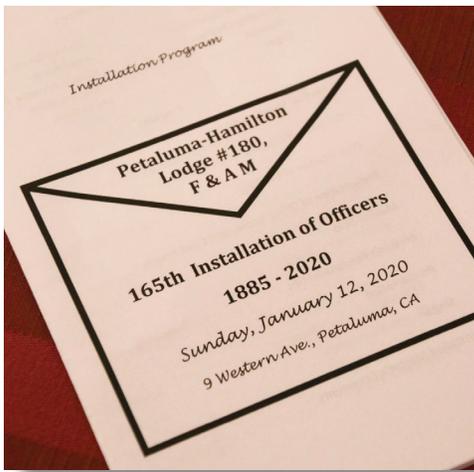
Lodge Contact Info:

<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, Don Nicodemus, 707-303-0244 E-Mail: don.nicodemus2@gmail.com

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



I even wonder if my parents would have even met or if, I, would even be around had it not been for that early intervention.

That great uncle that got her into the hospital and all those masons who donated to the system are long dead. The work we do today, the relief that we provide is charity that does last beyond the grave. Just as a family

grows with descendents etc., so can an act of charity grow.

This year Petaluma-Hamilton Lodge has budgeted substantial contributions to the California Grand Lodge's Raising-a-Reader Program which provides books for disadvantaged youth and encourages family reading, we will provide increased local scholarships and grants to support other educational and charitable work. I hope that you will join us in that work this year.

Efforts that may initially start as small things like a small redwood sprout may grow and make a big difference in good peoples' lives in the years ahead.

Don Nicodemus

Masonic Words of Wisdom

"Always tell the truth.

Stand by your obligations and commitments.

Constantly communicate both the good and the bad. Learn something new everyday."

~ Guy Chalmers ~





Masonic Homes of California

Need Help or Assistance ?
Contact Masonic Assistance
visit:www.masonichome.org
email: intake@mhcuc.org
or call: 888/466-3642.



CPR & AED TRAINING

Brethren,
Come join the Hall Association for a group training in the basics of CPR & using an AED on Tuesday, February 27th, 2020 at 6:30 pm on the 3rd Floor.
In the heat of the moment we do not rise to the occasion, we default to muscle memory and training.
All Masons and family are invited to attend.

~ David Sonnenbeg

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- Robert Taylor February 4th
- John Gause III February 12th
- Martin Mc Keay February 12th
- Richard Warren February 17th
- Ewald Westogak February 22nd

From The Editor



Brethren,
We have a busy year ahead of us. One of the many ways that you can help contribute to the lodge and its well being is to join one of our many committees. Below are a list of the different committees as well as a brief description of what each of these entities. Included is also the current chairman of each committee. If you are interested in joining one reach out to the chairman or the Worshipful Master to let him know.

Your help and assistance is always appreciated no matter how big or how small.

Charity - Responsible for the aid to brothers in need and lodge charitable programs.
Chairman: David Lopez

Budget & Finance - Reviews proposed budgets and advises on financial matters.
Chairman: Christopher Wright

Audit - Responsible for examination of bills, receipts, and accounts of the Lodge and Hall.
Chairman: Rich Fonsaca

Communications - Responsible for contacting and checking on membership, including widows. Every Brother and widow must be contacted at least once a year to update information.
Chairman: David Sonnenberg

Youth Groups - Responsible for keeping in touch with our youth orders and present any information to the Lodge on supporting such orders.
Chairman: George Whitten

Events - Responsible for the organization, planning, and execution of Lodge activities such as Annual Fundraiser, Holiday Party, Ladies Luncheon, etc.
Chairman: Vern Dorethy

Educational Charity - Responsible for selecting students who applied to receive the scholarship and teacher to receive mini grants. Communication with Petaluma Education Foundation should start early in the year. Chairman: William Purdy

Technology - Responsible for review of technology options for greater income to the lodge.
Chairman: Clay Whittaker

Hall Association Board of Directors

President &
Rental Coordinator- George Whitten
Vice President - Rich Fonseca
Secretary - David Sonnenberg
Director - Eugene Jeanne
Director - Angus Mac Lir
Director - John Monohan
Director - Don Nicodemus [Master]
Director - [Vacant][Sr. Warden]
Director - [VACANT]

Building Manager - Randy Steward

Gentlemen, there is one vacancy on the hall association. If you are interested please speak with George Whitten.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram

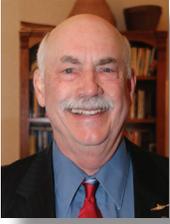


<https://www.facebook.com/PetalumaMasonry/>

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



Hall Association



Brethren,

I want to say thank you to my fellow board members of the Petaluma Masonic Hall Association who elected me president for this year.

It is my intent to work with all of the board to manage and maintain our beautiful building. Part of that management is working with our commercial tenants and helping them to be successful and thereby remain our tenants for the foreseeable future. An additional part of that management is working with the Master of the Lodge and his officers to provide a steady flow of income to the lodge after expenses and keeping due diligence in monitoring our spending on what is necessary to maintain the building.

The final part of that management is being a good listener and hearing what our brethren have to say regarding our building and acting accordingly. I plan to follow in the footsteps of our past president, Brother Tim Giddings and take a conservative approach to all matters that come before the board.

I congratulate Brother Tim on a successful 2019 year and thank him for his dedicated service to Petaluma-Hamilton Lodge. I ask the Great Architect to look over and guide all of us this coming year. Again, thank you Brethren.

Fraternally,

George F. Whitten
PMHA President

Brotherly Inight & Thoughts



Thoughts Upon Being Raised a Master Mason

After many painstaking practices amongst themselves, several Master Masons made me one of their own in a ceremony on January 25, 2020! It was a personal moment for me.

As a kid, I read about chivalry, honor, truth, courage and devotion to helping others. I learned how noble, true and larger-than-life a man's character, heart, soul and actions can and should be.

In my early teens, I read a lot about history, philosophy and science. I also learned about Crusaders whose actions sometimes seemed contradictory to both the Knights Honor Code and religion.

I read about the fall of the Templars followed by their overnight disappearance across Europe. What a loss, I thought. Heretic Templars? I just had a bit of a time with this.

Earlier conceptions in my mind greatly evolved. Indeed, the base lessons and core values in a young mind are molded and refined through learning, personal experiences and interactions with others. Mind and character grow progressively. It is a continuing journey of learning and self-improvement. In my latter teens, I learned about the advent of Free Masons in the 18th century and was captivated by them because they seemed in subtle ways to embody the noble rules and codes of conduct of the ancient Knights with a significant addition of rationality. I found that so much imagery, allegories and

symbolism could only mean that there is something hidden in plain sight inside the Craft, a world of experiences and lessons seemingly lost forever that yet cry to come out again. It meant to me that the lessons of that ancient world are not lost. You should find them and learn from them. You cannot stop learning and improving yourself.

As an adult, with a job and a loving family, it became vividly clear to me that man's mind and character evolve along a set of core values that he should not only refine and question on an on-going basis but also pass on to others, mostly through example. It is guidance learned from one's life's lessons, from which others might learn and maybe adopt, change and grow in their own way and quite possibly also allow us to grow further still. I am retired now and am still on a journey. A long-lasting learning and improving process. Free masonry is helping me in this journey.

As I told my brothers in the lodge when they first welcomed me into their fold, I take the steps of what should be a fulfilling and revealing adventure to be undertaken on my own certainly, but with the help and guidance of brothers. I am still now a beginner and a learner. I will learn and hopefully help guide others along their way. I can't wait to keep on my development, to be of value to the Craft, and continue this journey during which I'll still experience lessons that should make me one better man among better men.

Eugene Jeanne





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 Petaluma, Ca 94953-0727

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Dated material-do not hold



February 2020

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3  Royal Arch #22	4  Rainbow Girls #6	5 Hall Association	6  Installation Family Dinner & Stated Meeting	7	8
9	10	11	12	12 <i>3rd Degree Conferral</i>	14	15 Commandary #14 Council #46
16	17	18  Rainbow Girls #6	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Cpr & AED Basic Training	28	