



On the Hour

April 2021, Issue 21

From The East



Brothers,

This is the second in a series of three articles that were part of a paper presented at the Northern California Research Lodge by me on Tuesday, March 16. The paper is entitled, "Did Freemasonry Bring Light to Higher Education in California?" The paper discusses the past, present and future of free education after high school in California. Our Lodge is hosting a special discussion on free education. You are invited to attend a conference put on by our Petaluma-Hamilton Lodge #180 on April 15 at 7:00 p.m. (see the registration link in this issue of the Trestleboard). The conference should be quite entertaining and you can participate in the discussion of the future of Masonic Support for Public Education. State and local leaders will be available to answer questions and make comments.

The first in the series, which was in last month's Trestleboard, covered Masonic contributions to free public education from the days of the gold-mining camps in 1850 to 1920 when the annual Masonic celebration of public education was first initiated. What we now celebrate as Public Education Month started as Public Education Week in 1920, one hundred and one years ago this month. The conference will be a celebration of this centennial that we were unable to

perform last year.

1920 to 1970 A Zenith of Free Public Education

It was in 1920 that Freemasons in California began the first annual Public Schools Celebration. "It began when Charles Adams, a San Francisco attorney and grand master who was passionate about California schools, proclaimed Public Schools Week. During that week, Masonic lodges led community meetings to respond to the state's critical teacher shortage. Each succeeding grand master in California has continued the observance of Public Schools Week, now Public Schools Month."¹⁵ In the twenties there was a critical teacher shortage for K-12 schools. Masons supported the efforts to meet this need by creating more State Universities and colleges.

In the first 50 years UC opened 5 campuses before WW I. During this next period from 1920 to 1970, UC opened 4 new campuses starting with UCLA in the 1919-1920 school year and student enrollments went from about 10,000 to about 100,000.

In this period, we had statesmen, great Governors of California from both major parties, who provided support for free public higher education. Governors like Earl Warren, a former Grand Master of Masons in California who went on to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States in the 1950s, and Pat Brown who promoted the Master Plan for Higher Education. There

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From The South



Can women be Masons?

March being Women's History month reminded me that Masonic lodges such as ours in Petaluma do not accept women as members, though they may join us at public events.

Masonic lodges appeared in the early 18th century, when western cultures often considered women to be inferior to men, with roles centered around the home, family, and social gatherings. Women were effectively barred from "higher intellectual" roles such as becoming doctors, receiving university degrees, or running for political office. They were not thought of having sufficient intellect and fortitude and were often sneered at or demeaned for even thinking they could take on such roles. Most women of course had their own contrary ideas on this and rebelled.

Our western culture has slowly evolved since then, though the ERA has not passed, the media report unequal pay for equal work, and women are often still pushed into traditional roles such as nursing and teaching, positions where their instincts are supposed to be most effective. Yet, we all know women who are tough as steel, who are lawyers or doctors or scientists, who can be as ambitious as men, hold political positions, and can

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From the East Continued

were shortages of teachers in the 20th Century that were addressed by both UC and the State University system. Teaching at K-12 public schools was improved because the system of free higher education at the State Universities and Colleges assisted teachers and other school staff.

In next month's article and at the conference we will go "Back to the Future of Free Higher Education in California" and discuss how free education has suffered in the last 50 years. We will discuss such questions as these: Does it not behoove Masons and our society in general, even if we were only to consider narrow self interest, to provide assistance to young

students who will be the future providers of services and future essential workers? Who will take care of us when we are older? Do we not also want to support and reward those young men and women of great common sense who want to pursue work in the trades as plumbers, electricians, mechanics, gardeners, etc? Isn't it time that we get rid of the stigma and prejudices against blue collar careers, when masters in those fields can earn six figures these days and job openings go unfilled? Many students, starting even as early as middle school, begin to lose interest in schooling because it does not teach them enough about subjects in which they are most interested. How can this be addressed?

I hope to see you at our Zoom meeting on April 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Fraternally,

Don Nicodemus

Masons of California, "Masonry and Public Schools," freemason.org, San Francisco, Masons of California, p.1, <https://www.freemason.org/doc/Masonry%20and%20Public%20Schools.pdf?id=2414>, (accessed 02/02/2020). University of California Budget, "University of California: Finance," p.1, paragraph 29, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_California#Finances (accessed 02/02/2020). Zack Friedman, "California Wants To Pay For Your College," forbes.com, New York, Forbes, Inc., 09/03/2019, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/zackfriedman/2019/09/03/california-free-college/#45895c646beb>, (accessed 02/02/2020).

2/02/2020.



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

From the South Continued

still be as nurturing and loving as men can be. The present-day inequities between genders do not hide the facts that beside every great Mason there is a great woman, and that many Masons probably would not be Masons without the support of their female companions. Women are as smart as men and most Masons regard the girls and women in their family as equal to boys and men. When a Mason interviews a candidate for membership, he asks if he may also speak with the candidate's wife or female partner because we try to determine if they have questions of their own: women are an important part of a Mason's journey to become a better man.

The question "why can't women become Masons?" reveals lack of knowledge of Masonry and incorrectly assumes that women are rejected because of their gender: there are numerous women Masons.

For centuries, women and men have often preferred to be involved in committees, groups, and other assemblies consisting of people of their own gender; and there have also been mixed gender gatherings. With Freemasonry one also needs to consider that there is no central organization that effectively controls all masonic lodges around the world. Instead, there are independent, self-governing Grand Lodge jurisdictions, each with their own obedient lodges, sometimes several Grand Lodges within a given country or US state. Depending upon a jurisdiction, we can therefore have masculine, feminine and mixed gender lodges.

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

In the Grand Lodge of California jurisdiction (1), to which the Petaluma Lodge is obedient, only men can be members. However, we support active female orders such as the Order of the Rainbow for Girls (2), and Job's Daughters (3).

A different jurisdiction, the Order of the Eastern Star (4) accepts women and under certain eligibility requirements, men too. Others such as the Women's Grand Lodge of California (5) and the Women Free Masonry LA (6) accept women only. There are also masonic organizations that accept women as members under certain eligibility requirements, such as the Order of the Amaranth (7), the Daughters of the Nile (8), or the Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America (9). And there are jurisdictions with mixed gender memberships such as Le Droit Humain (10), the George Washington Union Grand Lodge (11), or the Universal Co-Masonry (12).

Thus, it is wrong to assume that no woman can become a Mason. In good business language, it depends. For more information on the above-mentioned organizations, you may refer to the following sources:

- (1) Grand Lodge of California (aka, Masons of California): Related Organizations - Masons of California (freemason.org) Women and Freemasonry Archives - California Freemason Magazine
- (2) California International Order of the Rainbow for Girls: The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls in California (gocarainbow.org)
- (3) California Job's Daughters: Home - JDIDI | Job's Daughters International of California (cajdi.org)
- (4) Order of the Eastern Star, Grand Chapter of California (mixed): Eastern Star — California (oescal.org)
- (5) Women's Grand Lodge of California: Women's Grand Lodge of California - Women Masons, Freemasons (wglca.org)
- (6) Women Free Masonry LA: Freemasonry for Women Los Angeles WFMLA
- (7) Order of the Amaranth:

Grand Court of California, Order of the Amaranth (caamaranth.org)
(8) Daughters of the Nile:
California | Daughters of the Nile
(9) Ladies' Oriental Shrine of North America:
Grand Council Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America, Incorporated - Home Western Area Courts/Unit Meet (ladiesorientalshrine.org)
(10) Le Droit Humain (mixed):
Freemasonry for Men and Women | LE DROIT HUMAIN Lodges of the Americas | Freemasonry for Men and Women | LE DROIT HUMAIN
(11) George Washington Union (mixed):
Mixed Gender Freemason Obedience (georgewashingtonunion.org)
(12) Universal Co-Masonry (mixed):
Universal Co-Masonry | Freemasonry for Men and Women (universalfreemasonry.org)

One last general comment, this one regarding the treatment of women today. In my view, we need to start by teaching our young to respect girls and women, and standing up to men who constantly berate females, discriminate against them or sexually impose themselves on them. Masons will never admit as brothers the men who are guilty of moral turpitude (13).

(13) Moral Turpitude legal definition of Moral Turpitude (thefreedictionary.com)



Northern California DeMolay Celebrates Its Centennial

On January 2, 2021, DeMolay in Northern California entered its centennial year. This means that DeMolay has provided more than 100 years of positive and moral influences on young men in their formative years. Membership in DeMolay has always provided a safe, worthwhile program where young men may excel as exceptional people and successful leaders. And the teachings of DeMolay are

youth-centric and based on similar values as Masonry. These values include the seven cardinal virtues of filial love, reverence, courtesy, comradehip, fidelity, cleanliness and patriotism as well as toleration, brotherhood, and honor.

Founded in Kansas City, Missouri in 1919, DeMolay International (formerly the DeMolay Council and the Order of DeMolay) came informally to the California cities of San Francisco and San Jose in 1920. By the first of the new year, chapters were formally being organized across the state. The program and ritual of this Masonic Youth Order enriches the lives of its members by providing a fun-filled set of events which develops key life skills such as team work, public speaking, budgeting, fundraising, collaboration and event planning. Under the mentorship of certified adult volunteers, most of whom are Master Masons, every DeMolay member is encouraged to develop at his own pace, making his own unique DeMolay experience.

DeMolay counts among its alumni a multitude of gentlemen who transformed the lessons and examples from their DeMolay experience into the foundation of success in their personal or professional lives. A select few are enshrined in our International Hall of Fame and include such noted leaders and luminaries as Walt Disney, John Steinbeck, and A.G. Spanos.

Northern California DeMolay continues to provide opportunities for character development, leadership training, and making lifelong friends and mentors. And, thereby, is building tomorrow's leaders, today!

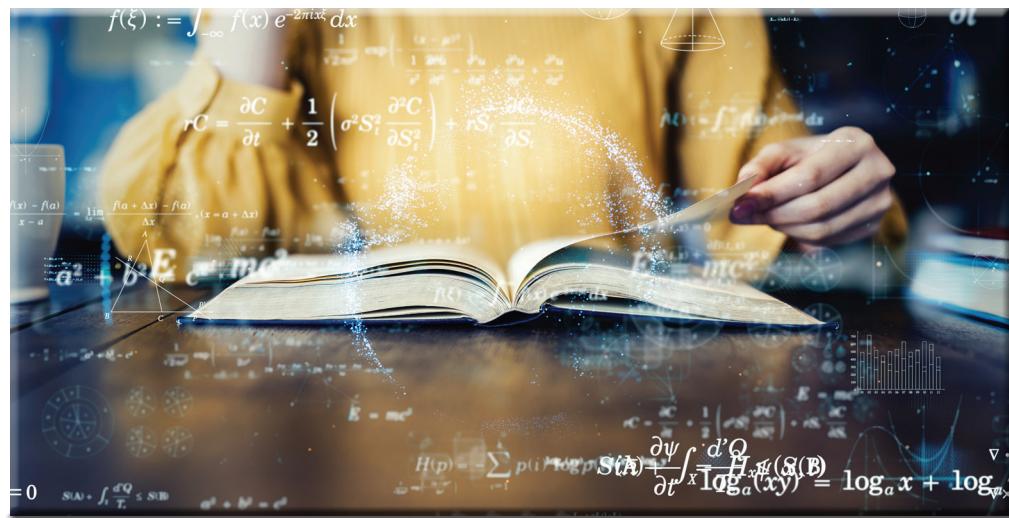
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<https://www.facebook.com/PetalumaMasonry/>

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



Petaluma-Hamilton Masonic Lodge # 180 Presents



Masonic Support for Public Education: Past, Present, & Future

Join Us for an Open Discussion

Special Guest Speakers & Attendees

- **Gary Callahan,**

Superintendent of Petaluma City Schools

- **Katrina Ciaffa,**

10,000 Degrees Regional Director for Sonoma & Napa Counties

- **Candler Gibson,**

Director of Masonic Philanthropy at the California Masonic Foundation

- **Jeff Wilkins,**

Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of California

April 15th, 2021 @ 07:00 PM on Zoom

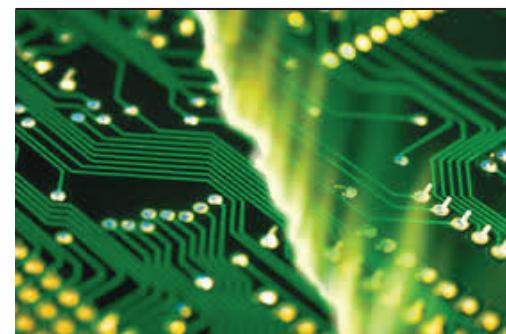
Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://scottishrite.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIsd-CqpzktGdCqj-S4IVPqxgGlRCKvUnSXh>

For more information about this upcoming event
please contact us at info@masons180.org



April Stated Meeting



Join us for our April Stated Meeting.
Thursday April 1st , 2021 at 7:30 pm

We will have a half hour for social interaction and start the Meeting at 8:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://nusd-org.zoom.us/j/88390702872?pwd=Wjdid1ZodnRvdWlRamViSHF1b3N1dz09>

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
1 888 788 0099 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 883 9070 2872

Passcode: 573490

Find your local number: <https://nusd-org.zoom.us/u/kcryTAhjr9>



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April 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			Hall Association (virtual)	1  Virtual Meeting	2	3
4	5  Royal Arch #22 Virtual Meeting	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	