

## From The East



Brothers,

Our Lodge has had an opportunity to promote friendships through activities like the Sonoma County Masonic Unity Picnic, we are enjoying our self-improvement work through ritual practice, and we continue to support and give back to the community.

We had a wonderful time at the Masonic Unity Picnic on June 19th in beautiful downtown Bloomfield. Thanks to all the great work by lodge brothers Eugene Jeanne, David Sonnenberg, Vern Dorethy, Guy Chalmers and John Monahan who is also Master of the Vitruvius Lodge which was the principal sponsor Lodge among many in Sonoma County. The music and food at the event were fantastic. A special thanks to Grand Master Arthur Weiss whose attendance helped raise funds for Masons for Mitts.

There is an upcoming first degree at Petaluma-Hamilton Lodge and we are practicing every Thursday night. If you would like to come to one of the Thursday night practices or the degree, please contact David Sonnenberg at (707) 494-1119 to get on an RSVP list.

Our lodge's mini-grant program this Spring was a huge success. We gave a total of 14 grants this year in support of classroom education at public schools in Petaluma and Novato. Ten went out to Petaluma classrooms and four to Novato. Students appreciated the items that teachers and staff were instrumental in bringing to the classrooms with the grants we provided. These items ranged from books to robots to spin cycles.

One of the teachers, Brenda Pfeifer from Loma Verde Elementary School in Novato said "Thank you so much for the lodge mini grant. With this grant, I was able to purchase 17 new books for my classroom! That is amazing!"

"These books range in a variety of topics. My students will learn about women as scientists with Shark Lady

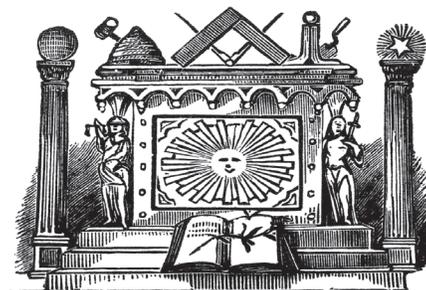
and Dinosaur Lady. They will learn about Native tribes in We are Still Here!: Native American Truths Everyone Should Know and Classified: The Secret Career of Mary Golda Ross, Cherokee Aerospace Engineer. Here is the World: A Year of Jewish Holidays is another book I can now share with them. Boys dancing, family history of a name, and other read aloud narrative stories that represent different cultures and races are now at my fingertips to share with my class."

"I really appreciate the support provided to me as a teacher with the lodge mini grant. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"

Brenda sent us a picture of some of her students and the books that she purchased. Please see the picture in the bottom left of this article.

I want to thank all the brothers past and present whose active involvement in the Lodge has made it possible for us to have these friendships, to be able to give back to our communities, and to give brothers the opportunity for self improvement through mentorship and ritual practice. Please give me a call at (530) 957-8939 if you would like to help in any lodge activities.

Fraternally,  
Don Nicodemus  
Worshipful Master



## From The South



### PH180 Masons: Who Are We?

According to Grand Lodge statistics (1), as of May 29, 2021, there were 146 Masons in our Lodge: 12 EAs, 3 FCs, and 131 MMs, respectively 37, 47, and 69 years of age. Collectively, we are 65 ½ years old, Baby Boomers, a group not considered to be particularly in tune with the times.

On average, our 131 MMs have served Masonry for 33 years. This can speak of intellectual know-how, deep knowledge, different skills, and experience on many subjects. We should be able to bring our different and complementary abilities to strengthen and diversify our existing masonic operations and activities to make them more attractive to potential newcomers.

Planning starts by reflecting upon past successes on how we operate, and by strategizing how our current methods can evolve to be more relevant to the Gen X, Millennials and Gen Z generations. They will succeed us and are now with ages ranging from

the low 20s to the high 50s. Bright, diverse, tech and social media savvy, working to build a future for their families, many hungry for knowledge about themselves. The rest of us, Baby Boomers and those older are decreasing in numbers every year, and we must think hard about how to pass on our masonic legacy, so Freemasonry can survive and thrive. A recent study indicates that combined, the younger generations currently control approximately 66% of the nation's cultural power (2). This thinking is not new: the Grand Lodge has broached this need for evolution several times. It is important that we reflect and act both on what is currently not sufficiently effective and efficient, and on the Lodge's needed evolution. A slow, methodical approach will suffice when it is sustained.

Coming back to the statistics, 146 members in our Lodge is a rather robust number. However, considering how many regularly participate in meetings, the picture is sobering: only about 16 to 17 Masons are regulars and 114 or almost 90% of our Lodge's members are "missing". The data indicates that 56 or about 50% of the missing are not within commuting distance of our Lodge, many out of state. The remaining 58 live within relative commuting distance.

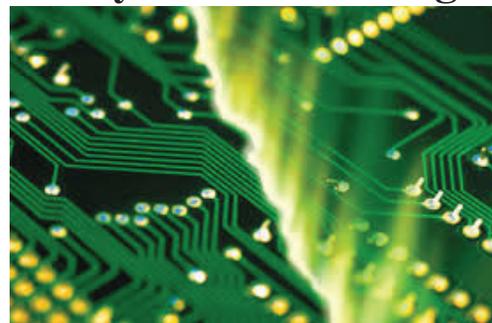
What are we to make of all this? First, the analysis generates questions and suggests that the Lodge's Executive Management team should try to identify possible corrective and improvement measures to the issues facing us.

Second, we should also be aware that driving our lodge's successes or

failures can well depend upon our own and collective inner dynamics: individually, we are not of the same mold.

As individuals, we each joined Freemasonry for commonly professed motives of fraternity, charity, and self-development and some to continue a family tradition. Despite these commonalities, we do not all have the same lifestyles, family backgrounds or cultures and we all have varying motivations and preferences to stay involved in Masonry and to support each other: there are different dynamics, different types of Masons. These differences affect how brethren view their individual connections to Masonry in general

## May Stated Meeting



Join us for our July Stated Meeting.  
Thursday July 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/84006348654?pwd=eXEyaFgreX-FoZGY2OVVzYm16L1JCQT09>

### Dial by your location

1 888 788 0099 US Toll-free  
Meeting ID: 840 0634 8654  
Passcode: 634104



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or call: 888/466-3642.

### 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](mailto:don.nicodemus2@gmail.com)

Secretary, Guy Chalmers: 707-477-3046 E-Mail: [JMC329@aol.com](mailto:JMC329@aol.com)

and sometimes other brothers, and therefore how they prefer to be engaged. Different authors have expressed different takes on this idea; some identify 3 types, others as many as 14. Here is my current view of our Lodge's types of Masons:

Those who do not attend meetings and do not participate in the management of the Lodge. Some, mostly knowledgeable Past Masters (PMs), may still be counted on when the need arises. Those who regularly come to Lodge events though rarely make comments or suggestions on issues. They will often step up and help when asked.

Those who regularly come and actively participate: the core strength of our Lodge. Each is committed to successful operations in varying degrees:

**Brothers:** they enjoy the camaraderie our meetings foster, the discussions and even accept strong disagreements that may surface occasionally, as they aim for consensus.

**Ritualists:** they are essential because no Lodge can long survive without enough brothers understanding, memorizing, and delivering memorable rituals.

**Operations Managers:** for lack of new participants in the Leadership line, our PMs have held certain positions several times. They know the day-to-day mechanics.

**Masonic Educators:** these have been rare, yet Masonic Education is important. With the pandemic restrictions ebbing away, the ritual training sessions starting in mid-June 2021 are a breath of fresh air.

We should act. As we do this, We need to recognize that there will

always be brethren who cannot join our assemblies, because they live too far away, or who love Masonry but have other pressing responsibilities, or because of poor health, or for other reasons.

There are others who love Masonry and have worked so hard at it for so long that they now want a break and let others shoulder the responsibility of maintaining and growing the Lodge.

We each fit in one or more Mason types, and we need to pay closer attention to better engaging those, "new blood", who are eager to serve and grow in the Leadership line, and to providing education on what Masonry means.

We all have different personal and professional backgrounds and experiences. What strength this diversity of points of view and knowledge on resolving challenges and problems is! We need curious minds, experience, ability to work well with others, more expansive thinking for our present and our future, and especially the passion to get things done.

As the end of 2021 approaches, we face the need to continue planning, starting with an understanding of our environment, what we are good at, where we are deficient and identify action items that can be essential if not critical to our long-term relevance. Things will not happen by themselves.

References:  
iMember 2.0 (freemason.org)  
generational-power-index-2021-1.pdf (visualcapitalist.com)

## Happy Birthday

- Bynum Craig Jr. July 2nd
- Arthur Gearing July 2th
- Ralph Hawkins July 3rd
- Richard Hunt July 10th
- George Cavaleri 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



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Through new telehealth services, the Masonic Center for Youth and Families (MCYAF) offers professional consultation services over a secure video connection for parents, couples, families, and youth.

To learn more about telehealth, contact [inquiries@mcyaf.org](mailto:inquiries@mcyaf.org) or (877) 488-6293.

Find out how MCYAF's professional therapeutic services help families thrive at [mcyaf.org](http://mcyaf.org).

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**July 2021**

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			June 30th Hall Association (virtual)	1  Stated Meeting (virtual)	2	3
4	5  Royal Arch #22 Virtual Meeting	6	7	8 First Degree Practice	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 First Degree Practice	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 First Degree Practice	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 First Degree Practice	30	31