

From The East



Brothers,

In addition to promoting friendships and charitable activity, Masonry is all about self improvement. While there are many paths in Masonry, this year the Petaluma-Hamilton Lodge is focused on “self-improvement through ritual practice” and this summer your brothers have been working on the first degree and hope to perform this degree soon. It is scheduled for Thursday night, August 19 at 7:00 p. m.

We are practicing every Thursday night for this upcoming first degree at Petaluma-Hamilton Lodge. 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 or to get the latest details in order to attend the degree itself.

I want to thank all the brothers past and present whose active involvement in the Lodge has made it a success, but this month I want to especially thank two brothers who have contributed their time recently. Worshipful Woody Purdy, PM has done a great job leading our Thursday night practices and getting the newer brothers ready for their parts. I also want to thank Worshipful Jonathan “Jon” Wong, PM who has been participating in our Lodge activities and practices. I feel privileged to count these men among my friends. They know the im-

portance of the practices and rituals that we conduct.

Many brothers have not seen a first degree performed in months or years, yet there is always an opportunity to pick up a new understanding by reciting a part or just hearing it and reflecting upon these ancient words which so many brothers in prior centuries have repeated. To become better speakers and leaders is certainly a part of the result of the practice. However, I believe that there is more.

Years ago, when a brother asked me what I most desired in Masonry, I said, “I seek the beauty, splendor, wisdom and understanding that is the limitless light.” This was more than just a poetic reference to a path of enlightenment along the tree of life or more than seeking the grace of God, it is an ongoing desire for enlightenment about the ancient wisdom contained in the symbols and words in Masonry. This only comes by meditating upon them. I have found that repeating some of the longer passages in the lectures, etc. has led me to reflect and understand the meanings of key phrases that seem profound to me.

It is also my strong desire that you, too, will continue to grow yourself in Masonry. This can be done by ritual practice, by giving other brothers the opportunity for self improvement through mentorship in ritual practice or even by just attending a degree for the first time in a long time – it’s a great way to give back to our communities. Please give me a call at (530) 957-8939 if you would like to help the lodge in any way.

Fraternally,
Don Nicodemus
Worshipful Master

From The South



Why are there 7 days in a week?

Astronomy, like geometry, is one of the sciences we have known and practiced for eons. I enjoy this pastime but cannot during the Full Moon phase. When this happens every month, I sometimes occupy my mind by visiting sites where people answer trivia kids’ questions. Not long ago, the question was “why are there 7 days in a week”?

We know that the ancient Babylonians set this up based upon the 7 planets that humanity knew at the time. Explaining their specific thinking is not the object of this article. As I read the response to the question by a history professor at Colorado State University (link below), what impressed me again is that while there is much history, physics, mathematics, and computing science behind the concept of the length of the year and the day, there is also much personal, observational experience and beliefs at play going back thousands of years.

Let us not denigrate the lessons and ideas of our ancestors. Their thinking and discoveries reverberate to this day. We should be humbled by the power of their minds: in many ways they rival ours and can dazzle us because they conjured their thoughts

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From the South continued...

in environments devoid of most of what we now take for granted. We are often awed and impressed by how much prescient and intelligent they were, despite the limited scientific tools they had. Imagine Eratosthenes of Cyrene, the Greek philosopher and astronomer, who died in -195 BCE or more than 2,200 years ago, and who with 2 sticks of wood, a camel and a brilliant mind was able to closely estimate the circumference of the Earth. No flat earther was he.

Let us also not forget Plato who died in - 347 BCE and who had a huge influence on ethics, politics, poetry, art, mathematics, and whose dialogues remain important reading for scholars. Let us not forget Socrates, who died in -399 BCE and greatly influenced western philosophy. Let us not forget Pythagoras who died in -495 BCE who is best known for the Pythagorean theorem. There are so many of them, including many who passed away far more recently. Let us not forget these people who came before us and have contributed so much to our knowledge, our cultures, and our ways of life.

And let us not forget all the ancient



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or call: 888/466-3642.

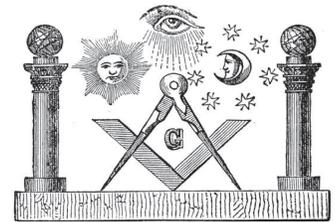
faiths, beliefs, histories, and experiences of past cultures that have influenced us all, including Free Masons, in so many ways. We Masons were not born yesterday, nor were we born only 300+ years ago. We are literally standing on the shoulders of giants. I am but a few steps on my masonic learning journey, but I am increasingly convinced that our rituals and practices are not just coming from the Knights Templar as many say they are but are also influenced by numerous philosophies, schools of mysteries, sciences, and ways of thinking going back to ancient Egypt, Babylon and the Sumerians in the Fertile Crescent of Mesopotamia when our species first learned to write and start making communication easier among elites. I am still learning, and I hope you are too.

Freemasonry is so much more than meeting to enjoy companionship, food, and drink. It centers of course on making sure our Lodge building stands up and on learning our ancient ritual. It also centers on understanding what said ritual means, what is hidden behind the immediate meaning(s) of words, what they and the metaphors mean, what the message(s) is/are, and how that understanding possibly applies to yourself and others. Freemasonry calls us to be operators applying the mechanics of what we learned from those before us, try to improve on that, but also to think outside the box and comprehend what we, individually and together, should be about. Freemasonry calls us to think. Most of us are not taught or accustomed to think much beyond the immediate needs of our lives. In

my humble view, Freemasonry calls upon us to THINK about who we are or should become. To someday become better men as we profess we do, we need to work and think at it. Continuously. For it is a journey of the mind that few among us will reach by the end of our physical lives; it is a journey that often extends beyond our physical lives.

Sources:

Why are there seven days in a week? (msn.com)
How Ancient Scientists Calculated The Circumference Of The Earth | Ancient Pages



Happy Birthday

- William Purdy August 4th
- Albert Breeden August 6th
- Arul Sivalingam August 6th
- Robert Young August 6th
- John Dias August 8th
- Wayne Johnson August 8th
- Matthew Shutman August 9th
- Ernest Bennett August 11th
- Henery Torget August 11th
- Daniel Giddings August 19th
- James Walker August 19th
- Harold Kwan August 22nd
- Eugene Jeane August 23rd
- Randy Steward August 29th

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



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 or (877) 488-6293.

Find out how MCYAF's professional therapeutic services help families thrive at mcyaf.org.

August Stated Meeting



Join us for our August Stated Meeting. Thursday August 5th, 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://nusc-org.zoom.us/j/83366102609?pwd=alZsU2F3OX-RMdHNKQzBxT1pPQTFwQT09>

Dial by your location

1 888 788 0099 US Toll-free
Meeting ID: 833 6610 2609
Passcode: 924942

Upcomming Events

September

Stated Meeting Dinner

Yep you read that correctly, we are planning to have an in person family dinner on Thursday September 2nd, 2021 @ 6:30 PM, Followed by our monthly stated meeting starting at 8:00 PM

We will be practicing Social distancing and request that all attendees wear masks when possible.

To RSVP please contact David Sonnenberg at sonnen1979@gmail.com

1st Degree Ceremony

Thursday August 19th, 2021 @ 7:00pm we will convene for the purposes of conferring the first degree for Mr. Nathaniel Gurdes. We request that all those in attendance wear masks for your safety and the safety of others.

To RSVP please contact David Sonnenberg at sonnen1979@gmail.com

Oktober FEAST

Save the Date for Oktober FEAST. This is a family friendly Event being held on Sunday, October 17th 2021 for food, family, fraternaty and recognition.

We will be honoring The Mason of the Year, 25 Year Masons, and returning brethren.

Look in next months issue of the trestle board for more information about this event.



Join the Masons of California for an exciting and entirely digital speakers series featuring lectures and talks from Masonic experts on a range of topics. All events are totally free.

Upcoming events include:

- August 11th @ 7 pm

Adam Kendall: The Scandals and Secret Rites of Benjamin Hyam

- August 25th @ Noon

Martin Faulks: A Mosaic Palace: Freemasonry and the Art of Memory

For more information on these topics or to register for these online events please visit:

<https://freemason.org/speakerseries/>

If you've missed one, catch up on past lectures by visiting: <https://freemason.org/speakerseriesarchive/> and clicking the "Watch Now" button.



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





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August 2021

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