

5449 College Avenue  
Oakland, California 94509  
www.odr.org



## UPON THE SQUARE



### Chris Nowell, Master 2015

#### Upcoming Events

**Friday, April 3**  
**Persian Night**  
Dinner 6:30 p.m.  
Practice 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 7**  
**Stated Meeting**  
**(Inspector's Official Visit)**  
Dinner 6:30 p.m.  
Stated Meeting 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, April 11**  
**Master Masons' School**  
Brotherhood Masonic Center  
855 Brotherhood Way, SF  
Breakfast 8:30 a.m.  
School 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 14**  
**First Degree**  
Dinner 6:30 p.m.  
Degree 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, April 18**  
**ODR Spring Cleaning**  
**and Proficiency**  
10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 21**  
**District School of Instruction**  
Dinner 6:30 p.m.  
School 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, April 25**  
**Earth Day Event**  
9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 28**  
**Third Degree**  
Dinner 6:30 p.m.  
Degree 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 5**  
**Stated Meeting**  
Dinner 6:30 p.m.  
Stated Meeting 7:30 p.m.

At one of our Youth Order Observance Month events in March, many of our officers joined me at the Grand Guardian's official visit to Job's Daughters Bethel No. 175. The Grand Guardian told a story about a girl who threw starfish back into the ocean after they washed onto the beach. When asked why she did it, since there were so many starfish on the beach that she could never make much of a difference in their numbers, the girl replied that she made a difference to each starfish that she threw back and saved. This lesson of making a difference to individuals has been a frequent theme lately.

Last month, members of ODR and Island City met at our Lodge to provide an unforgettable initiatic experience for an Island City candidate. While joint degrees between Oakland Lodge and lodges in Alameda were common 140 years ago, this appears to have been the first time in our history that ODR has had a joint session with Island City. By serving this candidate together, we all shared a wonderful night of exceptional harmony and camaraderie.



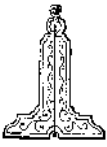
Last year, while visiting Mountain View Cemetery to clean our first Master's gravesite, a leaning obelisk caught my eye. "Someone has to right that monument," I thought. After learning that the monument marks the final resting place for two past masters of Oakland Lodge who were also Mayors of Oakland, we contacted the cemetery to plan a restoration.



When I visited the head groundskeeper last month, he showed me the work done thus far: the obelisk has now been straightened, the ground prepared, and additional repairs are underway. And, although some work remains, we are ahead of schedule to plant the

finishing touches in August. If not for the groundskeeper's dedication to the Pardee Family's memory and this one site, these repairs would not have been possible.

Looking forward, April is Public Schools Observance month. This year, we increased the funds raised during our pancake breakfast in support of Claremont Middle School by moving the event to February. This move also provided a wonderful opportunity for us to support our community and local schools through an additional project in April. On Saturday, April 25th, we'll be working with several local schools at Frog Park ([www.frogpark.org](http://www.frogpark.org)) for Earth Day. If you don't have work gloves for the event, you can buy some and support the Grand Master's project at [www.odr.org/gloves](http://www.odr.org/gloves). The gloves will also be handy when we plant the mastercover at the Pardee gravesite with the Grand Master this August.



# ON THE LEVEL

Ed Stevenson, Senior Warden

Four of our officers attended the Masters and Wardens retreat, which is lead by the Grand Lodge, in March. This was a fantastic experience and I want to thank the lodge for enabling me and the others to attend.


Any time one attends a conference like this, there is usually so much information promulgated that is impossible to assimilate it all. I would, therefore, like to share a couple of the "take aways" I had.

First was to improve member experience. This goes all the way to the prospect. We need to make sure we share basic important information with them about Masonry in general and our lodge in particular. At the same time not overwhelm them with too much. We also need to look for opportunities to get our EAs and FCs participating in more activities of the lodge. We don't want to lose anyone because they feel they are not welcome to get involved until they become a Master Mason. Along with this we need to ensure our candidate coaching experience is rewarding and fruitful. Along with this, our lodge will sponsor all of our candidates in the training program available on the Grand Lodge Website.

I welcome ideas from any of our brethren of ways we can improve.

I will discuss other lessons learned in future Trestleboard messages.

## STAY IN THE KNOW

You can add an up-to-the-minute ODR calendar to your phone or computer calendar by clicking  under the "Upcoming Events" section at the top of [www.odr.org](http://www.odr.org)

### April Masonic Anniversaries

Bryen Borchert.....	9 years
John Catanho, P.M.....	32 years
James Causa, P.M.....	37 years
Zachary Champlin.....	5 years
Perry Curry.....	23 years
Bobby Dunham.....	44 years
Roger Gilmore, P.M.....	66 years
John Hutchens.....	12 years
Julius Kahn, III, P.M.....	41 years
Erick Rice.....	8 years
Tim Urlaub.....	5 years
Lloyd Wagner.....	5 years

### From the Secretary's Desk



Lawrence Altomare, Secretary

#### The Masonic Homes

Many of us are somewhat familiar with the Masonic Homes. There are two of them in California, one in Union City and another in Covina. A California Mason age 60 or older, or his widow, is eligible to live at the Masonic Homes.

Another lessor known fact is that the Masonic Homes also provides outreach, services and assistance to members and widows who live in their own home. This service of the Masonic Homes is called Masonic Outreach Service (MOS).

Probably the most important item to know and let your family know is how to get in contact with the Masonic Homes if you ever have questions or need assistance. The best way is by calling. Their phone number is **888-466-3642**.

If you have any questions on, please feel free to contact me.

# By the Plumb

Cal Gilbert, Junior Warden

## The Rockridge Masonic Hall Association

It has been a few months now since being installed as your Junior Warden and I have had time to take a measure of the office.

I had believed, given my long career as a logistics officer in the United States Army, that being the junior most of the three pillars of the Lodge would be a walk in the park. After all, having been a company commander and well respected staff officer, I had planned major military exercises and led soldiers in the execution thereof. Yet I missed a couple of the finer points that are now apparent.

First, being responsible for the care and feeding of Masons is no small task! The old saying, “When Masons meet, Masons eat”, is a truth as foundational as the earth on which we stand. I find myself constantly preparing menus in my head and making trips to Costco and other outlets to make them a reality. Then there comes time for preparing those meals. The execution of that task is an exercise in timing any military commander would be proud to undertake. More importantly, I find myself occupying the space of those who have gone before and hoping to find a place among them.

Second, being expected to become proficient in the conferring of the Entered Apprentice Degree has brought me back to a discipline of mind I have not exercised for several years. Sure, I focus on tasks set for me at work and in my family life. But our Ritual is something altogether different. It offers me the opportunity to be a part of not only the Candidate’s initiation, and as such, the opportunity to transmit so much of the beauty and solemnity of that most meaningful experience to a man I will forevermore know as Brother. It is an extraordinary experience to place my hand on his at the Altar and recite that obligation with him for the very first time.

Life, and Masonry it seems, are full of surprises.

Your Hall Association is beginning the preparations for the 150th Anniversary of Oakland Durant Rockridge Lodge in 2018. It has been noted for quite some time that the lighting in the dining room is less than adequate. A new LED lamp has been installed. Please let me your thoughts on the lamp by April 14th.

If you have any ideas on ways to improve or upgrade our home, please let us know.

Tim World  
President

April 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 <b>Persian Night and Officers' Practice</b> Dinner 6:30 pm Practice 7:30 pm	4
5	6	7 <b>Stated Meeting</b> Dinner 6:30 pm Meeting 7:30 pm	8	9	10 <b>Fridays at the Lodge</b> Dinner 6:30 pm Practice 7:30 pm	11 <b>Master Masons' School</b> Breakfast 8:30 am School 9:00 am
12	13	14 <b>First Degree</b> Dinner 6:30 pm Degree 7:30 pm	15	16	17 <b>Fridays at the Lodge</b> Dinner 6:30 pm Practice 7:30 pm	18 <b>ODR Spring Cleaning</b> 10:00 am to noon
19	20	21 <b>3rd Degree DOSI</b> Dinner 6:30 pm Degree 7:30 pm	22	23	24 <b>Fridays at the Lodge</b> Dinner 6:30 pm Practice 7:30 pm	25 <b>Earth Day FROG Park</b> 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
26	27	28 <b>Third Degree</b> Dinner 6:30 pm Degree 7:30 pm	29	30		