

OAKLAND DURANT ROCKRIDGE NEWS

Oakland Durant Rockridge Lodge #188, Free & Accepted Masons

May 2014



Masonic Youth Month



UPON THE SQUARE

David A. Forsyth, Master

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 3
Pancake Breakfast
Ice Creamery—Castro Valley
Fund raiser for Bethel 175
9 a.m. to 10 a.m. \$10

Tuesday, May 6
Stated Meeting
Official Visit of our Inspector
Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Stated Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 13
Third Degree
Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Degree 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 17
District School of Instruction
Antioch
Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
School 9 a.m.

Tuesday, May 20
Masonic Education
Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Program 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 27
Officers' Practice
Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Degree 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 31
Mayflower High Tea
Honoring our Sweethearts and Widows
3:00 p.m.

Future Events
6/3 Stated Meeting with Special Elections
6/21 Bethel No. 175 Installation
7/19 Annual Lodge BBQ
8/16 Reception for the Senior Grand Steward
Wor. Lawrence Altomare
9/28 Reception for the Grand Librarian
California Jobs Daughters, Mrs. Lois World

It is with sad news that I start this month's Trestleboard. Wor. Delvyn J ("DJ") Martinez, Past Master of Oakland Durant Rockridge Lodge No. 188 (2007) has entered in to rest. This, in addition to the recent loss of our long-time Tiler, Bro. Peter Holloway, compounds our sorrow. Both Brothers bookended our Lodge, one as Tiler outside the door and the other as Worshipful Master in the East, and both are sorely missed.

Past Masters offer us a different view of our Lodge, its workings and operations. Not every Freemason has the privilege of being elected by his brothers; it is a humbling experience. Recently, I was lucky enough to spend some time with a Past Master of Rockridge Lodge No. 468, Wor. Alan C. Jones. Wor. Jones called me, as he was looking for some updated paperwork. I was more than happy to drive it over, to his place in Marin. My first thought was just to drop it off and then to return to my office. I am ever so glad I stopped to take the time to have an enjoyable couple of hours over a cup of coffee. What a rare opportunity the visit afforded me-- to learn about Masonry 40 years ago. I listened to Wor. Jones, and I also asked a few questions. As it turned out, we talked about almost 100 years of Freemasonry taking palace on Oakland's College Avenue. During our conversation, I discovered that Wor. Jones' grandfather was a contractor/builder who worked on the original Rockridge Lodge building. This was located down the road, at Keith and College avenues, where Market

Hall and Olivetto's restaurant now stand. Wor. Jones' grandfather was so impressed by the integrity and forthrightness demonstrated by the brothers of Rockridge Lodge in all their dealings that he became a member. And, not only did Wor. Jones' father join the Lodge, but, later, Wor. Jones' brothers joined as well. That started a three-generation association with Rockridge Lodge. Three generations in one Lodge!

I mentioned previously that all Masters are afforded a different view from the Oriental chair and they are not all easy to manage or see through. Wor. Jones told me that very soon after he was elected Senior Warden, in 1978, Rockridge Lodge's newly-elected Master had to leave California. Bro. Jones stepped up and became Master for the next two years-- 1978 and 1979. The Lodge survived. Listening to his story, I knew that Wor. Jones was quite capable of returning everything to a calm sea. However, regardless of the strength of character needed to be a Master of a Lodge, I have come to learn and appreciate that, ultimately, the shared love of the Fraternity and the genuine mutual support among the brethren will safely waft us over any tempestuous seas.

When you next have an opportunity to meet with a Past Master, take the time to have that cup of coffee and ask about his experiences. I guarantee you will learn something new.

SPECIAL NOTICE

A Special Election will be held at the Stated Meeting on June 3 for one position on the following:

Hall Association

Trustees

Scholarship Board

In Memoriam

Delvyn John (DJ) Martinez

Born December 27, 1949

Initiated an Entered Apprentice April 13, 1989

Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft January 31, 1991

Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason June 6, 1994

Served as Master in 2007

Elevated to the Celestial Lodge Above April 2, 2014

-Soft and safe to thee, my Brother, soft and safe to thee-



ON THE LEVEL

Chris Nowell, Senior Warden

A priest at last month's funeral mass used an old Mexican saying to describe our recently departed Past Master, Wor. D.J. Martinez:

When you sit under a big tree, you receive a refreshing repose.

This axiom not only describes a man who was a great presence in our lodge, but also one of his enduring legacies: an extra evening of refreshment. Masonic tradition informs us that while preparing for his Master and Warden proficiencies, D.J. and his coach brought their families to Lodge on Friday nights. These nights grew from proficiency coaching and family game nights to the evenings of practice and camaraderie that we now enjoy.

The eclectic active membership and conviviality that distinguish ODR induced me to become a Mason. However, the meeting minutes in our Lodge archives often omit the wonderful times that we spend together outside of the Lodge room. Fortunately, the Durant Lodge minutes include some gems that transcend the closing of lodge. The following is an excerpt from Durant's Centennial History:

On April 12, 1902, Durant Lodge celebrated the birth of one of its several offspring, McKinley Lodge No. 347 of Richmond. On June 18, 1943, 41 years later, our Minutes report that McKinley was still using the Bible we presented to them on that day. C.S. Merrill's record of the celebration itself reveals that it was not altogether a solemn occasion. Durant Lodge proceeded in a body to Richmond. After the ceremonies, "the weary brothers sat down to rest and refresh themselves, at the tables loaded with good things too numerous to mention. At the reasonable hour of two o'clock A.M., farewells were said to our brothers of McKinley Lodge, and after traveling by a circuitous route on a course toward Berkeley, all arrived safely within its quiet precincts, and each brother proceeded to his home where, it is presumed, he gained admission by giving three distinct knocks from without, which were answered by questions from within too numerous to record in the minutes of Durant Lodge No. 268 F. & A.M."

In the 71 years since those minutes were recorded, little has changed: we still enjoy each other's company. Thanks, in part, to the late Wor. D.J. Martinez, we get to enjoy this fellowship twice a week. In D.J.'s honor, I would like to extend our hospitality to our families, significant others, and widows to enjoy a part of our rich tradition of camaraderie and "tables loaded with good things too numerous to mention" at our next stated meeting dinner and at our special event at the end of this month, the Mayflower High Tea, honoring all of our Widows and Sweethearts.

Please

Double check to insure that the alarm is set prior to leaving the building if you are the last one out!!

If you are the first one entering the building and you find the alarm not turned on, please inform Tim World. Thank you!!

BY THE PLUMB

Ed Stevenson, Junior Warden

It has become a tradition in our society to recognize the neighbor south of our border in the month of May. With this in mind, we will enjoy Mexican cuisine for our stated dinner. Please use the email system to let us know that you are coming and if you plan to bring guests.

Take this opportunity to reflect on Masonry in Mexico. We are aware of subtle differences that occur in various Grand Lodges around the United States so we should also consider the differences which may occur in other countries. Freemasonry has flourished in Mexico since the late 18th century. They also have concordant organizations such as Scottish Rite, York Rite and Shriners. So, while there may be some differences, there are also many similarities.

May Masonic Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Lawrence Altomare, P.M. | 20 years |
| Richard Anderson, P.M. | 13 years |
| Tom Arnold, P.M. | 48 years |
| Benjamin Bartlett | 3 years |
| Gabriel Basso | 6 years |
| Dustin Brace | 5 years |
| Leonard Breeden | 40 years |
| Russell Crow | 69 years |
| Henry Gannett , P.M. | 34 years |
| James Geanekos | 44 years |
| Rolf Haas | 15 years |
| William Herbert, P.M. | 50 years |
| Joshua Howes | 8 years |
| Aaron Kornblum | 15 years |
| Gregory Kosmos | 63 years |
| Robert Mason | 53 years |
| Everett Messer | 46 years |
| Benjamin Newson | 1 year |
| Jerome Milmeier | 15 years |
| Cody Pratt | 1 year |



From the Secretary's Desk

Lawrence Altomare, Secretary

Seems like I have been attending more Masonic funerals and memorial services lately...

This had me thinking of why we send the Lodge Trestleboard to widows. Sometimes widows themselves do not know why they continue to receive communication from the lodge once their husband has passed on to that Celestial Lodge above.

Many widows think that once their husband passes on, their affiliation with Masonry is over. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our obligation to the family of Masons extends beyond the grave.

Eligibility for the Masonic Homes and for other in-home assistance that is provided by the Masonic Outreach Services is available to widows who meet the requirements (generally age 60 and a widow of a Mason). There is also assistance that the lodge brothers provide, sometimes something as simple as getting your plumbing fixed.

In order to make sure Widows know how to get ahold of us if they have a need, we keep them on our mailing list. If you need assistance and do not know who to call in Masonry, start with us. We will get you connected with the correct resource.

Masonic Youth Month

May 2014

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|---|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 Fridays at the Lodge 630 p.m. | 3 Pancake Breakfast Castro Valley 9 am |
| 4 | 5 | 6 Stated Meeting Dinner 630 pm Meeting 730 pm | 7 | 8 | 9 Fridays at the Lodge 630 p.m. | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 Third Degree Dinner 630 pm Degree 730 pm | 14 | 15 | 16 Fridays at the Lodge 630 p.m. | 17 DOSI Antioch Breakfast 830 am School 9 am |
| 18 | 19 | 20 Masonic Education Dinner 630 pm Program 730 pm | 21 | 22 | 23 Fridays at the Lodge 630 p.m. | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 Practice Dinner 630 pm Practice 730 pm | 28 | 29 | 30 Fridays at the Lodge 630 p.m. | 31 Mayflower High Tea 3 p.m. |