

OAKLAND DURANT ROCKRIDGE NEWS

Oakland Durant Rockridge Lodge #188, Free & Accepted Masons

October 2014

5449 College Avenue
Oakland, California 94509



UPON THE SQUARE



David A. Forsyth, Master 2014

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, October 7

Stated Meeting

Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Stated Meeting 7:30 p.m.

October 10, 11 & 12

Annual Communication

Grand Lodge of California

(Last Chance to see Lawrence and Christopher in their bling)

Tuesday, October 14

Practice for Past Masters'

Second Degree

Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Practice 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 17

Proficiency and Officers' Practice

Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Proficiency 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 18

Grand Masters' Class

Oakland Scottish Rite

Tuesday, October 21

District Officers School of Instruction

Dinner 6:30 p.m.

School 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 28

Second Degree

Past Masters' Nite

Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Degree 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 4

Stated Meeting

Elections

Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Stated Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Masonry has its many rewards; from spiritual to philosophical, from cultural to friendship. We continually deepen our ties to each other making mankind our business and perpetuating our tenets and our virtues. We can recognize perfection in nature and know we are on a journey to seek perfection ourselves, a journey that can never be fully attained. From that rough Ashlar to that perfect Ashlar between the two is where we make all our decisions, our mistakes and ultimately find our happiness. That journey between each Ashlar is always fraught with temptations and challenges. With the help of our brethren and a deeper understanding of the allegories in our ritual we continue that journey in hope of achieving that perfect state.

As Masons we know it is the internal qualities not the external ones that we look for in a man when he starts his journey from the rough Ashlar. There is no greater example of this than a past member of Oakland Durant Rockridge Lodge No. 188; Bro. John L. Davie. He received his third degree in Oakland Lodge No. 188 in 1889 and continued on a journey that ended as Mayor of Oakland. His florid life took many twists and turns and his journey towards that perfect ashlar truly took a life time.

Born in 1850 Bro. Davie started out as a mule driver on the Erie Canal. He headed west and became a "buckaroo" on a Nevada cattle ranch. In 1876 he rode with a head of cattle in to Red Bluff California and on in to San Francisco where he shared in the profits. He worked at the roughest of jobs, bouncer, and assistant butcher and ended up as a Sergeant in the California National Guard involved in some of the more lively riots and skirmishes of that time. In 1885 he moved to Oakland with money he had saved and opened up a feed and fuel store as well as a

book store. He was a friend of the poet of the Sierras, Joaquin Miller and Jack London. He became mayor in 1895 for the first time and again in 1915 through 1931 becoming Oakland's longest serving and most popular mayor.

Bro. Davie took on the might of the railroads all the way to the Supreme Court and won major concessions for the city of Oakland. He faced hired assassins, corrupt officials and battled many adversaries. His strength of character was tested early on with the untimely death of his wife leaving him to raise three young children. Bro. Davie praised the Order of the Eastern Star for helping him raise his children through this difficult time. By the time of his retirement from public service at the age of 80 in 1931 he could look back on a well spent life with such civic achievements as the construction of Oakland International Airport, Posey tube connecting Alameda Island to Oakland, Skyline Boulevard winding its way along the tops of the Oakland Hills and starting a 5c ferry to San Francisco. From his beginnings as a tough, rough and tumble fighter to becoming an outstanding figure in Oakland's history, he was always doing good where he could, sometimes by the brute force of his nature knowing it to be the right thing to do. When he died in 1934 aged 84 Masonic services were held for Bro. Davie at the Oakland Scottish Rite under the auspices of Oakland Lodge No. 188.

We can truly say, here was a mason who understood the needs of his fellow man and honored his obligations, seeking further light and continually striving to emulate that perfect Ashlar. Certainly we can all learn something from his example as we continue our journey towards the perfect Ashlar.



ON THE LEVEL

Chris Nowell, Senior Warden

As the new home of our archives begins to take shape in the former third-floor apartment, it's a good time to remember some of our members who were very influential in establishing the libraries in our community.

One of the most celebrated of these is William Harrison Waste, Master of Durant Lodge in 1901 and Grand Master of Masons in California in 1939. Outside of the Lodge, he served in the California State Assembly and as a Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court. He joined our lodge as soon as he graduated from Hastings College of Law, but two years earlier helped to found the Holmes Library, Berkeley's first public library.

Many of our other Past Masters were fundamental in establishing or expanding libraries in public schools. Charles Louis Biedenbach, for example, was a principal of McKinley Grammar school and Berkeley High School. He is widely regarded as the father of the idea of junior high schools. The namesake of Durant Lodge No. 268 and a distinguished member of Oakland Lodge No. 188, Reverend Henry Durant, is most well-known for founding the first college in California. His College of California eventually became the University of California, Berkeley.

As we look forward to beginning a new chapter with a new home for our archives, let's all take a moment to reflect on the opportunities we have to better our community and its seats of knowledge and history.

In Memoriam

Charles Taylor

A 40 year member

Entered into Rest September 7, 2014

Low Kee Lee

A 52 year member

Entered into Rest September 9, 2014

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

November Events

November 7 Third Degree Practice

November 11 Third Degree Practice

November 18 Third Degree

November 20 DOSI 3rd Degree 1st section Live Oak

November 25 Third Degree

Oakland Durant Rockridge Lodge No. 188

Feast of St. John The Evangelist

Saturday, December 27, 2014

Social Hour 6 p.m.

Program 7 p.m.

\$50 payable by December 20

Sent check to Lawrence Altomare,

27 Cove Road, Alameda, Ca 94502

Or charge to you credit card by calling 510-521-1851



From the Secretary's Desk

Lawrence Altomare, Senior Grand Steward, 2014

This year the Grand Lodge Annual Communication is on October 10, 11 and 12. It is the time that the brothers of California gather to discuss the legislation being proposed by the members of Grand Lodge.

If you are able to make it this should be a very special year. The new renovation of the California Masonic Memorial Temple has been completed and will be showcased for us at the annual communication.

This year I will also have a unique vantage point to watch the business of the Grand Lodge being conducted. I will be on the stage with the other Grand Lodge Officers.

It has been a wonderful year and I will leave with lots of memories.

As far as memories goes, if you have wonderful memories of the history of our three lodges (Oakland, Durant or Rockridge) please share them with us. We would like to include our collected memories as we prepare to celebrate our 150th anniversary of Oakland Durant Rockridge Lodge. Our 150th will be here before you realize it.

By the Plumb Ed Stevenson, Junior Warden

Brethren, we have a very special outing planned for our members in November. I'm sure we are all aware that November 11th is the day in our calendar that is set aside to honor all those who have lost their lives in armed conflict. Great Britain and its Commonwealth also remember their veterans on the same day and call it Remembrance Day. These remembrances are marked by the British Royal Legion in a very special event which is held every year at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco.

This year, since our current Master, our Senior Warden and one of our Stewards are all from Commonwealth countries, we would like to invite our members to attend this year's ceremony. In that way we would not only be honoring the heritage of three of our members, but also have the opportunity to acknowledge our own American veterans in a very special way. Details of the exact, time and transportation plan will be forthcoming. In the meantime, so I can get an idea about what our anticipated participation will be, please let me know of your interest by email at jrwarden@odr.org, or calling the lodge telephone number and leaving a message.

October Masonic Anniversaries

Charles Adams.....	8 years
John Anderson.....	54 years
Thomas Andrus, P.M.....	22 years
Joseph Bruno.....	8 years
Louis Gibbs, Jr.....	59 years
Charles Goff, P.M.....	58 years
Ellis Jackson.....	38 years
Alan Jones, P.M.....	41 years
Daniel Leong.....	22 years
Charles Mack.....	55 years
Robert Newson.....	47 years
John Peterson.....	50 years
William Richmond, P.M.....	34 years
Thomas Shaw.....	63 years
Philip Staehle.....	60 years
Robert Traxler, P.M.....	15 years
Harold Wade.....	62 years
William Waste.....	64 years
Bowman Wong.....	9 years

October 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Fridays at the Lodge	4
5	6	7 Stated Meeting Dinner 630 pm Meeting 730 pm	8	9	10 Grand Lodge	11 Grand Lodge
12 Grand Lodge	13	14 Practice Dinner 630 pm Practice 730pm	15	16	17 Proficiency and Practice Dinner 630 pm Practice 730pm	18 Grand Master's Class Scottish Rite
19	20	21 DOSI Dinner 630 pm School 730 pm	22	23	24 Fridays at the Lodge	25
26	27	28 2nd Degree Past Master Nite Dinner 630 pm Degree 730 pm	29	30	31 Fridays at the Lodge	