

August
2018

Menifee Valley Lodge #289
Trestleboard

A newsletter serving the Masonic and affiliated bodies of Menifee Valley, CA



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Trestleboard - a draftsman's designing board; that on which a Mason draws his designs for his character and spiritual growth; that on which the Worshipful Master lays out his designs for the workmen; a Lodge's newsletter and calendar of events.

from the East

Charles Markel,
Worshipful Master



As we perspire into August we find our Lodge dealing with important issues. First, we are mourning the loss of our wonderful sister Marie Trammel who passed on June 22nd. Secondly, our Secretary, Worshipful Marty Gushwa PM underwent a triple bypass heart surgery July 17th. Worshipful Gushwa PM is recovering well and we rejoice in the fact that all went well. In the meantime, we must carry the burden of the secretary's duties and I am actively seeking an assistant secretary to help the Lodge during Worshipful Gushwa's recovery. We congratulate Brother Ernesto Fontanilla Jr who was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The vote for Dues and Fee increases has passed the two thirds vote requirement at the Stated Meeting of July and we now await the Grand Lodge approval to officially modify our bylaws. The breakdown of the increases are as follows: yearly dues are \$125.00 from \$90.00 plus per capita, (\$52.00) totaling \$177.00; application for degrees \$225.00 increased to \$300.00; application for affiliation from \$45.00 to \$100.00. This change in our bylaws will not go into effect until January 1, 2019. The estimated revenue (approx.\$15,000.00) will assure that the Lodge will end the year 2019 with a balance budget and not have to draw from our investment accounts to make ends meet at the end of the year. I want to thank Worshipful Steve Sutton PM, Worshipful Monte Euler PM, Worshipful Jerry Donathan PM, Worshipful Harold Whitford PM and all the other brethren who participated in the

process for the needed increases in our dues and fees. As recommended by Brother Ricky Villegas, additional effort to raise revenue for the Lodge will require fund raising efforts by our members. As Master of our Lodge I would like to see this type of revenue used to fund a scholarship program or any other charity or community service our members wish to make motions on and vote on at our stated meetings. My effort as Master of the Lodge has been to balance our budget and increase revenue to enable us to participate in a scholarship program and community services.

We will be performing first, second and third degrees throughout the rest of 2018. I hope to see many of our brethren turn out for these important events. As a reminder to the Lodge officers, they are to be in full tuxedos at all the degrees. Stay cool through this hot summer and I look forward to seeing you at our stated meetings.



How did you get the
Black eye?
The wife was giving
me a lecture and I
corrected her three
times.



A beautiful system of Morality, veiled in Allegory, illustrated by

from the West

Bro. Thomas Berger SW

You may notice a subtle change in this months Trestleboard. Brother Trammel, who has graciously and capably contributed many articles to the Trestleboard on notable Masons and Masonic history has decided to step away from writing. I most sincerely thank him for his dedication to that task and hope that at some future date he decides to resume his submissions. In the interim I would like to solicit our members to see if another brother would be willing to contribute some columns. I think they are a valuable resource for our newer Masons as well as being entertaining for our long-time members. For that matter, any brother is free so submit articles of Masonic interest at any time. Writing an article is an interesting way to learn more about our craft and the men who make it great, and it's also very satisfying to share



knowledge with your lodge brothers.

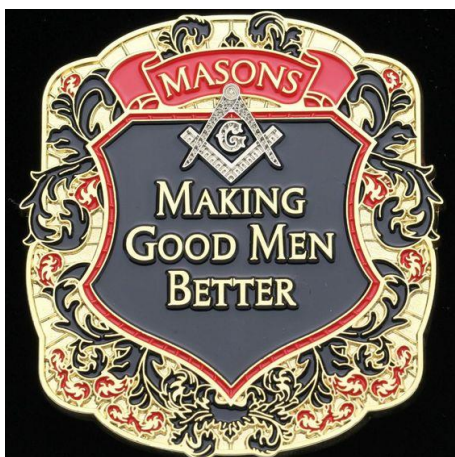
While casting about for a subject for my article this month, I reflected on my recent trip to Germany, Croatia and all points in between, nope – nothing of Masonic significance occurred. Next month I will be in Vancouver WA, and I look forward to relating my experiences upon my return. I've scheduled several Blue Lodge visits and in what may be the most interesting event, I will be attending the "Corn, Oil, and Beer Gathering". While not a tiled lodge, I do find the play on words to be amusing. For the EA's who don't understand the reference – be patient and the significance of that name will be made clear in due time.

My next topic for discussion was going to be the history and development of our ritual. We are all aware that ritual varies somewhat from state to state, it

varies greatly compared to other countries. But how did it develop into its present form. After many articles describing the evolution of the ritual, it appears that modern ritual dates back to the Preston-Webb version. William Preston was a British Mason who in 1772 published a monitor describing much of modern ritual, 25 years later in 1797 Thomas Webb, a Mason in Rhode Island, expanded on Preston's work and codified what is now close to our current ritual.

I must admit that although I love reading about the history of Masonry – the history of ritual evolution was (how can I put this diplomatically) a little dry. If I were to cast tact and diplomacy aside, I would describe it as crushingly boring. Perhaps you won't find it so, should you research it.

There are two degrees and two rehearsals are on tap for the month of August, enjoy them without me as I will be away until September.



Masonic Education – “**Substance or Empty Words?**”

By TC Dowden, WM

Freemasons ought to be dedicated to self-knowledge, love, tolerance, the brotherhood of man and liberty of conscience, while experiencing a brush with the Deity. We have, however, become bogged down in officialdom, obsession with promotion to higher rank, discussions about precedence and the relative merits of our own actions, while often being totally confused about the real Masonic issues. The ancient ritualistic “Brother Meal” prior to a Lodge meeting has become a “dinner.” A ritual of satisfying our taste buds, with all emphasis put on what we eat instead of with whom we eat. It has become a pleasure rather than a symbolic reminder of the necessity of taking nourishment for body and soul to enable us to gather the strength to serve humanity and to better ourselves.

Where is the spirituality, the attempt at self-improvement, the journeys into symbolism, the journeys into the unexplained, both without and within? If we examine where Freemasonry is at the moment, we are engaged in initiating as many men as possible into the Craft and conferring second and third degrees on them, so that they shall in their turn be appointed to offices in the Lodge, in due time becoming Worshipful Master. But to what end? The end, unfortunately, is so that they can then confer initiation on more men, so that those men can then do the same to other men. For many of us the eternal conferring of degrees very soon will become a repetitious vicious circle and thus an end in itself.

In efforts to “make Freemasonry grow,” we have lost track of the real issues. Freemasonry is a moral and philosophical institution where lessons can be learned through understanding our rituals. I assume we all remember the question asked during the initiation ritual: “What came you here to do?” I also assume we all still

know the answer: “TO LEARN.” Freemasonry can therefore be seen as an educational institution. Remembering the scenario and choreography of our rituals does NOT make you a Mason. Only UNDERSTANDING our Rites will do so. Degree ceremonies are only the MEANS of making Masons and advancing them to other degrees once they have learned something.

To attain a higher degree in anything, surely you first have to study, to learn and then earn. Do we? Or is advancement in the degrees of Freemasonry just a gesture, a token of appreciation that someone is willing to eventually accept an office?

In administrative-driven efforts to increase membership, we have watered down the level of proficiencies to memorizing only our obligations. The true definition of being proficient in the meaning of the lessons learned during the rituals has been lost. Have we given up that which is sacred to us just to make it easy? What about those who are truly proficient in all moral and philosophical aspects of Freemasonry, but are unable to memorize a letter-perfect obligation? As Colin Dyer has pointed out, “the proper means of instructing young Masons is not by repetition of degree ceremonies, but by the various systems of Masonic lectures.”

In the late 18th. and early 19th centuries there were “Lodges of Instruction.” They did not teach degree ceremonies as was done in the “Symbolic Lodges” but were engaged in moral and philosophical debates. At that time Masons were often “made” outside the Lodge. After a year or more of observations and instructions by their mentors, a candidate could be found worthy to have his application for the degrees discussed at stated meeting in the Lodge. Once his application was



accepted, the candidate was brought into the Lodge and his real work started in moral, intellectual and spiritual pursuits. The degree lectures were only recapitulations of the ceremonies they just had experienced. It was their mentor's obligation to explain the meaning of the scenario and wordings of the ritual. To be considered proficient in a degree, the candidate was subjected to an extensive oral examination by the Wardens, after which his mentor, only if ordered by the Worshipful Master, could ask him to recite the obligation. Why should the requirements of becoming a Mason today be any less?

The token questions we require our candidates to answer nowadays for advancement are merely the skeletal remains of an intricate system of morality lectures which, in the 18th century, had to be communicated verbally (since nothing was written down) and memorized before a candidate could start to learn. The learning process was conducted by his mentor with aid of the brethren. After satisfying his brethren that he had reached the required level of proficiency, he could advance to a higher degree.

Nowadays a proficiency does not constitute a real test at all. The candidate is required only to quote compulsory words in a certain sequence. It is irrelevant whether he understands what he is saying or not. Also, any amount of prompting by the Deacon at his side is allowable in most Lodges. Compare this with the long-forgotten practice where, at each meeting, the Worshipful Master delegated one of the junior brethren to prepare and then deliver, at the next meeting, a lecture on a philosophical subject of his choosing, and then be prepared to answer questions on it. The questions and answers always triggered lively debates and thus improved Masonic insights and knowledge.

Do you remember the following phrase during your initiation? "To subdue my passions and IMPROVE myself in Masonry."

What is our own daily advancement in Masonic knowledge nowadays and how do we go about this business of self-knowledge and inner growth, or is it all just empty words?

~ Evert J.F. Bergamin, PM, 32°





The Sun City Shrine Club will meet on Sept. 5 at 11:30 at Merna's Café. See you there!

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Did you know this?

Frederic Bartholdi, the man who designed the famous Statue of Liberty, was a Mason

Hitler believed that the Masons were a tool of the Jews and under the Nazi regime it's estimated that between 80,000 and 200,000 Freemasons were murdered.

Music written by Brother John Stafford Smith (1750-1836) of Inverness Lodge #4 in London was, at one time, used by an Irish Masonic Orphans' Home as their song. Later it became a popular drinking song for many years known as To Anacreon in Heaven. Then, some years later, the music was adopted by Francis Scott Key to which he wrote the words to our National Anthem, The Star Spangled Banner.

from the Secretary

Wor. Marty Gushwa, PM, HA



Brothers - Those of you who have not paid your dues already please send in your check for \$140.

. Thank you!

from the South

Jerry Donathan, PM, JW



No article this month.



A beautiful system of Morality, veiled in Allegory, illustrated by

  						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Leo 	Virgo 		1	2 Stated Mtg 7:00 pm 6:00 pm Dinner 	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Marquez Initiation 7:00 pm	10	11
12 Job's Daughters 7:00 PM 	13	14	15	16 2nd Degree Rehearsal 6:00 pm	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 2nd Degree Rehearsal 6:00 pm	24+	25
26 Job's Daughters 7:00 PM 	27	28	29	30 Haselwood 2nd Degree 7:00 pm	31	August Birthstone: Peridot 





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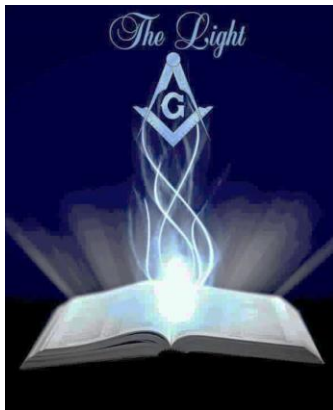
We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://lodge289.freemason.org>
<https://m.facebook.com/MenifeeValleyMasons>

or for the Crystal Ballroom:

<http://www.menifeebanquethall.com>



Menifee Valley Lodge #289 Officers

Worshipful Master	Charles Markel	805-732-3790
Senior Warden	Thomas Berger	951-834-2702
Junior Warden	Wor. Jerry Donathan, PM	951-264-9806
Treasurer	Ricky Villegas	619-765-6237
Secretary	Wor. Marty Gushwa, PM	805-603-2064
Chaplain	Wor. Harold Whitford PM	951-246-9961
Senior Deacon	Vacant	
Junior Deacon	Gary Branson	925-266-2849
Marshal	William Lewis	951 639-4211
Senior Steward	Tom Dawson	951-813-9548
Junior Steward	Jose Shepard	951-231-4145
Tiler	Wilson Bohol	619-735-6375
Officer's Coach	Wor. Monte Euler, PM	951-733-2925
Inspector 826 th Masonic District	Wor. Scott Bennett, PM	

Concordant Bodies

Job's Daughters Bethel No. 165,
Meets 2nd and 4th Sundays, 7:00pm
Carrie Ghent, Bethel Guardian,
951-271-2054
Bro. Alan Walbridge, AG
909-241-5547



Did you know that being an officer is both a privilege and an honor? These leaders have made a commitment to being at the practices and meetings/degrees and doing an outstanding job. We are all indebted to them for this commitment and their efforts. If you are interested in becoming an officer, please contact the Worshipful Master or the Officers Coach listed above.



A beautiful system of Morality, veiled in Allegory, illustrated by

Committees

Here are our committees for 2018. By being a Committee member, you are 'paying it forward' to the Lodge by giving a little of your time. Some Committees only meet once a year, others quarterly, and some monthly. The point is, we need your help. Contact the Chairman for meeting times. And if you want to serve on a committee and are not listed, contact the Worshipful Master, as we want your help.

Audit

CH – TC Dowden
Steve Sutton, PM

Charity & Relief

Chuck Markel, WM
Tom Berger
Jerry Donathan, PM

Sickness & Distress

CH –, Harold Whitford, PM
Tom Berger

Hiram Award

CH - Tom Berger
Bill Lewis
Jerry Donathan, PM
Steve Sutton, PM

Funeral

CH – Harold Whitford, PM
Alan Bowman, PM

Budget

CH – Ricky Villegas
Marty Gushwa, PM
Charles Markel, WM
Bill Lewis
Steve Sutton, PM

Widows

CH – Harold Whitford, PM
Tom Berger

Hall Association

Bill Lewis, President ('18)
Marty Gushwa, Secretary ('18)
Jose Shepard, VP
Steve Sutton, PM ('19)
Gary Trammel, ('19)
Ricky Villegas
Tom Berger, SW Ex-Officio
Charles Markel, WM Ex-Officio

Trestleboard

Editor – Tom Berger
Marty Gushwa PM

Refreshments

CH Jerry Donathan, PM
Sr. & Jr. Stewards
All EA's & FC's
Newly Raised MM's

Finance

CH – Ricky Villegas
Marty Gushwa PM

Public Schools

CH – Steve Sutton
Bill Lewis

Assignments

Officer's Coach

Monte Euler, PM

Masonic History

Gary Trammell, HA

Photographer

Bud Smith

Fraternal Support Amb

Alan Bowman, PM

Head Candidate Coach

Tom Berger

Member Retention

Paul MacQuiddy, PM

Masonic Education

TC Dowden

Facebook/Website

Tom Berger

Birthdays and Raising Anniversaries for August

Birthdays

Member	Day
Burden II, Albert	2
Conatser, Bennie	2
Findlay, Timothy	5
Prater, Lloyd	6
Mundell Sr., Paul	7
Roberts, Frank	8
Villegas, Ricky	14
Campbell, Vernon	18
Dexter, William	23
Stubbs, Xander	25
Bacon, Clark	28
Palmer, Michael	31

Raisings

Member	Raised	Years
Campbell, Vernon	08/28/1963	55
Collins, Charlie	08/29/2016	2
Shepard, Jose	08/10/2017	1

Memberships

Entered Apprentices:	15
Fellow Crafts:	6
Master Masons:	<u>146</u>
Total Memberships	167



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If you wish to move
mountains tomorrow, you
must start by lifting stones
today.



Integrity



is choosing your thoughts and
actions based on values rather
than personal gain.

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