

Trestle Board Of The
Pleasanton Lodge, N^o. 321, F. & A. M.

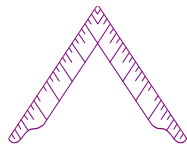
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January 2007 Volume 114, Issue 1 (Online Version)

FROM THE EAST

Brethren:



Here we are starting another new year. I am looking forward to having a very full and busy year, and hope you will all make it to meetings and degrees so far as you are able. We will be continuing the tradition of having dinner before our stated meetings, and also the tradition of pot luck dinners on the fifth Wednesday, of which there will be four this year.

We have quite a few members which we Initiated or Passed last year, and who I am looking forward to Raising this year. Also, instead of going to Columbia as we have done in the past, we are going to confer a third degree in Mendocino in September or early October, in commemoration of my Raising there in 1977. I hope you will want to make that trip with the officers and me, as this is a historic Lodge. As we get closer to the time, details will be made available.

As is often the case, costs continue to rise, and we need to adjust as necessary. With that in mind, I am forced to increase the price of dinner from \$14 to **\$15**. I don't like to do this, but the reality is that this is something that I must do. As far as the budget for the year is concerned, you will find a discussion of that elsewhere in this Trestleboard.

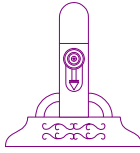
We will be having the annual Crab Feed on Saturday, February 10th. Come and join us for this wonderful social event, and bring your friends. It will once again be at the Aahmes Event Center in Livermore.

We had a fantastic Holiday party on December 17th, with a visit from Santa, caroling by the choir from San Ramon Valley High School, and horse riding graciously provided by the Aahmes Mounted Patrol unit.

Join us at the Stated Meeting. I look forward to seeing you there.

Fraternally,
Jeff Renholts
Worshipful Master

FROM THE WEST



The 2007 installation of officers was well attended. I am so proud of being your new Senior Warden. To sit in the seat where so many fine Brothers have sat before me is such an awesome feeling. Certainly, to be apart of such a fine lodge is an honor. I will do my best to up hold the fine standards and traditions of my predecessors.

I personally want to thank Bill and Mary Worthing, Bill and Jackie Heffelfinger for all of support and hard work in helping Tom Clark and I put the dining room in order for our stated dinners. They are some of the finest people I know. Thank you!

Our Christmas party happened with out a hitch with many children in attendance. Thanks to the help of so many brothers and ladies.

February 10, 2007 will be our crab feed. So plan now for a great time.

I would like to remind everyone to call in your dinner reservations to the lodge or to Bro. Chris Chamberlain our new Junior Warden.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy new year.

*Sincerely,
Russell Kennedy
Senior Warden*

2007 LODGE BUDGET

Budget Woes

As you all know, one of the first orders of business for the new Master is preparing and having a budget approved. At the January Stated, I will be presenting my budget. I want to provide information here so that you will know what is happening and why it is happening.

We have a structural deficit in the budget, and have had for several years. In simple term, this means we spend more than we earn, and we make up for it by raiding the Treasury. As you all know, we were forced to raise dues this year to \$120. You would think that would be enough. But it isn't. It isn't even close. And there are several reasons for it. I will go into each and explain why this is. I am not going suggest that we change now, but we will have to change something, sooner or later.

First of all, we have income from dues. We currently have 335 members. Of those, we remit dues for 26. These do not cost us anything, as we don't pay per capita to Grand Lodge for these members, but we also don't receive any income from them. Income from dues will almost pay for rent and payroll. Almost.

We also have a lot of life members. 92 of them. Most have purchased these memberships, but some have been awarded to retiring Masters. The fees for Life Members are put into a separate fund, and we draw a portion from that each year. Unfortunately, the fees that were charged in the past aren't enough to cover today's costs

(Continued on page 4)

Our Entered Apprentices

Jose Beltran
Alex Clarke
Ron Gartenschlaeger
David Highbarger
Jordan Hone
Sean Parker
Scott Peters
Jamey Cohen
Deepender Pandher

Our Fellowcrafts

Ryan Kapy
Roy Gilad
Henry Maisler

Our Newest Master Masons

Preston Keith Fox
T.C. McCarthy

***Head Candidates Coach:
Jeff Renholts***

PLEASANTON #321

We are a consolidation of:

Alisal No. 321 (1894-1994)
Sequoia No. 349 (1902-1979)
St. Elmo No. 697 (1948-1979)
San Ramon Valley No. 724 (1953-1997)
Sequoia-St. Elmo No. 349 (1979-1994)
Alisal-Sequoia No. 321 (1994-1997)
Alisal-Sequoia-San Ramon No. 321
(1997-2000)



TEMPLE BOARD



Ladies & Brethren:

First of all, best wishes to all for a HAPPY and HEALTHY new year! I'm filling in for Worshipful Fred this month as he and Gail are in Florida for her mother's funeral. I'm sure that I can speak for all in extending our sympathy to the Schwartz family.

The Temple Board will see a few changes in the new year. Brothers Mike Herman and Doug Hoover have ended their tenure on the board. Many thanks to them for their dedicated service. Replacing them are Brothers Dan Maisler and Tyler Layne. We welcome Dan and Tyler and look forward to working with them.

The board faces several projects regarding our building. The first (and the simplest, if we can get some willing volunteers) will be painting the foyer. Any and all help will be appreciated. I'll leave mention of other projects to W. Fred on his return.

***Fraternally,
Phil Steele
Vice-President***

***Stated Meeting Dinner
January 3***

Main course:

New England Clam Chowder
Chicken Pasta Primavera
Fresh Vegetables
Rolls

Dessert: Swirl Cake with English Sauce

Servers: Bethel 14

Reminder: Per the Masters budget, dinners are now **\$15**.

Just a reminder that all must call Chris Chamberlain, Junior Warden, for dinner reservations and reconfirm the ongoing permanent list. Everyone needs to call in at least **three days before Stated**. So our Chef Kevin, can go out and buy the right amount of supplies for our dinner. You can call the lodge at 925-462-8424, reach Chris at 925-570-1940, or via email at cchambe680@aol.com.

FROM THE SOUTH



Brethren and Ladies:

Happy 2007! I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve this Lodge. I hope I can do justice to those who have gone before me in the position and bring added value to the Lodge.

Each month, I'll try to provide some form of Masonic thought for reflection as well as a plug for an upcoming event– heck maybe toss in a joke or story for fun.

Thought for reflection:

Brotherly Love, Relief & Truth– the three principle tenets of Freemasonry. What do they mean to you and how do you live them? A well known sociologist, Robert Putnam, noted in his book “Bowling Alone” that we, as a society, are becoming more “card carrying” members of organizations and less active participants in such groups– it’s good to belong but we’re too busy to attend. I’d ask that you consider coming to lodge if you haven’t been in a while, call a brother you haven’t heard from in a while and

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(Continued from page 2)

even with appreciation in the fund itself. This year, we will be short from the projections of income from the Life Membership Fund as opposed to full dues if paid by those members. The income from the Life Membership fund will cover what we need to pay Grand Lodge for per capita, with a little bit left over. A very little bit.

A side note regarding the awarding of a Life Membership to our Junior Past Master. While it may seem, on the face of it, that this is an expense to the Lodge, it is not. What it is, is a transfer of Lodge funds from the General Operating Fund to the Life Membership Fund. The Lodge does lose the current year dues only from the Junior Past Master, as the income that money would generate would not yet have been realized.

Our revenues from advertisements in the Trestleboard cover the costs of producing the Trestleboard and with a pittance left over to pay for a portion of running the normal Lodge business.

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We have many events during the year. Some of these are self-supporting, but we don't make a charge for Installation, we don't charge our Entered Apprentices and Fellowcraft's for stated meeting dinners (these are partially subsidized by the charge we make to members). We don't charge our honorees for Hiram and Golden Veteran Award presentations. We don't charge for the Holiday party or the Youth Appreciation party. We don't charge for refreshments for Officers practices or Degrees. Overall, though, these costs aren't very much on a per event basis.

We have relatively little latitude on fund raising. We aren't permitted to raise funds from the public, only ourselves and our friends. This essentially is an increase in dues, albeit from those participating only. So, to avoid raiding the Treasury, we can do a limited number of things. We can reduce our rent. We can stop paying our Secretary and Tiler. We can raise dues. We can have many fund raisers. We can increase membership.

I leave it you, my brothers, as to what we should do. I will present my budget at the January Stated Meeting, and I expect to have a healthy discussion as to what we ought to do.

Jeff Renholts
Worshipful Master

From Cinosam.com

On Thursday, On Dec.14, 2005, the front-page of the San Francisco Chronicle reported that two days before a female humpback whale had been found. She had been entangled in a spider web of crab traps and lines and would die. A fisherman spotted her a few miles outside the Golden Gate Bridge and called in an environmental group for help. Within a few hours, the rescue team arrived and determined that she was so bad off that the only way to save her was to dive in and untangle her. This was a very dangerous proposition as one slap of the tail could kill a rescuer.

Hundreds of pounds of traps that caused her to struggle to stay afloat weighted her down. She also had hundreds of yards of line rope wrapped around her body, her tail and her torso, and a line tugging in her mouth.

The team worked for hours with curved knives and eventually freed her. When she was free, the divers say she swam in what seemed like joyous circles. She then came back to each and every diver, one at a time, and nudged them, pushed them gently around and thanked them. Some said it was the most incredibly beautiful experience of their lives. The person who cut the rope out of her mouth says her eye was following him the entire time, and he will never ever be the same.

We as Masons are blessed and fortunate to be surrounded by Brothers who will help us get untangled from the things that are binding us. Things like depression, alcoholism, envy, lust, self-indulgence, greed, et cetera.

May you always know the joy of giving and receiving gratitude and love.

Youth Groups

JOBS DAUGHTERS BETHEL 1



Bethel No. 1, Dublin has had an exciting December. January holds even greater excitement for our Bethel as we approach a new term. In December, we took a trip to the movies to see "Happy Feet," in honor of our Honored Queen's mascot, the penguin. The 17th was our Official Worship Service and a fun lunch afterwards. On Wednesday, the 20th was the last meeting of our term, and of the year. Our new Bethel Guardian Council was installed and Friendship Pal gifts were exchanged. Everyone is looking forward to new projects and fun activities next term. Our Sr. Princess elect Jessica Phillips is planning a prospect party on January 13th and our Grand Guardian's Official Visit is scheduled for January 20th in Hayward. This will be the first Official Visit of 2007 for our Grand Guardian and Associate Grand Guardian.

At 7:00 pm on January 6th, at the Pleasanton Masonic Center, we are having our semi-annual Installation of Officers, where Annemarie Cota will be crowned Honored Queen. We hope you all can make it!

Thank you for all your support and we look forward to serving you in 2007.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Candace White
Honored Queen
Bethel No. 1, Dublin

JOBS DAUGHTERS BETHEL 247



To Pleasanton Lodge Families,

I am pleased to announce that the Danville Bethel has a new Bethel Guardian. Leah Muhleman, was installed at our December meeting. She is a Past Honored Queen of Danville and recently served

as our Guardian Director of Epochs. She has everything it takes to be a fantastic Bethel Guardian and we are confident that she will assist the girls in taking our Bethel to new heights.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for the support you have given me and our entire Bethel over the past several years. Our girls really enjoy the relationship that our two organizations have. I sincerely appreciate your attendance at our meetings and events which goes a long way in helping our girls understand their Masonic heritage.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Bethel Guardian but now it is time for me to be a full time DeMolay mom as my son Shaun is currently serving as Master Councilor for Castro Valley DeMolay.

We would also like to send our sincere thanks for your tremendous amount of support for Allison Hom and Debbie Williams. We are hoping our continued prayers will lead to a quick recovery. It is very reassuring knowing that our Masonic family is there to help us through this difficult time. The girls made it through their first meeting since the accident, they sang loud, just as Dani would have wanted.

Thank you for your continued support of Danville Jobs and our new Bethel Guardian. My congratulations to Jeff and his corps of officers. We wish you a very successful year!

Yvonne Reynolds
Past Bethel Guardian
Bethel No. 247 Danville

check in on him, offer relief and try to get involved where you can. As the saying goes, none of us are as strong as all of us.

Plug for the month:

Okay, I have a couple. As your Junior Warden for 2007, I am in need of a few good men and women who might be able to assist in setting up or taking down our dining room for stated meeting dinners. More hands make light work and my hope is that we have enough folks so that a schedule can be developed to help once or twice a quarter, for maybe an hour or so. Specifically, we set up the dining hall on the Wednesday morning of the stated meeting, then clean up and put away after the meetings.

Perspective members of the "Warden's Rangers" will receive a "high five", a couple of bad jokes told to you and the gratitude of your fellow lodge brothers- and me too. Other "Rangers Only" incentives are in the works....think big!

In advance of the flood of email's and phone calls I am anticipating on this offer to join the elite Warden's Rangers, I would like to thank you all for a great year to come. Please let me know if you are ready to enlist.

Another plug is to visit our Youth Group events and installations if you can- check the calendar for a schedule. These are very special young people doing some great things and they need our continued support.

*Fraternally,
Chris Chamberlain
Junior Warden*

2007 Committees

Charity

Jeff Renholts, Master 462-3774
Russ Kennedy, Sr. Warden 828-9687
Chris Chamberlain, Jr. Warden 829-7188

Dues

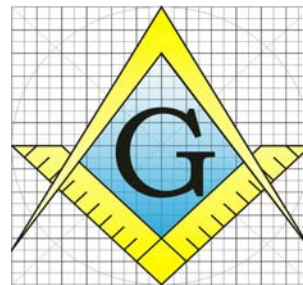
Peter Jackson—Chairman 803-8589
Peter Studt 833-8001
George Christensen 484-5082

Audit

Dan Maiser— Chairman
415-781-8644 x204
Dan Cold 829-0621
Steve Yeffa 426-2347

For Trestle Board submissions and info,
please contact:

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LODGE OFFICERS & TEMPLE BOARD

Unless otherwise stated, all Area Codes are 925

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PLEASANTON LODGE 321, F. & A.M.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 2007

- 3 Stated Meeting Night**
 Refreshments/Dinner **6:00 PM**
 Reservations REQUIRED 462-8424
 Stated Meeting **8:00PM**
- 4 Fellowship Luncheon NOON**
 San Ramon Brass Door
*Open invitation to all masons and ladies.
 Casual attire, DUTCH-TREAT lunch*
- 6 Bethel 1 Installation 7:00 PM**
Bethel 247 Installation 7:00 PM
 Danville Grange Hall
- 10 Officers Practice 7:00 PM**
First Degree
- 13 Bethel 14 Installation 7:00 PM**
- 17 Officers Practice 7:00 PM**
Second Degree
- 24 Officers Practice 7:00 PM**
Third Degree
- 25 Temple Board Meeting 7:00 PM**
- 27 Officer School of Instruction**
 Seminoff Lodge **8:00 AM**
 Masonic Home, Union City
- DeMolay Installation 7:30 PM**
- 31 5th Wednesday Potluck 6:30 PM**

February 2007

- 7 Stated Meeting Night**
 Refreshments/Dinner **6:00 PM**
 Reservations REQUIRED 462-8424
 Stated Meeting **8:00PM**
- 8 Fellowship Luncheon NOON**
 San Ramon Brass Door
*Open invitation to all masons and ladies.
 Casual attire, DUTCH-TREAT lunch*
- 10 Crab Feed at Aahmes Shrine 6:00 PM**
Livermore– Look for more info!
- 14 First Degree 7:30 PM**
- 21 Officers Practice 7:00 PM**
Second Degree
- 22 Temple Board Meeting 7:00 PM**
- 24 Officer School of Instruction**
 Location TBA **8:00 AM**
- 28 Officers Practice 7:00 PM**
Third Degree