



ORINDA LODGE

Alamo 122 | Chartered May 13, 1858

Acorn 494 | 10/14/1920 East Bay 489 | 10/14/1920 Hillcrest 573 | 10/11/1923
Piedmont 521 | 10/12/1923 Plymouth 560 | 10/9/1923 Orinda 704 | 10/12/1950

From the East

Sean C. Mergy, Worshipful Master

Ladies, Brethren, Friends and Guests,

It is with humility and a heart of contentment that I prepare for my last stated meeting and to meet my successor with open arms. My year as Master may not have been the glorious red carpet year that we all dream of, but I am grateful to have spent it with my Brethren. I shall carry with me the memory of a Lodge that poured its love and support onto me and of the Brethren that make it possible for our craft to withstand the testament of time.

To my officers, thank you for standing by my side and supporting the lodge through my time as Master. We had a few rough patches this year, but I know that throughout all things brotherly love shall prevail.

To our Past Masters, thank you for helping me in my next steps as a Master and in becoming one of the great supports of this lodge. You were the wisdom that helped me contrive my plans and navigate this year, the strength to continue pursuit of Masonic light, and the beauty that will forever shine in our ancient institution.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Your soon to be Past Master
W. Sean Mergy



Sean Mergy, Master

Nov. Calendar

Thur. Nov. 7th Stated Meeting

Please make your
reservations
Dinner 6:00 pm

Officers: Suit or Jacket & Tie

Sat. Nov. 16th Mickey Ganitch's 100th Birthday Party

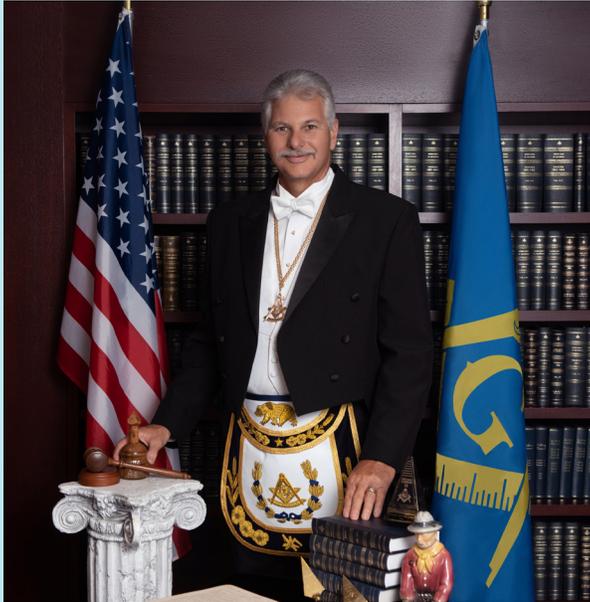
USS Hornet - Alameda
10 am - 2 pm

Dress Casual or Hawaiiin

Sun. Dec. 8th Officer's Installation and Dinner

At Orinda Lodge
Ceremony at 3 pm
Dinner to follow

Officers: Tuxedos



John E. Trauner
Most Worshipful Grand Master

Annual Communication has passed and as such we have bid farewell to Grand Master Stuart A. Wright and welcomed our new Grand Master, John E. Trauner. Below is a short excerpt from Brothers Trauner's biography on Freemason.org

"...A second-generation Mason, Most Worshipful Brother John Edward Trauner was raised a Master Mason in Madison Lodge No. 23 in Grass Valley on March 25, 1997. He served as Master of the lodge in 2001. In 2006, Madison Lodge presented him with the Hiram Award for his continued and distinguished service to the lodge. He is also a member of Nevada Lodge No. 13 in Nevada City.

Brother Trauner has served the Grand Lodge of California as an inspector and as assistant grand lecturer. He was inspector for five years and was appointed assistant grand lecturer of Division II in 2014. Brother Trauner served on the ritual committee and has served on all the Grand Lodge constitutional boards.

In addition to this service, Brother Trauner is active in the concordant and appendant bodies..."



Master Sean Mergy (Left), candidate Drew Spitzer (Second from Left), Master Cal Gilbert (Second from Right) and Vick Vickers PM (Right).

Live Oak Visitation

Congrats to Live Oak's newest Fellowcraft Drew Spitzer!

Live Oak Performed a fantastic Second Degree at Orinda! The major seats consisted of Vic Vickers PM, East, Earl Love Jr. PM, West, Gilberto Estrada, South, and Master Cal Gilbert as Senior Deacon.

Mickey's Celebration

The celebration is officially booked, all available seats have been filled.

We are all looking forward to this wonderful celebration of Mickey Ganitch's 100th birthday and 50 years in Masonry!

The festivities are being held November 16th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM aboard the USS Hornet. Dress is Hawaiian in honor of his Pearl Harbor service. The famed Ghost Ship is docked in Alameda at 707 W Hornet Ave.

For further question on the event, reservations or helping volunteer please contact Alan Miller PM.

Alan J. Miller | Past Master
Orinda Lodge #122 F&AM
510-673-2900



Leading with Beauty

THE SYMBOLISM OF MASONIC RODS

By Michelle Simone

Masonic rods, borne by the Stewards and Deacons, are a hallmark attribute in every Masonic lodge. Their presence dates back to at least 1724, when they are said to have been carried in a grand lodge procession. Today, the rods continue to be infused with rich Masonic symbolism.



Stewards (Left) Junior Deacon (Center) and Senior Deacon (Right) rods.

AN ANCIENT DESIGN

Masonic rods are thin poles that are approximately six feet long. According to one school of thought, this shape and length represents the asherah, wooden staffs carried by ancient attendants to the high priests. The term “asherah” comes from the ancient West Semitic goddess of the same name, who was said to have birthed the gods of dusk and dawn.

The herald who guided candidates through their initiation to the philosophies of the ancient mysteries was also known to carry an asherah. His was topped with a caduceus of Mercury – a winged staff wrapped with two opposing snakes. This symbol was said to ward off the spirits of evil. According to former Grand Lecturer Jack Rose, some scholars attribute the metal tips of contemporary rods as homage to this ancient symbol. Another interpretation of this tip shape is that it imitates the thyrsus – a sacred staff carried by Bacchus, the Roman god of fertility, wine, and agriculture. The thyrsus was wrapped in leaves of ivy and topped with a pinecone. The pinecone carries its own rich symbolism – it is considered to be an ancient symbol of human enlightenment. In this school of thought, the rod tips represent this pinecone.



The caduceus is the staff carried by Hermes in Greek mythology and consequently by Hermes Trismegistus in Greco-Egyptian mythology. The same staff was also borne by heralds in general, for example by Iris, the messenger of Hera. It is a short staff entwined by two serpents, sometimes surmounted by wings.

SYMBOLISM AND MEANING

The word “deacon” derives from the Greek word for attendant. The Junior and Senior Deacons’ rods, which are blue, symbolize friendship and benevolence. The white Junior and Senior Stewards’ rods, represent purity and innocence.

All rods are tipped with a silver or gold emblem. Until the late 18th century, the symbols of choice were the caduceus or pinecone. With a rise in Christian influence and negative views around symbols associated with paganism, the rod tips began to exemplify Biblical concepts, such as the crescent, sun, and cornucopia.

Today, when viewed together, these updated rod tips tell a story: The Junior Deacon’s rod tip, a “spilling water moon” (crescent moon that stands on its points) is combined with the sunshine atop the Senior Deacon’s rod to yield a fruitful harvest – symbolized in the cornucopias that adorn both Stewards’ rods.

EMBLEMS OF MATERIAL CULTURE

Contemporary Masonic rods play an important role in the material culture of their lodge and convey great meaning regarding those who carry them. The Deacons stand in the East and West of the lodge, with rods tipped with the jewels of their office – the rising and setting sun. They are charged with serving as messengers of the Worshipful Master and ensuring all visitors have been properly screened by the tiler. Carrying their white rods, the Stewards prepare and protect each candidate, assuring his quest towards light and goodness. Their jewels – bountiful cornucopias – also call to mind their duties to provide refreshment to the men of the lodge.



Masons4Mitts Final Results

For those of you who remember, earlier this year our Brother Erik Johnson PM, Assistant Secretary, helped with Masons4Mitts in inspiring the Brethren to contribute to this wondrous program. I felt compelled to add a follow up on the results of the statewide and local work that our admirable brother helped administer. Below is a small article from www.masons4mitts.org

Our 2019 campaign has officially closed and we are excited to have raised \$186,651 statewide this year!

Masons4Mitts is a program of the Masons of California that works with Major League Baseball teams and their charitable foundations to help under-served youth in California. Each baseball season, the Masons of California team up with the San Francisco Giants, Los Angeles Dodgers, Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim and the San Diego Padres to bring the fun of baseball to more kids. Lodges in each region face off in friendly competition to help the most kids they can. The team from each region that funds the greatest number of baseball mitts will present their check, along with the Grand Master, on Masons Night at each ballpark.

Over the past ten years, the Masons of California have provided over \$1,000,000 to these programs. Please learn more about the Masons of California on freemason.org.

Check back here on Opening Day – April 2020!



We should all look forward to seeing this event take place once again next year and hope that we can all band together to help share some relief and Brotherly love to those who truly need it. Thank you Erik Johnson for your hard work and dedication to Masons4Mitts.



Bringing Brotherly Love into Relief

When an out-of-town Mason fell on hard times, his blue lodge and a service he hardly knew about were there to help. By Antone Pierucci'

Although it's been more than 40 years since Danny Bonner recited his Master Mason ritual, he can still recall with clarity the lessons it imparted on him. "The notion of brotherly love really stuck with me," Bonner says. All these many years later, Bonner finally saw what that looks like in practice.

Bonner has been active in Masonry and its attendant orders over the course of his long career in the transportation industry. But because he's had to move frequently for work, he's not always been able to attend lodge meetings. However he always retained membership in his blue lodge, Alhambra Lodge No. 322 in Northeast Los Angeles. Bonner moved back to California in 2007, but ultimately settled in Hemet, 90 miles away.

In 2012, Bonnet suffered a major back injury that put

him out of work. Before long, money became tight, and everyday bills began to pile up. That's when he received an unexpected call from the secretary of Alhambra Lodge. Although Bonner hadn't attended meetings in years, he'd heard about Bonner's situation and asked if he could put him in touch with Masonic Outreach Services. "I never knew we had anything like MOS," Bonner says. "But now, it's become one of the greatest things for me."

Once in touch, case managers with MOS coordinated assistance for Bonner, and members of Alhambra Lodge were able to help him pay monthly bills like his utilities and car insurance. "It was small stuff," Bonner recalls, "but it made a huge difference."

That alone was enough to sell Bonner on the value of the service—but it wasn't the last time he'd need help. Earlier this year, Bonner was again in a predicament: His sister in Florida fell seriously ill, and reached out to him for assistance. "If I was going to see my sister before she died, I needed to get there quickly," he says. Bonner called his case manager, Brandi Whitley, to see what could be done.

"At first, I wasn't sure if his lodge would be able to help him," she recalls. But one call to the master of Alhambra Lodge, Hugo Lara, put her at ease. "Before I even had a chance to tell him much, Hugo interrupted me and said, 'You don't need to sell us on the idea—it's our duty to help our brother.'" Before long, Whitley was able to arrange an airline ticket and Bonner was

off to Florida.

“I got to spend one full week with my sister,” Bonner says. In addition to the travel cost, members of the lodge helped pay for groceries while he was back East. “I can’t tell you what it meant to me,” Bonner says. “It was a blessing from God and the fraternity. I don’t know how I will ever be able to give back to the fraternity as much as it has given me these past few years.”

To attend a Lodge Outreach Program training or learn how your lodge can partner with MOS, call (888) 466-3642.

Remembering The Alamo Lodge

The year was 1857 when John E. Mitchell of Martinez Lodge No.41 introduced a motion for approval by Martinez Lodge to open a new lodge in the valley of San Ramon. After unanimous approval the then Senior Deacon, Thomas A. Brown, was elected Master and a new path was being blazed. There was never a specific explanation given as to why the new lodge was named “Alamo” other than the fact that they would meet in the town of Alamo. At this point Alamo was the most important stagecoach stop between Martinez and San Jose. County record reflect that the town was named Alamo after the cotton wood trees that were common found in the valley, translated as “Alamo” in Spanish. Some believe that the towns name mixed with the fresh memories of the historic tragedy of The Alamo in Texas made for a suitable lodge name.

The first meeting of Alamo lodge was held on January 9th, 1858, in nothing more than a framed building on the east side of the highway. Imagine tiling a building of empty walls holding up nothing more than the eaves, at least it might have been easy to spot eavesdroppers on that day. The lower half of this building was used as a general store for Lomax & Smart while the upper half was Alamo’s first place of residence. The minutes of this first and historic stated meeting showed the following in attendance: John E. Mitchell, Worshipful Master; F. Vandeventer, Senior Warden; I.N.B. Mitchell, Junior Warden; Sideny Maupin, Secretary; John Conlon O’Brien, Treasurer; J.N. Morgan, Senior Deacon; J.T. Flippin, Junior Deacon, William Wyatt, Tyler.

At the Grand Lodge communication on May 13, 1858, Alamo Lodge was officially admitted to the jurisdiction as No. 122. The brethren soon assembled at Alamo on May at a special meeting “for the purpose of organizing the lodge and electing and installing the officers-elect of the lodge.” According to Sidney Maupin, still acting as Secretary at this time, Worshipful Thomas A. Brown of Martinez Lodge 41 was deputized by the Grand Lodge to conduct the elections and installations. The officers installed for the remainder of the year consisted of: John E. Mitchell, Worshipful Master; Sidney Maupin, Senior Warden; I.N.B. Mitchell, Junior Warden; J.T. Flippin, Senior Deacon; J.C. O’Brien, Junior Deacon; John M. White, Treasurer; G.W. Gobel, Secretary; J.L. Labaree, Tyler.

Our not so ancient brethren met not every first Thursday, but on the first Saturday evening immediately succeeding the full moon each month. This schedule, despite several motions to change, was held until 1954 and was successfully maintained except for seven months in 1933. In 1860 a two-story brick building was constructed across the street and our Brethren moved the Lodge for the first time. After a massive Earthquake in 1868 the Brethren once again relocated to Danville, later to Walnut Creek and finally to Orinda where we remain.

The story continues, but for now we will pay mind to those Brethren that laid pathway for us so many years ago, gone but never forgotten.



From Orinda Lodge to our Brethren,
may you know nothing but
happiness from this day onward.
May God protect and keep you.

— **Happy Birthday!** —

Kyle R. Schmid 11/01
John A. Densem 11/03
Robert J. McNair 11/04
Tarek A. Elgendi 11/05
Larry P. Becker 11/06
James G. Dickow 11/07
George O. Chapple 11/09
Harry J. Curtis-Brown 11/09
Wilford D. Roe 11/10
Donald G. Carter 11/11
Donald R. Parker 11/14
Marston Watson 11/14
Michael M. Ganitch 11/18
Allan E. Taylor 11/18
Weylin G. Eng 11/22
Harold B. Wells 11/25
Carlton D. Williams 11/26



**Job's Daughters
Bethel 2018, Orinda**

Honored Queen
Aubrey Newton

Bethel Guardian
Cynthia Tubbs

Assoc. Bethel Guardian
Allan Miller, PM

Jobies Corner

Message From the Bethel Guardian

The Job's Daughters are working with the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano to aid this valuable charity. There are food collection barrels located in the front lobby of the lodge, which will be there through the November stated meeting. The girls ask that you consider bringing non-expired cans of food to the lodge for the collection. Peanut butter is the most-desired item, followed by canned fish. (Protein!). But all usable cans are appreciated. The girls will be working with the food bank to help sort the donations as part of their giving back to the community.

Meets 2nd & 4th Sundays
Orinda Masonic Center 6:30pm

Don't forget that November's stated meeting is also a cook-off fundraiser to benefit the Job's Daughters! Show your support and eat your fill. This may very well be the year that the Turkey King, Greg Bloom, may finally be dethroned. The winner will be decided by crowd vote. Reservations after October 31st will be charged 25 dollars, the same price will be upheld for walk-ins who did not RSVP.



**Job's Daughters
International®
of California**

**2019 ANNUAL TURKEY
COOK-OFF FUNDRAISER**
Job's Daughters



GREG BLOOM
**TURKEY
KING**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

6:30 PM | 9 ALTARINDA ROAD, ORINDA 94536

CLAM YOUR PLACE AS THE KING OF GRILL

\$20 IF RSVP BEFORE
OCTOBER 31ST

\$25 IF RSVP AFTER
OCTOBER 31ST

(925) 254-5211 OR BY LODGE APP

All proceeds from this event go to benefit the Job's Daughters Bethel 218. Please show your support for this amazing youth order by feasting with your friends, family and brethren! See you soon!



**Job's Daughters
International®
of California**

Bethel Guardian | Cynthia Tubbs wtrbb510@gmail.com or 925-890-7297

November Calendar

Thur. Nov. 7th Stated Meeting

Please make your reservations
Dinner 6:00 pm

Officers: Suit or Jacket & Tie

Sat. Nov. 16th Mickey Ganitch's 100th Birthday Party

USS Hornet - Alameda
10 am - 2 pm
Dress Casual or Hawaiian

Thur. Dec. 5th Stated Meeting

Please make your reservations
Dinner 6:00 pm

Officers: Suit or Jacket & Tie

Sun. Dec. 8th Officer's Installation and Dinner

At Orinda Lodge
Ceremony at 3 pm
Dinner to follow

Officers: Tuxedos

Officers' election and Installation

Brethren the hour has nearly arrived for the 163rd Annual Election of Officers. During our November Stated Meeting Elections will be held. Please join us for this very special event after the Turkey Cook-Off."

The Installation itself will be held Sunday, December 8th at 3 PM. Dinner will follow. We hope to see you there.



"Among whom no contention should ever exist but that noble emulation, or rather emulation, of who best can work and best agree."

2019 Lodge Officers

Master | Sean Mergy (Danica)
(925) 766-6881 | s.mergy@comcast.net

Senior Warden | Kendal Mason
(415) 571-0524 | kdms1@yahoo.com

Treasurer | Ed Lana (Diana)
(925) 676-7811 | ed122@edlana.com

Secretary | Dick Anderson PM
(925) 686-3930 | dandson@comcast.net

Chaplain | Mickey Ganitch PM (Barbara)
(510) 352-1257 | mbganitch@earthlink.net

Assistant Secretary | Erik Johnson PM
(510) 872-9013 | Esjohnson13@gmail.com

Senior Deacon | Mick Finein
(415) 810-8060 | orindalodge122@gmail.com

Junior Deacon | Dennis Trammell
(925) 584-6600 | djtrammell@yahoo.com

Marshal | Michael Gooding (Brenda)
(510) 660-7388 | mmmgoodin@yahoo.com

Senior Steward | Carlton Williams (Monifa)
(510) 299-3277 | cdesowilliams@gmail.com

Junior Steward | Tony Benavides (Seema)
(925) 708-4756 | bbtonybb@aol.com

Organist | Bill Richmond PM (Bonnie)
(510) 531-5078 | birch1011@sbcglobal.net

Tiler | Michael Malliarys
(510) 338-8250 | mmalliarys@hotmail.com

Officers Coach | Cary Carlson PM (Lynne)
(925) 360-2716 | caryorinda122@gmail.com

Officers Coach | Don Weisse Jr. PM (Pat)
(510) 534-8377

Candidates Coach | Alan Miller PM (Michele)
(510) 673-2900 | milleraj61@yahoo.com

Hall Association

Board

President | Cary Carlson PM
Vice President | Gary Peare PM
Chief Financial Officer | Ed Lana
Secretary | Ben Bloom

Members

Larry Becker PM
Michael Gooding
Sean Mergy WM
Vic Vickers PM

Greg Bloom PM
Kendal Mason SW
Alan Miller PM

Trustees

Henry Gannett PM 11/20
Tom Steig PM 11/21
Greg Bloom PM 11/22
Tom Kavishi PM 11/22
Larry Becker PM 11/23

Orinda Lodge No. 122 F. & A.M.
Richard Anderson, PM
300 Calle Molino
Pacheco, CA 94553-5263

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orindalodge122@gmail.com
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Our Lodge Mission

Orinda Lodge's mission is to promote personal growth and improve the lives of others.

We take responsibility for the well-being of our brothers, our families, and the community as a whole. We value respect, kindness, tolerance, and our differences – religious, ethnic, cultural, generational, and educational, and strive for harmony in our individual lives, in our lodge, and in the global community.

As a lodge, we strive to be active in our community. We have various charitable and educational events throughout the year, as well as social occasions. Some events are for members only, but many include our families.



MAKING TRUE FRIENDS | IMPROVING OURSELVES | HAVING AN IMPACT