

**March 9th**  
**First Degree Ceremony**  
 Mr. Jacob Holland  
 6:00 PM

**March 11th**  
**Visitation at Acalanes**  
**Fellowship Lodge**  
 7:00 PM  
[CLICK TO RSVP](#)

## From The East

### Dennis Trammell, Worshipful Master

To my Masonic Family,

This year has already been off to a fantastic start. The Lamorinda DeMolay Chapter has officially received its Charter and the lodge could not be prouder of these young men paving the way. If you haven't had a chance to meet these bright young minds please feel free to drop in on one their meetings at the lodge as listed in the calendar.

We also had the privilege of passing Brother Peach to the Second Degree, and he has already presented his full form proficiency at our Brotherhood / Proficiency night on the last Thursday of February. As a reminder, we plan on having an event each last Thursday of the month, so be sure to look to the online Lodge calendar to see if its a Proficiency night, Masonic Education, or even a degree! This last One Brothers Peach, Santillan, Swimmer, and Tubbs all presented fantastic Fellowcraft proficiencies and we are looking forward to getting them to their 3rd Degree ceremonies soon!

The Lodge has also unanimously agreed to accept Wor. Richard W. Hixson's request for affiliation. It is always exciting to see the Lodge welcoming both new and seasoned members with open arms and warm tidings. We hope you enjoy our home as much as we do.

The Sweetheart's Dinner had a fantastic turn out and was triumphantly led by Mick Finein, PM and faithful crew of Brothers Chris Peach, Mike Santillan, and Sharif Kayum with the Sunshine Committee along with a large shout out to the Lamorinda DeMolay chapter who helped serve!

Speaking of successful events, how about a round of applause for Sean Mergy, PM and Mick Finein, PM for their combined efforts at the crab Feed. Together with the Job's Daughters and the Wombo Combo Jazz Ensemble everyone had a blast and left feeling a few pounds heavier.

After we finish cleaning up the crab shells we'll get ready for Jacob Holland's First Degree on March 9th at 6 PM followed by a co-hosted Festive Board at Acalanes-Fellowship Lodge on March 11th.

The Festive Board will be focusing on the 3rd Degree and as such is open to Master Masons only. It is being hosted at Acalanes-Fellowship Lodge #480 featuring Zimm's catering with your choice of Lemon Chicken Picata or NY Strip Steak for 25 - 30 dollars. Join us for an evening of fellowship, refreshments, and informative dialogue as we raise our glasses to all the newly raised Master Masons of Acalanes Fellowship Lodge and Orinda Lodge. [Please RSVP here.](#)

Sincerely and Fraternally,

DJ Trammell



### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

- CHARLES CRANE 2/2
- PHILLIP BROOKS 2/5
- NATHANIEL HUFFINE 2/5
- JOHN HUTCHENS 2/5
- FALIH ALJIBURY 2/9
- MARVIN RASMUSSEN 2/9
- BEHZAD RAUFI 2/9
- GREGORY BLOOM 2/10
- CRAIG ANDREWS 2/11
- TIMOTHY BROWN 2/17
- REYHEO ESPIRITU 2/17
- KENNETH FERGUSON 2/19
- THOMAS LORENTÉ II 2/19
- SEAN FINNEY 2/20
- DENNIS TRAMMELL JR. 2/24
- MUSTAFA TINAWI 2/25
- MARK GLASGOW 2/28



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

- IOM KAVISHI 3/2
- AHMAD KAYUM 3/5
- CLARK SWANK 3/5
- THOMAS MAGFF 3/7
- DIMITRI P. CARAPANOS 3/19
- MAURICE MARCII AC 3/21
- ALFONS- MARTIN 3/22
- HENRY GANNETT 3/26
- JAMES SELOVER 3/27
- RICHARD STREETER 3/28
- MICHAEL FINEIN 3/31

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

## Hall Association Update

Alan Miller, PM, Hall President

The Hall is working diligently to return our rentals to pre-pandemic levels while also taking a step back to reassess our purpose and directives as we step out of the pandemic and into a bright new year.

Through discussions with the Brethren we have come to agree that the Hall's mission statement is as follows:

The purpose of the Hall association is two-fold. First to hold title to and maintain the facility in which the lodge operates, providing a clean, safe and secure environment for the lodge and our masonic family to thrive. It also functions to pay a dividend to the lodge when able, through rentals to the community and other groups, and to aid the lodge in its charitable endeavors.

I'm also looking forward to starting back up with the Lodge Maintenance days here pretty soon and encourage everyone who love the Lodge we hold dear to participate. Its always a grand time to labor with the Brothers and come together to maintain and beautify this sacred space that has stolen our hearts and honed our ashlar.

Sincerely & Fraternaly, Alan Miller, President

## A Family Affair

Larry Becker, PM

Brethren,

Jim Dickow, PM passed away last year joining his wife Carol in the celestial heavens above. He served on the Board of Trustees for over 25+ years and together with Carol greatly contributed to the growth of the Orinda Masonic Lodge. Together they were part of the setup committee with the Kilingmans, Jacobs, Reynolds and a few others who arranged the tables, chairs and decorations before every Stated Meeting and Special Event. Jim was known to be Mr. Coffee and he was the expert in knowing how to properly make coffee in the 3 foot industrial coffee machine enough for 50 people. Carol served as the Orinda Hall Building Manager for years and together they published the monthly Trestleboard. Jim and Carol are gone today but they will always be remembered in our thoughts & prayers. God Bless the Dickow's.

Fraternaly,

Larry Becker

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## Acalanes Visitation

### MASTER MASON FESTIVEBOARD

*Invitation from Worshipful Strohmeyer*

The Worshipful Masters of Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 and Orinda Lodge #122 invite all Master Masons in good standing to a Festive Board. This event is open to Master Masons only on March 11th from 7 - 9 PM at Acalanes-Fellowship Lodge.

Join us for an evening of fellowship, refreshments, and informative dialogue as we raise our glasses to all the newly raised Master Masons of Acalanes Fellowship Lodge and Orinda Lodge.

RSVP by Monday, March 6, at 6:00 PM to reserve your seat.

Menu by Zimm's Catering:

- Lemon Chicken Picata or NY Strip Steak
- Herb Roasted Potatoes
- Green Beans

[CLICK TO RSVP](#)



### MORE ABOUT ACALANES-FELLOWSHIP LODGE

Acalanes Fellowship Lodge #480 of Free and Accepted Masons is a composite of three separate lodges: Fellowship Lodge #480, Fortitude Lodge #624 and Acalanes Lodge #723.

925 Moraga Road, Lafayette, CA 94549

We meet the first Tuesday of each month in the evenings at 5:30 for a reception, tour, and dinner, and an opportunity to meet some of the remarkable men that compose our lodge.

[acalanesfellowshiplodge.com](http://acalanesfellowshiplodge.com)

# 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.

# Hall Association Update

Alan Miller, PM, Hall President

Brethren,

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Sincerely & Fraternally,  
Alan Miller

## We Meet on The Level

Peter Ryan

We meet on the level, my Brothers and me,  
We encourage good men into our society.

If their actions be upright and always true,  
If we see integrity in all that they do.

If they seek more light and value truth,  
If their own insights desire proof.

we will offer them our right hand,  
And welcome them from any land.

For we judge on character not creed,  
Nor on religion or wealth, but deed.

We'll meet them on the level, my Brothers and me,  
And accept them as a Mason, ancient and free.

# Civility Presentation

BY MOST WORSHIPFUL CHARVONIA

Invitation from Worshipful Agadzhanian

Brethren,

The members and officers of Oakland Durant Rockridge Lodge No. 188 cordially invite your members and officers to attend a discussion on the urgency of Civility within our communities to take place on the evening of March 28th. We will be hosting Most Worshipful Russ Charvonia for this presentation and discussion. Further information provided in the flyer attached.

Refreshments will be served at 6:30; presentation to follow. Book signing will take place afterward, so books will be available for purchase. Dress will be business casual.

An RSVP will be required, in advance, for all those who attend. Please, share this flyer with your membership, local youth order leaders, and members of the public who may be interested.

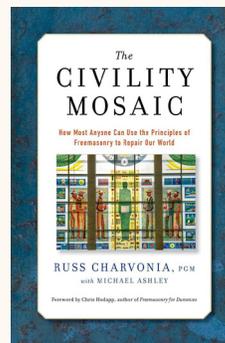
Thank you, and I hope to see you soon.



Fraternally yours,  
Tigran Agadzhanian  
Master, Oakland Durant Rockridge No. 188



The Urgency of Civility:  
A Discussion on Promoting Masonic Values  
to Restore Civility in Society



**RUSS CHARVONIA**  
Past Grand Master of  
Masons in California

Russ Charvonia, co-author of *The Civility Mosaic: How Most Anyone Can Use the Principles of Freemasonry to Repair Our World* will speak at Rockridge Masonic Hall on the evening of March 28th, 2023.

### Rockridge Masonic Hall

5449 College Ave,  
Oakland CA 94611  
6:30pm

There will be a Q&A and book signing following the presentation. Books will be available for purchase.



Scan this code to  
reserve your seat!

Join our special event and get to know more about the practice of civility from Most Worshipful Charvonia.

# Calendar

## **Fri March 3, 2023**

Masquerade Ball!

6:00 PM: Doors Open | 7:00 PM Dinner

Where: Orinda Masonic Center

## **Mon March 6, 2023**

Lamorinda DeMolay

6:00 PM, Orinda Masonic Center

## **Thur March 9, 2023**

6:30pm First Degree Ceremony for Mr. Jacob Holland

Where: Orinda Masonic Center

## **Sat March 11, 2023**

7:00pm Orinda Visitation to Acalanes Fellowship Lodge

Where: 925 Moraga Rd, Lafayette, CA 94549

Master Mason Festive Board

## **Sun March 12, 2023**

Job's Daughters Betherl No. 218

6:30 - 8:30 PM, Orinda Masonic Center

## **Thur March 16, 2023**

6:00pm District Officers' School of Instruction

Where: Orinda Masonic Center

FC & MM welcome, EA not permitted.

## **Mon March 20, 2023**

Lamorinda DeMolay

6:00 PM, Orinda Masonic Center

## **Thur March 21, 2023**

6:30pm 3rd Degree Practice

## **Thur March 23, 2023**

6:30pm 3rd Degree Practice

## **Thur March 30, 2023**

6:30pm Tentative 3rd Degree Ceremony

Where: Orinda Masonic Center

## **Thur April 13, 2023**

6:00pm Dinner: Public Schools Observance and

Miramonte Speakers

Where: Orinda Masonic Center

[CLICK HERE FOR ONLINE LODGE CALENDAR](#)



**MR. JACOB HOLLAND  
MARCH 9TH @ 6 PM**



**TENTATIVE 3RD DEGREE  
MARCH 30TH @ 6 PM**