

From The East

Dennis Trammell, Worshipful Master

To my Masonic Family,

The storms these last few weeks have really brought the mosaic pavement of life, checkered with good and evil, into the forefront of my mind. For today it may be winds and downpours that cause distress in the lives of our brothers, but in spring we'll most likely see one of the largest super-blooms California has had in the last decade or two. If you have been effected by the storms and need a hand, please don't hesitate to call on a brother, even myself.

Looking forward though the month, and hopefully away from the storms, we have a few dinners and degrees planned. Starting with the April stated meeting which will be catered by Sean Mergy, PM, Mick Finein, PM, and myself. Each of us will be making our own pasta sauce for a bit of a pasta party with the brethren. So please, come on down and break garlic bread with your brothers and also to let the other two know that the young'in has the best pasta sauce.

After the stated meeting the big event we are looking forward to is our annual Miramonte Speakers Night. A tradition started by Brother Weylin Eng as a way to support the Miramonte Public Speaking Program and help excite the students with an opportunity to debut their speeches in front of the lodge. Reservation are due by Monday the 10th, so if you like steak argentine, herb roasted chicken, and supporting public schools then please get your RSVPs in! [CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#). *You will find more on the event on page 3.*

April 20th and 27th we'll journey back to the temple as we introduce two more candidates to the secrets of a Master Mason. Both degrees will start at 6:30 PM at which point we'll resume our labors so that we can journey with our soon to be Brother Master Masons as they take the next steps in their journey.

Finally, I would like to thank the brethren for their support of the pedestal officers attending the Master and Warden's retreat this year. I have found these events to be a great source of energy and solutions for Lodge management and activities as we collectively look forward to the next generations of Masonry.

The world around us is changing and unfortunately as we came out of the pandemic we discovered that membership across the state has fallen to a total of approximately 40,000 members. A stark reality, but instead of letting this number scare us let it instead remind us of who we are and why we are here. We are Masons. We set aside our petty differences to let true friendship blossom where it might have never existed. We believe in a brighter future at that our sincere chains of affection will help bring that notion to reality. We have lost a great deal, but that loss reminds us to treasure those around us and never let our kinships be waylaid by immature actions or shallow grudges. Thank you to my Masonic Family for always being there while traveling through pathway.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
DJ Trammell, Worshipful Master.

April 6th Stated Meeting

6pm - 6:15PM Lodge Opening
6:30 - 7:30PM Members & Guests Meal.

Pasta Cooked by Wor. Trammell, Mick Finein, PM, and Sean Mergy, PM
7:30pm - 9pm Orinda Lodge #122 Stated Meeting

April 11th 3rd Degree Practice

6:30 PM - 9 PM

April 13th Masonic Family Dinner

Public Schools Observance and Miramonte Speakers
6PM - 8:30PM
[RSVP HERE](#)

April 18th DOSI at Acalanes Fellowship Lodge#480

FC & MM are welcome to attend.
6:30PM - 9PM

April 19th 3rd Degree Practice

6:30 PM - 9 PM

April 20th & 27th Tentative 3rd Degrees

6:30 PM - 9 PM



APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

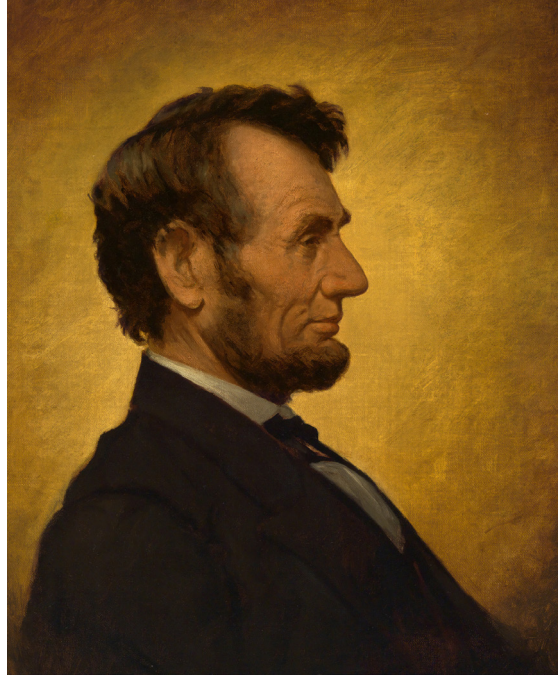
ROBERT J. MIRAGLIO 4/3
BENJAMIN M. BLOOM 4/5
ERIK S. JOHNSON 4/6
BILLY M. HAYES 4/9
RICHARD G. WILLIAMS 4/11
JACK ROSS CLAUNCH JR. 4/16
LEROY A. GALVIN 4/18
DUANE G. HENRY 4/19
WILLIAM R. HOVEY 4/19
STEVEN E. SPITZER 4/20
GREGORY A. ROUNTREE 4/25
RUDOLPH R. ZAMORA 4/28
DONALD W. CROCKER 4/29

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

From The West

Mike Malliarys, Senior Warden

In February, we celebrated the birthdays of two of our most well known presidents. George Washington, who in addition to being the first president of our country and a revolutionary war hero was also a Freemason. It is not uncommon to walk into a Masonic lodge room and see his portrait, often of him wearing his Masonic apron, gracing one of the walls. Abraham Lincoln, on the other hand, was not a Mason but displayed many of the virtues revered in Masonry. He was a great president who presided over our country and saw us through the Civil War that was one of the most difficult and divided times in our history. As an opponent of slavery, he issued the emancipation proclamation and provided tremendous support for the passage of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which abolished slavery in the United States. He is known for many of his speeches such as the House Divided Speech and the Gettysburg Address. There is so much that can be said about President Lincoln that it is difficult to know where to begin. He is remembered for his leadership, oratory skills, and strong sense of character. One



particularly interesting aspect of Lincoln's life was his education. Abraham Lincoln did not get his education easily. He was born in a one-room log cabin and grew up poor. His mother died when he was only

nine years old and his father, who was illiterate, despised the idea of young Abraham being educated and often showed his disapproval with physical abuse. His schooling was extremely fragmented and it has been estimated that he had an aggregate total of less than 12 months of formal education. Regardless of these challenges, Lincoln was an avid reader and an autodidact who had a lifelong love for learning. He went on to become a lawyer who was self-taught without any formal law school education and eventually became one of the greatest presidents of our country.

Much like Lincoln, education is a topic of particular importance to Freemasons. Whether it is the Grand Lodge's Raising a Reader program, Masonic support of public schools, or the Orinda Lodge's partnership with Miramonte High School's public speaking program, our commitment to education is evident. Freemasons pursue a constant journey of self-education throughout their time in the lodge. Although we have the assistance of mentors such as our candidate and officers coaches, it is through self-study and hard work that we acquire our Masonic education and progress through the various degrees and chairs. This past month, it was with great pride that we witnessed four of our brethren displaying the fruits of their educational efforts by performing excellent Fellowcraft proficiencies. These accomplishments were the result of hard work and determination and much like Lincoln, these brethren did not let any obstacles stand in their way of education and achievement. Like our newly proficient brothers, we should all strive to follow the example set by Lincoln by remembering to do everything we can to continue learning on a daily basis throughout our lives.



MARCH 20TH | 6:30 PM

- BROTHER OSIP LISITSA -

MARCH 27TH | 6:30 PM

- BROTHER ERIC TUBBS -

MIRAMONTE SPEAKERS DINNER | APRIL 13TH



Miramonte High School

Acalanes Union High School District

We educate every student to excel and contribute in a global society.

Join us on **Thursday, April 13th** as we celebrate the 19th year of Orinda's Lodge's participation with, and support of, Miramonte High School's nationally-renowned and award winning Public Speaking Program. We will again see firsthand the fruits of this long-time partnership. The talent, hard work and dedication these students have shown in preparing, practicing and delivering their speeches, is a testament to the continuing value of Miramonte's Public Speaking Program.

Orinda Lodge is proud to continue our support of this community program and the amazing students that gain so much from it. We will have the pleasure of hearing from three of Miramonte's public speakers that night. These speakers will be honored with their names added to the long standing plaque at Miramonte High School, as well as a donation to the program and honorarium to those participating.

Enjoy a fabulous buffet dinner for \$25 featuring Steak Argentine, Herb Roasted Chicken and Quinoa Stuffed Peppers. As always, Masonic Widows and member prospects dine as our guests for the evening.

Program Details:

6:00 PM Social

6:30 PM Dinner

7:30 PM Student Speakers

Please RSVP below, the deadline to RSVP is **Monday, April 10th.**

[**CLICK HERE TO RSVP!**](#)

A Special Thank You

Thank you to Brother Weylin Eng for his years of dedicated service to this event, as well as to Worshipful Henry Gennet, PM for stepping up this year to assist this time honored tradition. Brother Eng has been on the forefront of this event since 1999 when he first started the Public Speaking sponsorship of this program. Every year since then a plaque has adorned the halls of Miramonte Highschool slowly collecting names of the speakers who grace our halls with a splendid display of their studies and hard work. Thank you both for helping to make sure that the public school stay on the forefronts of our minds.



Photo from 2022 Miramonte Speakers Night. From left to right: Henry Gannet, PM, PGM Jeffrey Wilkins, Ahran's Mother, Ahran (speaker), Weylin Eng, PM, and Mike Tagulao, PM Inspector of the 305th District

A word From Their Leader

I'm Kristen Plant and I'm honored to be a graduate of, and the current teacher of, Miramonte high school public speaking. Since 1979 it has been Miramonte Public Speaking's mission to help every student attain the invaluable life skill of communication. So that whether they're in personal situations, academics, or their professional lives they'll be able to speak what's in their heart with pride and with confidence. With all of the tough challenges that our world, society, and school are facing these days what better time to practice having difficult conversations so that we can move forward together.

In addition to helping students attain that invaluable life skill, for decades we've been going to speech and debate competitions and i'm proud to say that we carry on the tradition of excellence that Mrs. Sandra Atark maguire started decades ago where our students show up weekend after weekend proving themselves at the local, state, and even national championship level.

Orinda Masons have been on this journey with us from the beginning. Whether your children or grandchildren were part of the program, or you've enjoyed this dinner year after year; what a privilege it is that since the 1990s Miramonte Seniors and our whole program know that they are supported by leaders in our community who are invested in their success and who care about what they want to say. Our students experience the fruits of your generosity every day in our classroom thank you so much Orinda Masons.



From The South

Mick Finein, PM, Junior Warden

Worshipful Dennis, Senior Warden Michael and I attended the Master's and Warden's Retreat in San Ramon the weekend of March 24th.

Throughout the weekend we had the opportunity to interact with our brother pedestal officers and Grand Lodge officers.

The Grand Lodge 2025 Strategic Plan is the first step to bring "The World in Harmony."

To accomplish this the Grand Lodge has laid out several Strategic Themes:

- True Friendship and building strong, long-lasting friendships.
- Diversity and Harmony in our lodges and communities.
- Positive Awareness empowering Masons to share our Masonic experience and increase public awareness of our contributions to society.

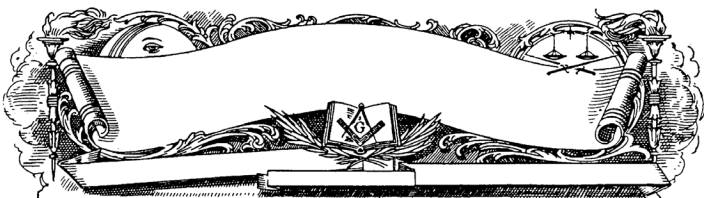
Each of these themes has several Performance Indicators which specify how we can measure our success in achieving the theme objectives.

Throughout the weekend, the general presentations and breakout sessions provided an opportunity to discuss the Strategic Plan themes and what our lodges can do to implement the themes.

The retreat provided the opportunity to find out what other lodges are doing in each of the Theme areas. It is refreshing to find out that most lodges face the same challenges as our lodge and to discuss how other lodges are addressing these challenges.

While space here does not permit a thorough discussion of the weekend's key points, the three of us would be happy to discuss what we learned at lodge meetings.

As always, the retreat gave the three of us to discuss our lodge and how we can continue to strive to make improvements.



A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Celebration of Life for Aaron Wallace Barger III *hosted by his Family*



Please join Aaron's family in celebrating an incredible man and well-lived life. We will showcase his beautiful artwork from over the years and his many accomplished achievements.

Appetizers, a taco bar, and drinks will be provided.

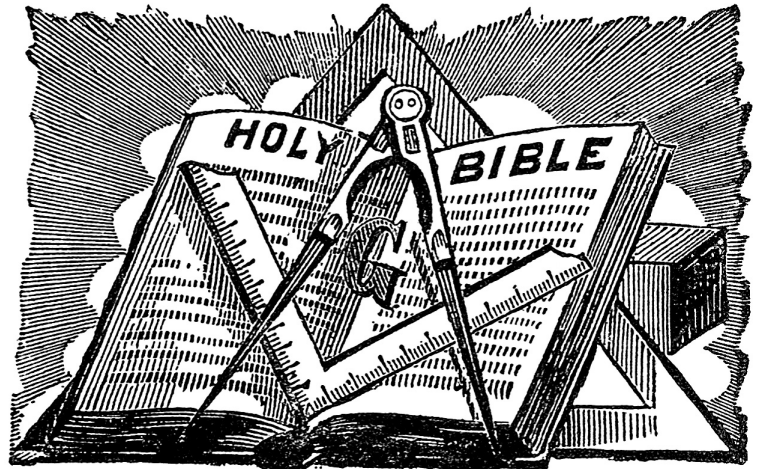
When: Saturday, May 6th from 1PM - 6 PM

Where: Sabline & Aaron Carbaugh's House
1165 Butternut Way Concord , Ca 94521

Host Contact Info: (775) 450-4604

Brethren are welcome to show up if they happen to forget to RSVP, but we recommend doing so in order that the family may have an idea of how many will be attending.

[TO RSVP PLEASE CLICK HERE](#)



Why is St. John The patron saint of freemasonry?

By John L. Cooper, PGM

Freemasonry has many unexplained mysteries in its ritual, one of which is the reference to the “Holy Saints John.” It comes in the monitorial lecture of the Entered Apprentice degree. Candidates are told that Masonic lodges are dedicated to Saint John the Baptist and Saint John the Evangelist. Together, they represent the patron saints of Freemasonry.

To this day, Masons all around the world continue to recognize these two figures as the patron saints of Freemasonry. In fact, the closest thing we have to a Masonic holiday are the feast days of the two saints. St. John the Baptist’s feast day is celebrated in the summer (June 24), and St. John the Evangelist’s is in winter (December 27). Masons and Masonic lodges mark these days with their own celebratory dinners or other events. They are two of the most important dates on the fraternal calendar.

The reasons for this connection go back centuries—and remain shrouded in mystery. What we know for certain is that it isn’t strange that there would be a patron saint of Freemasonry. During the Middle Ages in England and Scotland, many societies and guilds were dedicated to a particular saint. That figure received special devotion from the members of the society, and, in turn, he would offer its members special protection and favor.

ST. JOHN, THE PATRON SAINT OF FREEMASONRY

In the calendar of the medieval church, there were two saints named John who were associated with Jesus.

One was the “forerunner” of Jesus, John the Baptist. The other was the apostle John, the brother of James. He is commonly known as John the Evangelist because of his supposed authorship of the Gospel of John in the New Testament. At some point, these two saints became known as the patron saints of Freemasonry. When and where that happened remains a mystery.

Now, Freemasonry isn’t and has never been a religious organization. It has always been open to members of all religions and faiths. However, the world into which it was born, in Enlightenment-era Europe, was a largely Christian one.



SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST AND JOHN THE EVANGELIST ARE KNOWN AS THE PATRON SAINTS OF FREEMASONRY. BUT WHY?



Saint John and the Eagle, by Vladimir Borovikovsky

As a result, many of the symbols of Freemasonry reflect Christian iconography—including the connection to the two Saint Johns in Freemasonry.

DUALITY AND THE TWO SAINT JOHNS

From the Masonic perspective, we can understand the balanced dualism of John the Baptist on one side and John the Evangelist on the other. Together, they represent two sides of a coin: the passionate zeal of the baptist and the knowledge of faith of the apostle. A Masonic lodge dedicated to the two patron saints of Freemasonry can be seen as a space to both reflect on and channel our passion. Taken as an abstract compilation of symbols, they represent a well-balanced path toward enlightenment. Even more, their feast days are closely associated with the summer and winter solstice—underscoring the symbolic duality of the two figures.

But why are St. John the Evangelist and St. John the Baptist associated with Freemasonry in the first place? How did they become the patron saints of Freemasonry? Masonic scholars claim that the custom came from the practice of new Masons taking their obligations on a Bible opened to the first chapter of the Gospel of John. The “John” who was the supposed author of that gospel was, of course, John the Evangelist.



ST. JOHN MASONRY

The opening words of the Gospel of St. John are:
“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

We know that in the 17th and 18th century, the “Mason Word” was a very important secret given to the newly obligated Mason.

The “Mason Word” gave members of the fraternity access to all the privileges of Freemasonry. For “operative” stonemasons, that included access to work. The Gospel of St. John may have been chosen for the obligation because of the symbolic connection between the “Mason Word” and the “Word” in the opening verse of the gospel.

This connection was so important that Masons in that era were sometimes referred to as “St. John’s Masons.” In some tilers’ registers from the 18th century, visitors would put “St. John’s Mason” after their name. From that, we can extrapolate that the connection to the “Holy Saints John” in the Masonic ritual originated with St. John the Evangelist. And we can assume that the reference to St. John the Baptist as the second patron saint of Freemasonry came later. None of this can be proven, of course.

These “St. John’s Masons” did not leave us any records about why they adopted that name, or why they adopted the two Johns as the patron saints of Freemasonry. But I think this is as good a guess as any.

Calendar

Thu Apr 6 | Stated Meeting

6pm - 6:15pm Lodge Opening
6:30pm - 7:30pm Members and Guests Meal
7:30pm - 9pm Orinda Lodge #122 Stated Meeting

Sun Apr 9 | Job's Daughters

6:30pm - 8:30pm Job's Daughters Bethel No. 218

Tue Apr 11 | 3rd Degree Practice

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Thu Apr 13 | All Lodge Dinner

6pm - 8:30pm
Public Schools Observance and Miramonte Speakers
Members of our Youth Orders and their adult leaders are invited to attend the dinner as our guests.
(Please select the Sweetheart/Guest dinner ticket option.)

[RSVP HERE](#)

Sat Apr 15 | Lodge Clean-Up Day

9am - 1pm Please join us as we spruce up our Masonic Lodge as a team! Lunch will be provided. Look for more details via email blast.

Mon Apr 17 | Lamorinda DeMolay

6pm - 8pm Lamorinda DeMolay

Tue Apr 18 | DOSI

District Officers' School of Instruction
Ritual: 2nd Degree 2nd Section Exemplification.
FC & MM are welcome to attend.
6:30pm - 9pm
Where: Acalanes Fellowship Masonic Lodge #480, 925 Moraga Rd, Lafayette, CA. 94549, USA

Wed Apr 19 | 3rd Degree Practice

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Thu Apr 20 | Tentative Third Degree for Brother Lisitsa

6:30pm - 9pm Tentative Third Degree

Sun Apr 23 | Job's Daughters

6:30pm - 8:30pm Job's Daughters Bethel No. 218

Thu Apr 27 | Tentative Third Degree for Brother Eric Tubbs

6:30pm - 9pm Tentative Third Degree

Mon May 1 | Lamorinda DeMolay

6pm - 8pm Lamorinda DeMolay

Wed May 3 | Practice

6:30pm - 8pm Deacons/Marshal Practice: Official Visit

Thu May 4 | Stated Meeting & Official Visit From Inspect Tagulao

Attire: Officers in Tuxedo, Brethren in suits.
6pm - 6:15pm Lodge Opening
6:30pm - 7:30pm Members and Guests Meal
7:30pm - 9pm Orinda Lodge #122 Stated Meeting

Thu May 11, Live Oak Visitation

Visitation to Live Oak Lodge No. 61
Details are forthcoming!
Where: Rockridge Masonic Center, 5449 College Ave, Oakland, CA 94618, USA

[CLICK HERE FOR ONLINE LODGE CALENDAR](#)