



**April - 2022**

# **The Trestleboard**

## **Salinas Lodge #204**

**Serving the greater Salinas area since 1869**

**48 East San Joaquin St. Salinas, CA 93901**

### **2022 Officers**

**Worshipful Master: Mike Chasen**

**Senior Warden: Lee Blankenship, PM**

**Junior Warden, Sam Mante, PM**

**Treasurer: John Williams, PM**

**Secretary, J. David Isaac, PM**

**Asst. Secretary: Thomas Crompton, PM**

**Chaplin, Mark Washburn, DDS**

**Marshal, Nelson Cargo**

**Junior Deacon: Brian Vanderpool**

**Senior Steward: Tom Folliard**

**Junior Steward: Jim Riley**

**Tiler: Ron Wilmoth, PM**

## From the East



Happy April Brethren,

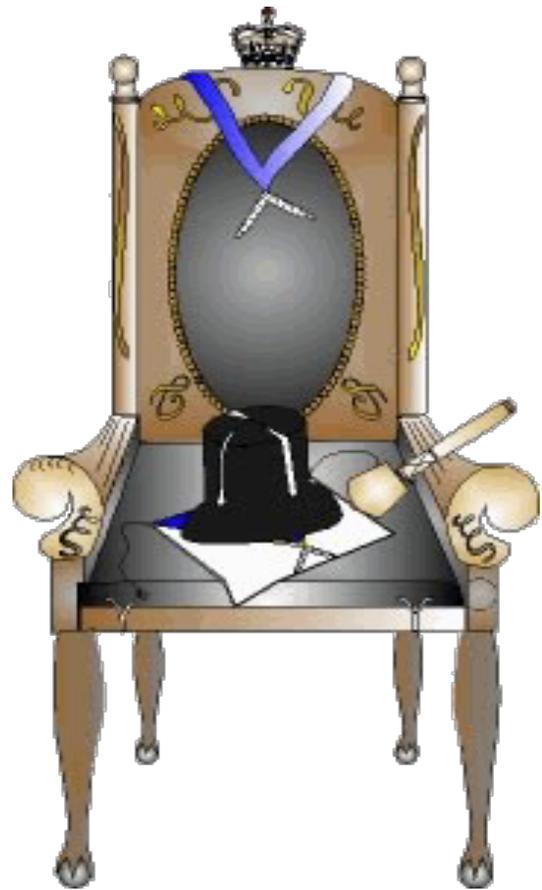
I hope everyone is doing well and keeping busy. It's a great time to be together with friends and family and enjoy some nice spring weather.

We had a fantastic SOI hosted by our lodge with great discussion and we enjoyed having brethren visiting from other lodges. SOI's are open to all master masons who are interested in learning about the officer line and general masonic subjects, so please feel free to come out and take part.

Our April stated meeting will be on the 12th and we will be having an Easter themed dinner, and let's all wear some pastel colors to help celebrate! I am looking forward to seeing you and thank you for coming out and supporting the lodge and enjoying some good food and friendship.

See you soon!

Mike Chasen  
Master



## From the West

SW Lee Blankenship, PM



One of the interesting topics discussed at the recent Masters and Wardens Leadership Retreat in San Ramon was “How Many Meetings?”. Polling in recent years indicates that members are not energized by Stated Meetings; the California Masonic Code was amended to require a minimum of four Stated Meetings – one each quarter. On the other hand, members do enjoy social functions – whether dinners before degrees, barbeques and picnics on weekends, trips to other lodges to exemplify degree work or to see plays or shop in the City. Special evenings for Hiram Awards, Public Schools

recognition, Constitution Observance, Golden Veterans’ awards add variety to our collective fellowship. What is your preference? What, if any, changes would Salinas Lodge need to implement in order successfully to navigate fewer stated meetings and enjoy more social functions? Please let the Lodge officers know your thoughts.

We are relieved and pleased that WB Tom Crompton successfully had surgery earlier in March and that he is resting and recuperating at home under the watchful eye of his wife Nanci. We wish WB Tom the very best and look forward to his return to the lodge.



## From the South



Brethren,

Masonry asks no man to surrender any right, or to take any obligation that will in any way interfere with the duties of life. It teaches a forgiving spirit and an abhorrence of bickerings and strife. It is not Masonry for one party in Lodge or among brethren to be at war with another, or to glory over another's downfall or defeat. It is foreign to the spirit and teachings of the fraternity for one brother, in a fit of pique, to prefer charges against another, or to cast a black ball against the

admission of a worthy applicant, simply to vent a personal feeling of dislike.

It is also not in accordance with the true spirit of Masonry for a brother to permit his ambition for preferment to ride rough shod over the feelings of another and to stoop to crimination and recrimination, to repeat idle stories of gossip, in order to create a feeling against him. Many an untrue story has been repeated against another which has led to disaster. Many a good name has been smirched by the repetition of old women's idle tales. Many an honest man and good man has been injured by the magnifying of foolish stories, which were first spoken in jest, but afterwards assumed the semblance of truth, and were finally boldly proclaimed as veritable fact. Some men have been so dumbfounded at the silly stories circulated about them as to be powerless to gainsay them.

Source. Masonic Standard, C.C. Hunt-Editor and Proprietor. William J. Duncan, 33°-Associate Editor, New York City, Saturday, May 20, 1899. Page 6.



Fraternally,  
Sam Mante, PM  
JW

## FROM OUR MASONIC INSPECTOR



Dear Brethren,

Welcome April! It is hard to believe we are already a quarter of the way through the year. It has been a busy time for masonry in our district. Several Lodges have already conferred degrees on newly initiated brothers some of whom have waited a long time through the COVID hiatus for this most special opportunity to join our fraternity. I had the privilege of seeing one of these new brothers flawlessly recite the long form of the Entered Apprentice proficiency. It was exciting to see a new brother on the first step of the journey to acquire more and deeper meaning on our ritual and mysteries. We should all approach the craft with such reverence and wonder!

There is another special opportunity this month for all of us to learn more about freemasonry. On Saturday April 9 at UC Berkeley the 2022 International Conference on Freemasonry will be held. This year's conference is themed "The View from Here: The Masonic World Through North American Eyes" and will feature presentations by top-notch Masonic researchers from the United States and Canada. This Conference has typically been held down in Los Angeles at UCLA, so this is a great opportunity for us in our own back yard. You can find more details online at [freemason.org/conference](http://freemason.org/conference).

This month's Officers' School of Instruction will be Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 7:30-9:00 PM with San Benito Lodge No. 211 in Hollister as our host. We will be covering the complete ceremonies of the First Degree with a special focus on the floorwork and the work at the altar. I will coordinate with WB Bob Wilson, Officers' Coach, on the team to exemplify the work for us and may be reaching out to some of you to assist at the SOI. If you are a Lodge officer and unable to attend the SOI, please contact me and let me know ahead of time.

Keep the light shining inside and out!

Mark Breckenridge  
Inspector, 353<sup>rd</sup> District  
[Breckenridge@msn.com](mailto:Breckenridge@msn.com)  
831-682-5552

# International Conference on Freemasonry, April 9, 2022

April 9, 2022  
9:00 AM-5:00 PM

University of California, Berkeley -  
Clark Kerr Campus Conference Center  
2601 Warring Street  
Berkeley, CA 94720





## **TODAY (April 3<sup>rd</sup>) in Masonic History:**

Virgil Ivan "Gus" Grissom is Born in 1926



Virgil Ivan "Gus" Grissom was an American astronaut.

Grissom was born in Mitchell, Indiana. He attended Mitchell High School. While still in high school he made regular trips to nearby Bedford Airport. There he took an interest in flying. An attorney in town who had his own plane started taking Grissom up for a \$1 a flight and taught him the basics of flight.

In November of 1943, Grissom pre-enlisted in the Army Air Force when he successfully completed the entrance exam. When he graduated in 1944, Grissom joined the Army. After being inducted at Fort Benjamin Harrison, he attended boot camp and was assigned as a clerk in Texas.

As the war ended, Grissom sought a discharge. He used his G.I. Bill to enroll in Purdue University in 1946. He graduated from Purdue in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Grissom re-enlisted, this time in the newly formed United States Air Force. He was accepted into cadet flight training and in 1951 earned his pilot wings. After traveling to several bases around the United States, Grissom was attached to the 334th Fighter Squadron of the 4th Interceptor Wing stationed at Kimpo Air Base. Grissom flew 100 combat missions as a wingman and never engaged in aerial combat.

In 1955, Grissom was reassigned to the United States Institute of Technology. There he earned bachelor's degree in Aeromechanics. In 1956 he was assigned as a test pilot.

In 1958, Grissom received an official top-secret teletype. He was directed to go to an address in Washington D.C. in civilian clothes. There he learned he was one of 110 pilots who had been chosen to learn more about the new American space program. He was subjected to a battery of physical and psychological tests. During the test he was almost disqualified due to hay-fever, fortunately the doctors realized there was no ragweed pollen in space. In 1959, Grissom received official word he was one of the 7 Mercury astronauts.

On July 21, 1961, Grissom was the pilot of the second Gemini mission. The capsule officially was Mercury-Redstone 4, it is more popularly known as Liberty Bell 7. After splash down emergency explosive bolts on the capsule blew. Grissom was able to get out of the capsule, like Liberty Bell 7 his suit began to fill with water. Despite an attempt to save the capsule it sank, and Grissom was rescued. Questions about Grissom's actions in the capsule loomed. Eventually doctors were the ones who cleared Grissom. The emergency bolts on the capsule were triggered by hitting a switch so hard the pilot's hand was unavoidable bruised, Grissom had no bruise on his hand. In 1999, almost 40 years after Grissom's flight, Liberty Bell 7 was recovered. Unfortunately, it provided no addition clues as to why the explosive bolts blew.

In 1964, Grissom became part of the Gemini program. In 1965 he became the command pilot of the first manned flight of the Gemini program. He became the first NASA astronaut to fly in space twice. As a reference to the incident with Liberty Bell 7, Grissom named his capsule *Molly Brown* in reference to a popular Broadway play *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*. NASA officials demanded Grissom change the name, so Grissom and his Pilot suggested *Titanic*. NASA executives relented and allowed the capsule to be named *Molly Brown*, but the name was not to be used in any official capacity. It lasted until launch when Gordon Cooper, one of Grissom's fellow Mercury astronauts, said to Grissom and his pilot after launch "You're on your way, *Molly Brown!*"

Grissom was also one of eight pilots on the NASA para-glider research vehicle. Also, during this time, Grissom worked closely with McDonnell Aircraft. It was during his time

with McDonnell aircraft he invented the multi-axis translation thruster control. The controls enabled the docking of vehicles and was critical to the coming Apollo program.

Grissom joined the Apollo program when it began. On January 27, 1967, after Grissom and two other astronauts were performing a pre-launch test of the first Apollo Mission, Apollo 1. An accident inside the capsule caused Grissom and the two other astronauts to lose their lives. The tragedy caused NASA to change various design issues on the Apollo capsules.

Grissom was a member of Mitchell Lodge No. 228 in Mitchell, Indiana.

**Don't miss our Stated Meeting and Dinner  
APRIL 2022**

**12<sup>th</sup>– Lodge Stated Meeting  
Dinner at 6PM and  
Meeting at 7:30 PM**

