



**May - 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 May Everyone!

Let's begin by congratulating our brother Perfecto Gonzales (Joper) for being passed to the degree of fellow craft on 4/26. We had a great turnout, and a wonderful time was had by all who attended. A special thanks to all the brothers who came from other lodges and those who helped us with the degree. We look forward to another 2nd degree this month and details will be put out when it's finalized.

We will be having our stated dinner and meeting on May 10th which will consist of a Taco Bar in honor of Cinco de Mayo... Dinner will be served at 6pm and the meeting will begin at 7:30.

The Mural committee is accepting ideas for murals / paintings / pictures which will be applied to the walls behind the officers' chairs. If you have any ideas, please bring pictures of them and you can submit to the committee for review. It will be a nice touch to finally get the lodge room decorated, it has been a long time coming.

The lodge is picking up steam and it feels good to be back in action! Please reach out to the brothers who have not been coming and encourage them to participate. We are always looking for officers who have time to join the line, so if you are interested, please give me a call or come see me at the lodge.

As always, thank you for your support and have a great month.

Mike Chasen





## From the West

Lee Blankenship PM, Senior Warden

Thanks to George Lange, who publishes the Lodge's Trestleboard each month. He reminds, collects, edits, publishes, and distributes, all for the purpose of keeping us informed and connected. I am sure that the Trestleboard reaches members who have been absent from lodge for a long time, whether they are no longer in the area or have reached the age when it is no longer possible to travel to our activities regularly.

There may be others, however, who for one reason or another have not been to lodge in a while. Perhaps you feel you don't know anyone, won't fit in, have forgotten ritual work, will embarrass yourself or be embarrassed by others; maybe you are concerned that you will be asked to serve as one of the appointed officers, or head a committee, or attend a Masonic activity outside of lodge. Post pandemic clothes a little tight? Less mobile so you need a walker? Vision-impaired so you need a service animal? All are OK and welcome!

From my own experience, none of these fears will be realized. Yes, there will be new faces, but you'll find the same fraternal bonds. We are receiving applications, conducting degree work, and knocking the rust off our Masonic tools after two years of virtual meetings. We have a robust "knife and fork" club that dines in style before stated meetings and degrees – and even for practices and district schools of instruction (thanks to WM Mike Chasson). You are more than welcome to eat and greet and see the really terrific things the lodge is doing and has planned. You may even want to sit in on a degree practice or school of instruction to refresh your memory of the work. If transportation to and from lodge activities is a concern, please contact me (831-214-0331) and we will find a way for you to attend our activities.

The proverbial "bottom line" is that this is YOUR lodge; when you are not here, we miss you. Let us know what we can do to make your return possible.



Lee Blankenship  
831-214-0331

## From the South



Brethren,

It is often stated, but not so often understood, that Freemasonry is a journey; a journey towards self-knowledge and Truth along a route which provides insight and understanding.

We begin this journey the moment we freely present ourselves at the door of the Lodge, symbolically dressed as one poor in substance and blind in spirit. But before we are allowed in we must answer to the Master who demands to know whether we are free and whether we

are mature.

At its most basic level this is an enquiry to prove that we have come to the Lodge of our own free will and accord. For the journey can only truly begin when it represents all that we are longing for. It is then that we humbly present ourselves as one needing help and guidance to progress further towards knowledge of the spirit within.

While our rituals follow set patterns, the journey in the Lodge – and indeed in the world beyond – is one in which we take the steps in our own manner and at our own speed. For it is our journey, not someone else's.

It is important to understand the spiritual or deeper message – the philosophy of Freemasonry and its hidden meanings. We are told that our Order is founded on three Grand Principles – Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. One of the keys to the philosophy of Freemasonry is found in the last principle – Truth. So, what is Truth?

In the context of the Masonic degree, it refers to that truth which allows us to progress from darkness to light. But in the world beyond the Temple doors, what constitutes Freedom? Freedom must have limits. Freedom is not a license. Freedom involves a morality and discipline, freely chosen and maintained during life.

It is the knowledge of yourself and through that knowledge you are able to discover your own potential and prepares your mind to reach a higher level of spiritual consciousness. Initiation is the start of that journey to awaken those hitherto dormant, higher faculties and enables a candidate to recover those genuine secrets that are buried within the center or the innermost part of the soul.



Our potential is the real nature and is something beyond words, judgements, or intellectual analysis. Even if we studied the words in the ritual for years we would not arrive at this state of knowledge and understanding. Through words alone it is difficult to enter into real knowledge. We need experience. That experience comes from our ceremonies, and we are thus able to translate its symbolism and connect with its deeper meanings. Too often today, our ceremonies are just a set of mumbled words, at best delivered without deviation from the script.

If we do not 'spiritualize' our ceremonies, then Freemasonry will continue to become more and more of a philanthropical and social organization, just like Rotary or Round Table. The difference between us and them is the three degrees and we should learn to value and understand the nature of that difference and not forget that as a person awakens 'Truth' within themselves, then the other grand principals of Freemasonry – 'Brotherly Love and Relief' will flow naturally.

Freddy Berdach, SLGR PPSGW (Middlesex)

W. Bro Fred Berdach, PPrSGW, SLGR is a Member of Temple of Athene Lodge, No. 9541 consecrated in 1994 to study and research Freemasonry & its historical connections, provide a forum for masonic debate & discussion & to stimulate Masonic interest and education

Sam Mante, PM  
Junior Warden

## CALENDAR

### MAY 2022

**4th Job's Daughters Meeting**

**10<sup>th</sup> – Lodge Stated Meeting**

**Dinner at 6PM and meeting at 7:30PM**

**18<sup>th</sup> - Job's Daughters Meeting**

## Greetings from the District Inspector



Dear Brethren,

I hope all our Masonic family is enjoying a joyful Spring as we move ever closer to mid-Summer and the solstice. One important historical date to reflect on this month is that on May 12, 1932, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, in Alexandria, Virginia, was dedicated in a very large ceremony, attended by thousands, including the then President of the United States, Hebert Hoover. For those of you who have visited the Memorial you know how impressive the building is and especially Memorial Hall with its murals and the imposing statue of George Washington clad as a Mason sculpted by Bryant Baker. It is an important part of our history as freemasons in America and why a portion of our

annual Per Capita dues to Grand Lodge goes to support this beacon of Masonry at our Nation's capital.

Also, this month the Grand Master has proclaimed May as "Public Awareness Month". And I share with you some of his thoughts on this below.

"An important aim of the 2025 Fraternity Plan is increasing awareness in our communities of the fraternity and the good work that Masons all over California do in their towns.

Raising awareness of the fraternity means talking openly with friends, family, and colleagues about what membership in Masonry means; countering negative assumptions about Masonry; and ensuring the continued relevance of our organization. I encourage all members and lodges to consider ways that they can raise awareness of Freemasonry in their community—through open houses, tabling opportunities, and especially simple conversations with friends and family. Our fraternity is not a secret; it's important we share it with the world so that we can make an even bigger difference in our communities. California Masons have much to be proud of. It's time we share that pride with the outside world."



This month's Officers' School of Instruction will be Wednesday, May 22nd 7:30-9:00 PM. Texas Lodge No. 46 in San Juan Bautista will be the SOI host lodge this month. We will go over the 2<sup>nd</sup> Section and closing of the Second Degree. I know some lodges have either practiced or awarded the Second degree this year so feel free to reach out to WB David Driesbach, the

Texas Officers' Coach, if you want to help be on the team to exemplify the work for us 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.

Let our good works be the shining beacon that tells our neighbors and community that we are PROUD MASONS!

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



Richard RJ Adams 5th  
Anthony Sandoval 5th  
James Perry 8th  
Thomas Bingaman 11th  
Peter Shah 13th  
Joel Vitug 21st  
Robert Struve 22nd  
Jonathan Wong 24th  
Michael Mason 27th  
Bobby Anthony 30th  
Dennis Barron 31st

