

Naval Lodge No. 87
Free & Accepted Masons
Grand Lodge of California

February 2011 - Volume 18 - Issue 2

Traditions

THE VALLEJO MASONIC NEWS

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By Naval Lodge No. 87

Free and Accepted Masons of California

NAVAL LODGE...

...attracts and brings together good men of diverse generational, racial, religious, and cultural backgrounds for self-improvement, friendship, and service;

BECAUSE,

We provide an authentic initiatory experience and engaging education programs based on a tradition of living and animate speech to effect a personal transformation that inspires each man to a principle driven way of life based on brotherly love, relief, and truth.

“Our attitudes control our lives. Attitudes are a secret power working twenty-four hours a day, for good or bad. It is of paramount importance that we know how to harness and control this great force.”

- Bro. Irving Berlin

Raised June 3rd, 1910

Munn Lodge No. 190, New York

Table of Contents

Officers & Committees

Page 3

From the East

Page 4

From the West

Page 5

From the South

Page 6

The Ashlars

Page 7

Calendar

Page 9

Finding Freemasonry

Page 10

24” Gauge

Page 11

Bro. Ed Martinez 100th B-Day!

Page 13

Super Bowl Ad

Page 14

Masonic Formation Ad

Page 14

Upcoming Events

Page 15

By Your Side

Page 16

Scholarship Info

Page 17

PLEASE NOTE!

If you have recently moved or will be moving soon, please notify the secretary so that we may ensure our records are accurate and that you won't miss any mailers.

Thank you!

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Naval Lodge No. 87 Officers for 2011

Master

Barry Hughes
(707) 333-7866 * barryhughes@sbcglobal.net

Senior Warden

Leo Guison
(707) 556-3446 * lguison@comcast.net

Junior Warden

Joe Yow
(707) 553-8344 * yowwolf@aol.com

Secretary

Robert Wilson, PM
(415) 302-7270 * rww588@aol.com

Treasurer & Assistant Secretary

William Hems III
(707) 554-554-2588 * whems@sbcglobal.net

Senior Deacon

John Wasson
(707) 552-2869 * jpwasnel@att.net

Junior Deacon

Rick Lauziere
(707) 751-1803 * rmlauziere@aol.com

Senior Steward

John Schaefer
(707) 641-3959 * j.schaefer88@yahoo.com

Junior Steward

Yassine Talha

Chaplain

Mike Woodruff
(707) 422-6246 * angelfeathers@comcast.net

Marshall & Officer's Coach

John Snell, PM
(707) 558-8309 * jvs724@comcast.net

Tiler

Albert Lawson, PM
(510) 921-4629 * jazzmoe39@aol.com

Organist

Charles Bailhache
(707) 644-1560 * charlesabailhache@prodigy.net

Inspector 131st Masonic District

Leo Paule
(707) 704-1920 * leobpaule@yahoo.com

Committees

Audit

Henry Budding PM, Albert
Lawson PM, Keith Wattles PM

Budget & Finance

Leo Guison, Bill Hems III,
Barry Hughes, Joe Yow

Candidates Coaching

Leo Guison

Charity

Leo Guison, Barry Hughes,
Joe Yow

Constitutional Observance

Albert Lawson PM

Entertainment

John Schaefer, Yassine Talha,
Joe Yow

Funeral

Henry Budding PM, Barry
Hughes, Tom Langford PM,
Keith Wattles PM

Lodge Ambassador

Bob Prenton

Masonic Formation

Frank Peterson, Brent Wolke

Masonic Homes

Kerry O'Brien PM, Gary Pirkgig

Membership Retention

Albert Lawson PM, John Wasson,
Robert Wilson PM

Public Schools

Charlie Bailhache, Gerry Bettman

Scholarship

Bill Hems III, Albert Lawson PM,
Jeff Massingham

SMEF

Charles Bailhache, Henry Bud-
ding PM, Barry Hughes, Glenn
Munkres PM, Russell Parker-Taft

Telephone/Phone Tree

Bill Hems III, Robert Wilson PM

Trustees

Barry Hughes, Jeff Massingham,
Glenn Munkres PM, Bob Prenton,
Brent Wolke

Widows

Brazen Pillars
(Gary Pirkgig, Chairman)

Youth Groups

Albert Lawson, Bob Prenton
Joe Yow

Hiram Award

Bill Hems III, Barry Hughes, Tom
Langford PM, Russell Parker-Taft:
Albert Lawson PM Recipient

Mason of the Year

Bill Hems III, Barry Hughes, Tom
Langford PM, John Schaefer:
John Wasson Recipient

Brethren,

This year we will continue to try new things, to grow membership, and bring existing mem back to lodge by continuing “Coming Home”.

February is National Cancer Prevention Month and we will have a healthy meal with delicious foods known to strengthen the immune system and fight cancer followed by a program in lodge encouraging healthy lifestyles, eating, and getting the proper screening to ensure good health and early detection of cancer, which is Grand Master Bill Bray’s Project this year “By Your Side”. I encourage all members to attend and get some tips on the prevention and common types of cancer in men.

Scheduled also in February are two Golden Veteran’s Awards to be presented by the District Inspector on Feb. 24 to Bros. **Daniel Rogers** and **Kenneth Maves**. We will have a Super Bowl Party on Feb. 6 and our annual Daylight Degree will be on Feb. 21 followed by a traditional hot lunch complete with Cherry Pie. See the Calendar for times and details. I have invited the lodges of our 131st district and our old 129th district to participate in this long standing ritual. We will supply our own candidate for the degree. This is a must see for all Master Masons. I encourage all EAs and FC’s to attend as well, as we can use your help in the kitchen, and so on. This is a good event to meet old and new acquaintance’s and bond with the new Brothers.

I will try to include an article in the Trestleboard each month on some of the furnishings of the lodge to try to explain there meaning in Freemasonry with out giving away any secrets for the benefit of the new brothers and maybe some old ones also. This month I submitted an article on the Ashlars. I hope you like it. Feedback is welcome, good or otherwise. I want to know what works and what doesn’t.

Fraternally,
Barry Hughes, Worshipful Master
Naval Lodge #87
707-333-7866

Welcome to 2011! Now that things have settled down after the holidays, we can once again attend to our usual Masonic activities.

First and foremost, I am encouraging all brothers who are currently working on their proficiencies to please work with their mentors and/or assigned coaches to meet their goal to become a master mason. Please let us know how we can help you if there are areas that you feel you can use more help on. Please know that your fellow brothers are always here for you. Having said that, I would like to acknowledge all the brothers especially, our past masters, for being mentors and stepping up to the plate in making sure our new brothers are on track in developing and advancing themselves.

I would like to ask all brothers and sisters to inform us if they have knowledge of members who are sick or in distress that might need help but are unable to communicate. I am finding that not everyone, especially our widows and other elderly members, has access to the internet or are email-savvy. We will strive to assist as best we can. If we find that we are not able to provide what they need at our level, we can direct them to the Grand Lodge for proper assistance.

I hope you all have a safe and healthy year for the year 2011. Speaking of health, February is National Cancer Prevention month. We welcome your ideas that are geared towards health that can be incorporated into our social activities like exercise, yoga, dancing, tai chi. or any recreational activity that interests you and your loved ones. Give this some thought and we can try to create or plan something that might be beneficial to all health-wise.

Happy Valentine's Day to all.
Leo Guison, Senior Warden

Since this is my first article of the year, I want to say Happy New Year to all of you. The potluck meal for January's stated meeting seemed to be a success. Though huge portions of each dish were prepared, the food disappeared rather quickly. I want all to know that my wife, **Sarah**, cooked the entire meal herself. In my eyes (and stomach), she did a fabulous job. For those of you who are not familiar with my situation, I am currently pursuing my Master of Education degree, and have little time for anything else. Thus, without my asking, she volunteered to assume the greater part of my culinary responsibilities. It should now be obvious that I have married a truly caring and remarkable woman.

Sarah has been working on eating more healthily, and her efforts will be reflected in nearly all of the meals served this year. Most of the meals will be diabetic friendly and low in sodium, fat and sugar. February's potluck will feature a chicken dish with pasta, and one of my favorites, meatloaf, will be the highlight of the March potluck.

Finally, I want to give recognition to Bros. **John Schaefer**, **Jose Angulo**, and to **Norma Maloney** and **Nas**, a prospective member, and any others whose names I may have neglected to mention, for all of their assistance. I offer a special thank you to Bro. **Richard Maddux** for the carving of the meat, cleaning up after the meal, and the other tasks which he so graciously and effectively performed.

Fraternally,
Joe Yow, Junior Warden

THE ASHLARS

We are told that the Ashlars lie open in the lodge for the brethren to moralize on. Did you ever see a brother contemplating the Ashlars and trying to derive some moral benefit from them? For the most part they are quickly referred to and just as quickly forgotten.

The Ashlar is the freestone as it comes from the quarry. The Rough Ashlar is the stone in its rude and natural state and is emblematic of man in his natural state – ignorant, uncultivated and vicious. But when education has exerted its wholesome influence in expanding his intellect, restraining his passions and purifying his life, he then is represented by the Perfect Ashlar, which, under the skillful hands of workman, has been smoothed and squared and fitted for its place in the building.

However, you will observe that the Rough Ashlar in a Masonic Lodge is not in its rude or natural state. It has been squared in a fashion, partially smoothed and has apparent strength and solidarity. It possesses all the qualities that could make it a perfect stone for use in construction of the Temple, but it needs the hands and skill of the perfect Craftsman to bring about that result.

It represents the candidate for membership in a Masonic Lodge. Such an applicant is not in his rude or natural state, neither ignorant, uncultivated nor vicious. Masonry does not accept men of such qualifications. The applicant by education and perseverance has fitted himself as a respectable man in his community, assuming full responsibility as a citizen, a churchman and a member of his family. There are a vast number of men in every community possessing such qualifications that are not members of a Masonic Lodge, and may never have the desire to associate themselves with the Ancient Craft.

A man judges Masonry by the actions and manner of living of those he knows are members of the Order, but knows little or nothing of its teachings or objectives in the building of character. In that sense, he is in the crude state of the rough ashlar, possessing all the qualities or perfect material, but lacking the polish that comes from a continued study and practice of the great teachings of Masonry.

Membership in a lodge does not make a man a Mason. He must apply his abilities to improving all in him that falls short of that high standard set by Masonry in character and citizen building. If he is satisfied with being a Master Mason in name only, he loses the benefits of further advancement and improvement offered by membership in the Order. In other words, he falls far short of anything that might be termed the Perfect Ashlar.

The Perfect Ashlar is for the more expert Craftsman to try and adjust his jewels on. In ancient times, with crude tools that would not even be used in this age, workmen of great skill and experience produced material for the construction of the Temple having such perfection that each piece fitted perfectly into its place without adjustment or correction. Time was not one of the essential factors; perfection was the goal.

To keep this state of perfection in absolute balance, a standard must have been set whereby the workmen could constantly test their tools to know that continued wear and use had not changed the measurements; even in the slightest degree. Did they have a Perfect Ashlar on which to make such a test?

Continued on page 8...

...continued from page 7.

We are told that the Perfect Ashlar is for the more expert workmen to “try” and adjust their tools on. In Masonry, we are the workmen, whether we be active or inactive, workers or drones. What are our “jewels”, our most prized possession? If we have absorbed any of the teachings Masonry, the building of character and a faithful way of life are two of the many jewels that should constantly be before us. And in the building of that state of perfection to which we attain, what Perfect Ashlar have we that we might go to and “try” the tools with which we have been working, to know that they are still of fine quality and in perfect condition for the job that lies before us.

In every Masonic Lodge there rests on the Altar in the center of the room the V.O.T.S.L. It is the solid foundation upon which Masonry in our lives is built. It never changes. Civilizations may come and go, but the Book of Books remains the same, adaptable to all conditions and manner of men, in good times and bad, in peace or war, a guide for mankind.

How often do we consult this Guide to try and adjust the jewels which are ours and which may need to be altered to get them back to that state of perfection which we as Masons should endeavor at all times to hold as our standard way of life?

I am afraid that in this busy world of today, we neglect this practice. Therefore, as we think of the Ashlars and try to do a little moralizing, let us forget, even for a brief period, the material things in our lives, and direct our thoughts to the more important duty of contemplating our own defects and shortcomings, and adjusting our way of life and bringing it more in harmony with that standard given us by the Great Creator in the V.O.T.S.L.

The Ashlars are not just two pieces of stone. They represent what we have been and what we hope to be. It is up to each individual Mason to pass his own judgment on himself and to adjust his jewels accordingly, so that when the time comes and he lays down his tools and makes the final journey to the Grand Lodge Above, he may leave behind a reputation as a wise counselor, a pillar of strength and stability, a Perfect Ashlar on which younger Masons may test the correctness and value of their own contribution to the Masonic order.

Author Unknown

Submitted by **Barry Hughes**, Master

FEBRUARY 2011



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 RAINBOW BOARD 7:00 PM	3 NAVAL LODGE POTLUCK 6:30 PM STATED MEETING 7:30 PM	4	5 BRAZEN PILLARS 9:00 AM
6 NAVAL LODGE SUPERBOWL PARTY 2:00 PM (SEE AD)	7 DEMOLAY 7:30 PM	8 ROYAL ARCH 7:30 PM	9 THIMBLE CLUB 12 NOON RAINBOW 7:00 PM	10 NAVAL LODGE FORMATION 7:30 PM	11 OES 8:00 PM	12 CANCER SUPPORT 10:30 AM
13	14	15 SMTA 7:00 PM	16	17 NAVAL LODGE 3RD DEGREE PRACTICE 7:30 PM	18	19
20 ED MARTINEZ 100TH BIRTHDAY PARTY (SEE AD)	21 NAVAL LODGE GEORGE WASHINGTON DAYLIGHT DEGREE 8:30 AM DEMOLAY 7:30 PM	22 OSI MARTINEZ 7:00 PM DEMOLAY COUNCIL 7:30 PM	23 THIMBLE CLUB 12 NOON RAINBOW 7:00 PM	24 NAVAL LODGE GOLDEN VETERANS AWARD NIGHT 7:30 PM	25 OES 8:00 PM	26
27	28					

Make sure you check us out on
Facebook and flickr.



FINDING FREEMASONRY

The word tradition comes from the Latin *traditionem*. It is based on *trado* which roughly translates to such concepts as: Handing over; Transmitting; Imparting; and Teaching. Freemasonry is rich in tradition, but let's face it...when someone says *tradition*, they do not think of 'the transmission of wisdom from our forefathers'. What they do think is *old*, and rightly so. As a fraternity we've largely lost the ability to transmit that wisdom, which is precisely the business of Freemasonry. We go through the motions, we give lip service to the ritual, but how many of us are actually living Freemasonry, and how many of us are just polishing our lapel pins? We can erect state of the art websites, we can publish trestleboards, we could actively recruit new membership, we could make a presence on Facebook, Twitter, or whatever comes along next, we could change everything in our outward and inward appearance, but until we get back into the business of actually teaching and learning, we're not much more than sound and fury signifying nothing, as the poet says. Were just old. I challenge you, my brothers, to embrace tradition, to dig deep, to learn, and to pass on the knowledge to the newest brothers. And were going to start now.

King Solomon, Ecclesiastes 4-12 and the Three Degrees

Freemasonry is full of symbolism and one could start nearly anywhere and spend quite a long time examining the clues. To wet the appetite for knowledge, let us start now by examining a possible connection: King Solomon in Ecclesiastes 4-12 says,

"And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart." (New American Standard Bible, 1995)

The bible is full of events and parables that this wisdom of Solomon could pertain to, but let us examine it from the point of view of our ancient craft brothers who were well versed in knowledge of the bible, and I would dare say King Solomon especially. The last sentence quickly evokes thoughts of the Master Mason degree, and in doing so draws our thoughts in parallel to the Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft degrees and specifically the Cable Tow.

In practical and actual matters, the Cable Tow can be viewed as a measure of security for the lodge, but according to Bro. **Albert Mackey's** *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* (Revised, 1921), The Baltimore Convention of 1842 stated that the Cable Tow was largely symbolic and represented the scope of a man's Masonic *responsibility* which increased every degree. Responsibility is an *obligation*, which Masons also swear to, which increases every degree as well. Responsibility, obligations... these are connections and bonds with our fellow brothers and our lodge.

Continued on page 12...

24" GAUGE

The following Brethren have reported as being ill, injured, or indisposed. Please feel free to call, drop off food or medicine, visit, and/or send a card. Call the Master, or the Secretary, if you need phone numbers and addresses. Please notify the Senior Warden to report any Brother not on this list.

Martin Aurelio
Jim Cowan
Freeman Eisenbise
Antonio Espinosa
Kenneth Kershner
Jack Kirkley
Brad Larson
LeRoy S. Lindbloom
Richard Maddux
Eddie Martinez
George Miller
William A. Pratt
Gus Quezon
Ned Shamlan
Larry Vierra
Keith Wattles

...continued from page 10.

While a bond can certainly be a duty, it is also a strength: The strength of a fraternity. The implication of King Solomon's metaphor of Ecclesiastes 4-12 is that a cord wrapped three times is that much stronger to resist outside forces that would otherwise overpower. If we view that cord as the Cable Tow, then the meaning of Cable Tow is not about telling an initiate - or a brother in later degrees - about his responsibility he has to the lodge, *but rather about the strength and greater unity he brings to the lodge.*

With the view that the Cable Tow is also about strength, the mandate to aid is not only about a duty to do something, but about our ability to do something. To paraphrase founding father **Thomas Jefferson**, *those with the ability to make a difference have the responsibility to do so.* The Cable Tow places the onus of action on the brother to act, not react, for the betterment of the lodge and his brothers, all within the scope of his power to effect change.

The topic could fill a much larger space, but to summarize, when our rituals were created, our ancient craft brothers were using the Cable Tow to extol the virtue of *accountability*. This I believe is the lesson of the Cable Tow.

Is this view definitive? Almost certainly not. The point is to start the process of reflection upon the symbols surrounding us in Freemasonry and to ponder the many possible meanings...to ponder the meanings, and then *act* upon them. What good are these lessons, these ancient truths, if we do put them into play in our lives?

In closing, I hope this first formation article has sparked the imagination, my brothers, and that the next time you are in Lodge and looking upon the Cable Tow you might see it in different light, and perhaps it will remind you that when you see the lodge in need, you will volunteer to help in whatever way you can before being asked. Thank you for reading.

Fraternally,
Bro. **Brent Wolke**
Masonic Formation Officer

FEBRUARY 20TH, 2011

Please join Naval Lodge No. 87 of Vallejo, California in celebrating the remarkable life of one of its esteemed brothers. Please join us for...

BRO. ED MARTINEZ'S

100TH BIRTHDAY!

Springbrook Masonic Temple
101 Temple Way
Vallejo, CA 94510

Join Naval Lodge No. 87 on February 6th, 2011 at 2 PM to kick off the party with a facemask full of BBQ. Don't delay the game! Be there and make the big play by enjoying the companionship of your fellow brothers and sisters while rooting for your favorite team.

Pop Culture
&
Freemasonry

Masonic Formation

Feb.10th, 7:30 PM

Entered Apprentices
and Fellow Crafts Welcome

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

Mar. 17th - St. Patrick's Dinner

Mar. 19th - Rainbow Medieval Dinner

APRIL

Apr. 17th - Naval Lodge Building Fundraiser Breakfast

Apr. 28th - Hiram Award Dinner

MAY

May 21st - Widow's Luncheon

BY YOUR SIDE

THE GRANDMASTER'S PROJECT

By Your Side, Grand Master **Bill Bray's** 2010-2011 project, aims to put more Certified Oncology Nurses into California's hospitals, clinics and care facilities. The presence of a Certified Oncology Nurse can make an incredible difference in the quality of care, communication with patients and family, as well as the management of the fight against cancer. We know it will positively affect thousands of people in every corner of our state.

Every year more than 500,000 people die from cancer in the U.S. and many researchers and specialists believe up to 60% of those deaths can be prevented if Americans slightly adapt their lifestyles.

As a part of February, National Cancer Prevention Month, join your lodge for a healthy meal with delicious anti-carcinogenic food and learn more about cancer prevention during the February stated meeting!

Don't miss this event!

JACK AND MABEL WRIGHT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

It is time once again to apply for the Naval Lodge No. 87 Scholarship. Through the generosity, and in memory of **Jack Wright**, P.M. and his wife **Mabel**, we will be presenting the annual "Jack and Mabel Wright Memorial Scholarship." The recipient will be selected by the Naval Lodge No. 87 Financial Advisory Committee from the list of eligible candidates. The deadline for submitting credentials for this year will be May 30, 2011. The amount of this scholarship is expected to be \$500.00. If funds are available, the number of the scholarships may be increased. To qualify an applicant must be a Master Mason of Naval Lodge No. 87, or a relative of a Master Mason in good standing with Naval Lodge No. 87. The following are examples: a wife, son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, stepson, or stepdaughter. Relatives of deceased members in good standing are also eligible.

Other prerequisites are as follows: The candidate must be a graduating high school senior or currently in college, must have a 3.0 or "B" average in the year preceding the award, must be a full time student, have a minimum of five classes in high school or fifteen units of college classes, and must possess good moral qualities. Awards will be given only to those who will be a full time student. In the event there are no qualified applicants, we will offer additional or larger scholarships next year.

If you feel that you qualify and plan to continue your education in any Community College or four-year college/university, send a resume with your current academic history (high school/college transcript), grade point average and name of your Naval Lodge No. 87 relation to:

Naval Lodge No. 87 Scholarship Committee
101 Temple Way Vallejo, CA 94591