

Naval Lodge No. 87

Free & Accepted Masons

Grand Lodge of California

October 2011 • Volume 18 • Issue 9

**The Vallejo
Masonic News**

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Issue: October 2011
Volume 18, Issue 9
Published Monthly (except July)
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.

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!

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"We improve ourselves by victories over ourselves. There must be contest, and we must win."

-Bro. **Edward Gibbon**
Initiated 12/19/1774
Lodge of Friendship No. 3
London, England



Officers and Committees

Naval Lodge No. 87 Officers for 2011

Committees

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 * leopaule@yahoo.com

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 Pirkig

Membership Retention

Albert Lawson PM, John Was-
son, Robert Wilson PM

Public Schools

Charlie Bailhache,
Gerry Bettman

Scholarship

Bill Hems III, Albert Lawson
PM, Jeff Massingham

SMEF

Charles Bailhache,
Henry Budding PM,
Barry Hughes, Jim Jaeger,
Matt King, Glenn Munkres PM,
Russell Parker-Taft

Telephone/Phone Tree

Bill Hems III,
Robert Wilson PM

Trustees

Glenn Munkres PM,
Bob Prenton, Brent Wolke

Widows

Brazen Pillars
(Gary Pirkig, 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

From the East

As the Sun Rises in the East

Brethren,

Congratulations to Bros. **Waters, Bryant, and Harris** on their initiation into our fraternity and I wish them a pleasant journey in masonry. Congratulations also for a great job by Bro. **Lawson, PM**, on the constitution program this year.

In October we will pass Bros. **Crudo and Ong** to the degree of Fellow Craft. All of our advancing officers for 2012 should have their proficiencies completed by the end of October and we will be having meetings to try ironing out a schedule and committees for the upcoming Masonic year.

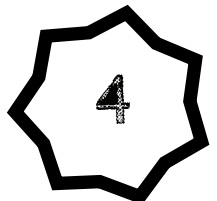
Regretfully we have canceled the Halloween Party due to lack of interest in it.

A lot of new legislation was passed in Grand Lodge Communications this year and you can read about it on freemason.org or come to lodge and find out about the new regulations.

The upcoming events for the rest of the year are Annual Dinner and Elections on Nov. 3. Please come out and vote for your new corp of officers and have a nice dinner. Thanksgiving Dinner will be provided by the lodge on Nov. 24 so bring your favorite dish or dessert and join us. The Children's Christmas Party is Dec. 8 with installation practice after the party. Installation of the new corp of officers is Dec. 10 check. Remember to check the tresleboard or our website for times and any changes in dates.

If you need a ride to and from lodge call me and I will arrange to get you here and home again safely.

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



From the West

“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.”

This mission statement set for us by our Bro. **Vance T. Langford** PM, was meant to be a reminder to all of us of what Masonry is. But like other reminders, we tend not to see it after a while. This is why I want to iterate why we are here – that as much as the lodge is here for us, who we are and the selves that we bring to the lodge also makes the lodge. For me, the best part of the mission statement is summed up by its last 23 words: *“to effect a personal transformation that inspires each man to a principle-driven way of life based on brotherly love, relief, and truth.”*

Did we measure up to the mission statement? I have found this time of the year to be just the right time to look back and assess. A few questions might help us ponder on our journey and might be the one tiny push that each of us needs. Have we met our goals? Did we fall short on some of them? What new experiences came to our lives? Did it change us for the better? What lessons can be learned? Did we make a difference? Did we transform in a way that made this year worth it? And more importantly, did we set a good example to the lodge, our brethren, the Masonic family, the youth orders and the community?

Not to worry, right alongside introspection is the comforting sense that there is still time to address these questions and finish off the year in a way that fulfills us as Masons.

Fraternally,
Leo Guison
Senior Warden

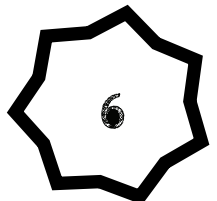
From the South

I recently had my first experience with voting at the Grand Lodge Annual Communications. While most of the initiatives and resolutions were straightforward legislation and therefore “black and white,” a few had vast gray areas that made it very difficult for me to decide how I wanted to vote. However, as Junior Warden of Naval Lodge 87, I was not attending Annual Communications to cast my own votes, but the votes of the Lodge. I was there to represent the members of the lodge. Fortunately, I was okay with the votes I was charged with casting.

Nonetheless, this situation had me wondering what I would have done had I come across proposed legislation where I very strongly disagreed with how those whom I was representing wanted to vote. I hesitated for a lengthy time casting my vote for a very controversial proposal. This was because I was weighing the pros and cons of the proposal, of which both were numerous. The person next to me, noticing my hesitation, said, “Just vote with your conscience.” This was sound advice, which I would have followed, had I not remembered that I was obligated to vote the lodge’s conscience, not my own.

My experience this past Grand Communications brought to mind that it is the collective conscience of the Lodge that guides it and determines how it is viewed by both the Masonic and public communities. This experience has put me in a more effective frame of mind for better representing our lodge and its views.

Fraternally,
Joe Yow
Junior Warden



24th Inch 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.

Antonio Espinosa
Kenneth Kershner
Jack Kirkley
Brad Larson
LeRoy S. Lindbloom
Eddie Martinez
Ken McKendry
George Miller
William A. Pratt
Ned Shamlan
Horia Tanasescu



Upcoming Events

November

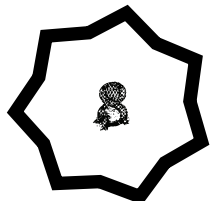
November 3rd - Annual Elections and Dinner at 6:30 PM
November 24th - Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at 4:00 PM

December

December 8th - Annual Christmas Party at 6:30 PM
December 10th - Installation of New Officers at 2:00 PM
December 31st - New Years Eve Party at 8:00 PM

January

A New Year, a New Master, and 157
years of Free Masonry in Vallejo!



October 2011



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

						1 BRAZEN PILLARS 9:00 AM
2	3 DEMOLAY 7:30 PM	4	5 RAINBOW BOARD 7:00 PM	6 NAVAL LODGE POTLUCK 6:30 PM STATED MEETING 7:30 PM	7	8 CANCER SUPPORT 10:30 AM
9	10 NAVAL LODGE 2ND DEGREE PRACTICE 7:00 PM	11 ROYAL ARCH 7:30 PM	12 THIMBLE CLUB 12 NOON RAINBOW 7:00 PM	13 NAVAL LODGE DOUBLE 2ND DEGREE 7:00 PM BRO. CRUDO BRO. ONG	14 OES 8:00 PM	15
16	17 DEMOLAY 7:30 PM	18 SMTA 7:00 PM	19	20 NAVAL LODGE 3RD DEGREE PRACTICE AND OFFICERS PROFICIENCY 7:30 PM	21 OSI BENICIA 7:00 PM	22
23	24	25 DEMOLAY COUNCIL 7:00 PM	26 THIMBLE CLUB 12 NOON RAINBOW 7:00 PM	27 NAVAL LODGE MASONIC FORMATION 7:30 PM	28 OES 8:00 PM	29
30	31					

Make sure you check us out
on

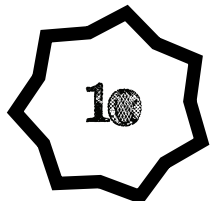


Facebook and flickr.



October Birthdays

<i>Name</i>	<i>Birthday</i>
Albert Dunn	10-01
Silas Sellers Jr.	10-02
LeRoy Lindbloom PM	10-03
Rochee Swenseid	10-07
Thomas Anderson	10-08
Edward Hopkins	10-08
Glenn Munkres PM	10-10
Franklin Taft	10-10
Garry Miller Jr.	10-11
Jose Bautista Jr.	10-13
Charles Reichwein	10-14
Patrick Hollister Sr.	10-16
Horace Holmgren	10-17
Jeffrey Massingham	10-17
Lee Thomas	10-17
Mark Thomas	10-17
Roy Pinion	10-19
Phillip Nelsen	10-20
Joe Yow	10-20
Keith Wattles PM	10-24
Lamar Pinder	10-25
Jose Angulo	10-26
William Taylor III	10-26
Eugene Bunnell Jr.	10-27
Francis Bauer	10-28
David Orosz	10-28
James Simmons	10-29
Karl Kaiser	10-30
Mervyn Nicholas	10-30
John Berry	10-31



October Anniversaries

<i>Name</i>	<i>Raised</i>	<i>Years</i>
Thomas Boatwright	1947-10-22	63
Melvin Cross	1950-10-26	60
Clayton Ketchum	1954-10-27	56
Eddie Martinez	1959-10-15	52
Henry Budding PM	1961-10-11	50
Silas Sellers Jr.	1963-10-26	47
Walter Thompson PM	1966-10-19	45
Reldo Pistore	1967-10-23	43
Robert Strickler	1973-10-25	37
Jose Ferrer	1976-10-27	34
Donald Radder	1987-10-29	23
Brian Morton	1993-10-28	17
Lester Kimble Jr. PM	1996-10-17	15
Rafael Santos	1996-10-25	15
William Taylor III	1997-10-16	14
Marcus Jones	1999-10-21	12
Robert Wilson PM	2000-10-19	11
Keith Wattles PM	2002-10-24	9
Russell Clifton Jr.	2006-10-26	5
Mervyn Nicholas	2010-10-14	1

How To Save Freemasonry From It's Greatest Enemy: Freemasons

By Bro. Matt Johnson, Pioneer Lodge No. 82, GL of AZ

I read a lot of blogs, articles and books on Freemasonry. I see brothers concerned with the state of Freemasonry. Some are concerned with quantity and some are concerned with quality. Both groups are only trying to do what they feel is best. On one end, you have the "mason in a day" approach and on the other end you have the Traditional Observance Lodge movement. There are also some of us, probably most of us, who like the materials we have been given by our Grand Lodges and just want our brothers to use them. Just use them. That's all. Get rid of the short forms, only do one degree per man at a time, enforce memory work, have a list of articles from the Grand Lodge to be read at each meeting on the hidden mysteries of Freemasonry, allow the consumption of alcohol after the meeting in the lodge and that's it. No need to start new lodges. No need to force a dress code. Freemasonry can be done in casual clothes, too, if the ritual is spot on. It is all a matter of preference, not divine law. Just make a few, simple changes to the ones we have and we will REALLY see an improvement. Put more Masonry in Masons. If this plan is adopted and enforced by the Grand Lodges, we will maintain unity and quality AND...I think we will start to see some numbers again.

My generation wants the old school brotherhood, the fun and the fraternity. We want the brandy and cigars. We also want the esoteric stuff. We want to earn it. We want the rituals. We want the Jedi, the Hogwarts. There is no need for a new book or anything fancy. Just put what I have suggested into motion and viola, our Craft is back on track. It has to start at the top and from the grassroots.

Young Freemasons have to do their part. Hang in there with your lodge. Don't start a new one. Start living these reforms. Be patient and loving to your older brothers. Show some respect. They kept it alive this long when our fathers wouldn't join. Eventually, we will outlive the naysayers and we will be Freemasonry. Just maintain quality and wait. It will be our Masonic conspiracy.

STAY in your blue lodge. NEVER leave. Only join an appendant body if you can commit to both. I fully intend to join the Scottish Rite someday when I can, but not until then. Freemasonry IS the three degrees. There is no word that you need to be complete. You have it all in the Blue Lodge. However, the York Rite and Scottish Rite are interesting and valuable ways to pursue further light. They are also part of our tradition since almost the very beginning. I think another rule all the Grand Lodges should pass is that no one can join these groups until they have been a Master Mason for over a year or so and have attended every meeting and degree for that year.

You could skip the appendant bodies and just get a stack of books. That is what the Master Mason degree preps you for: being a mystic, a seeker of wisdom. You don't need anything beyond it. The word is an allegory, not an actual word. Read Robert Cooper and David Stevenson.

However, I do think you can learn things in the other rites AND they are a big part of our tradition. So do them if you can. I am going to. Just know you don't have to do them to be complete. That is bunk. It's a sales pitch and a recruiting gimmick, but its not truthful. You don't need them to get further light. You need internet access and a stack of books. However, I appreciate them so I plan on supporting them. I only say what I have said to help the Master Mason out there who might feel like he is missing something . YOU AREN'T.

I do think the Scottish Rite could learn a few things from the York Rite....or Albert Pike for that matter. If I understand correctly, the Scottish Rite degrees were originally penned so as to be done in the lodge, not as a theatrical production. I think it would be wise and less cumbersome to do that. I wouldn't even mind hearing them read from a book by a learned brother with a good reading voice perhaps by candle-light in the lodge. That would be cool and easy to do. You could do all 29 degrees that way. It would still communicate all that Pike wrote, would insure all Scottish Rite Masons got to hear all the degrees and would satisfy the young esoteric crowd. The Scottish Rite requires no memory work now anyway so what is the difference. Have a few props like a sword, a goblet, some candles, etc. But that's all. Make it a really cool series of lectures. That might go far in keeping the Scottish Rite exciting and vital and would take away the practice of only conferring a few degrees because they can't muster up enough actors. Just an idea.

As far as the York Rite is concerned, just keep doing your thing. I have no advice for the Shrine, either. It is what it is. People either love it or hate it. It doesn't claim to have any secrets and they help a lot of people. And the hats are classic. Just keep helping those kids brothers!

These are my ideas to help the Blue Lodge, the York Rite and the Scottish Rite. At the end of the day, all that matters is the Blue Lodge. If everything else "went out of business", but we still had the Blue Lodge, Freemasonry would be fine. Maybe even better. However, I know there is great affection for the appendant bodies and I get that. It would be sad to see them go, but gentlemen, we are at a crossroads. We are headed for a mass extinction soon. Most Freemasons are OLD and when they all die soon in the next ten years, all that will be left will be myself and about 400,000 other whippersnappers. The Traditional Observance Lodge may very well take over what is left at that point. Who knows. If that happens, so be it. I will sign up. If we act now, I think we can still do quite a bit to preserve what we have and make it better. We all need to make some improvements. You young men need to step up and start giving these old brothers a day off. I think my ideas are simple, do-able and will help maintain tradition while attracting younger men.

You might be saying, well young man, just who the hell do you think you are? I get that, but here is the kicker: I am the future of this beloved fraternity you preserved for me and I THANK YOU SO MUCH. I just want to keep it in top form and pass it on to another generation like you did for me. I hope you hear my heart. I love Freemasonry and all its traditions. I want it to survive and thrive. I like the esoteric stuff AND I like the good ole boys and charities too. Remember, our ritual was written by a man in his twenties. And Albert Pike rebuilt the Scottish Rite from the ground up, using many of his opinions and great ideas. We can have it all my brothers. Let's do this.