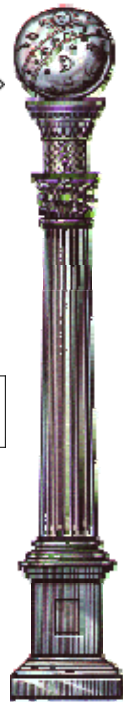




THE  
**TRESTLEBOARD**



OF  
**SIMI VALLEY LODGE #806**  
**FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS OF CALIFORNIA**

**Volume XV, Issue IV**

**April 2008**

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<u>Secretary:</u>	Joe Reiner, PM	(818) 512-0435	heyjjoey@yahoo.com
<u>SVMBBA Pres.:</u>	Jay Monroe	(805) 660-4232	monroeappraisal@sbcglobal.net
<u>Trestleboard:</u>	Carl Swanson, PM	(661) 305-1003	engineercarl@yahoo.com

## Words from the East...

Brethren,

**S**pring is here. And spring always bring new things. This year it is brining us a new front fence. It may not be finished by the time you read this, if not, then it will be shortly. This is going to make such a drastic change to the look of the property. Just removing the chain link fence improved the look. I'd like to thank all the people that worked so hard to get this done.

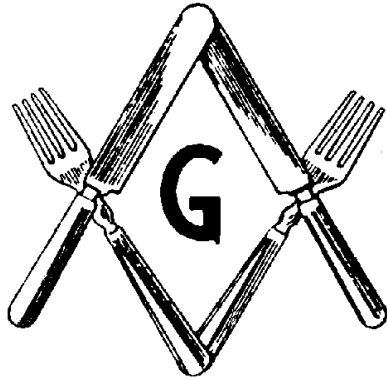


March saw something that something that hasn't been seen in quite a while, no degrees. This will be changing this month. Please check the calendar at the back for a full run down. But we should have a double 1st Degree and a couple of 3rd Degrees.

What do  $7 + 4 - 5 = 6$  mean? It is both good and bad. For the answer, either ask me or wait until future issues of the Trestleboard for the answer.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Terry Baker  
 Master



## DAVE'S DINER

Here is the menu for the April Stated Meeting Dinner, courtesy of the EMERA club of the Simi Valley Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star:

- Home Cooked Applesauce
- Rolls & Butter
- Pork Loin Top Chops
- Home Baked Cookies by Jeanine
- Coffee, Tea & Lemonade

Chicken is also available (cooked the same way), but only with your reservation.

Please contact Dave Smith at 805-526-4594 with your reservation. Dinner is \$7/person with RSVP, & \$8/person without.

## Words from the West...

Brethren:

Wow! What a beautiful physical improvement along the front of the Lodge Property! Only if you were on vacation on Mars, or as a few of you may have been out of town on legitimate business or personal pleasure, and have not attended any recent Lodge events, could you have missed (1) the demolition and removal of the "Stalag 806" chain link fence and gates and (2) the beginning of the construction of the new wrought iron fence and gate system.

Many brothers, including myself plus the Lodge Master's wife were involved in the strenuous work of cutting, wrenching, digging, scraping, shoveling, pushing, lifting, rolling, carrying, throwing, pulling, and many other "sweat effort" adjectives (did I mention dragging?) required to accomplish the removal of the old fence and gate system. I want to sincerely thank all of you who gave of your time and your bodies on that Saturday, March 8, but special kudos go to Brother Mike Mayea, the Manager and Foreman, who planned, and executed the demolition phase of the of the Fence Project in both a timely and professional manner. Very special kudos must go to Brother Robert Purdum who supplied the heavy machinery and his own labor without which we may have required several days rather than the almost eight hours needed to complete the "Demo".

Under Worshipful Brother Mayea's guidance the pilasters for the new fence are complete and construction of the wrought iron fence

*(Continued on page 4)*



## From the Secretary's Table...

Brethren,

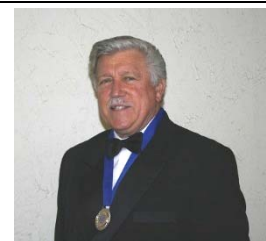
A few topics to bring to you this month:

- 1) The Breakfast honoring the Grand Master of Masons on California, MW Richard Wakefield Hopper, is on the 13th of this month. Seats are \$10/person and we have only a few seats left. Get the Secretary your 10-spot and reserve yourself a seat. If you don't go to Grand Lodge, this may be the only time you will see

the Grand Master speak in front of several hundred of your brethren.

- 2) The Inspector's Official Visit is at this upcoming Stated Meeting. As is the tradition of the Official Visit of the Inspector, it is mandatory that the lodge officers wear tuxedos. Dust yours off and join us!
- 3) Assuming the committees of investigation for Mr. Doug Ridley and Mr. Paul Luedke come

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Lodge Shooting Trip Announced!



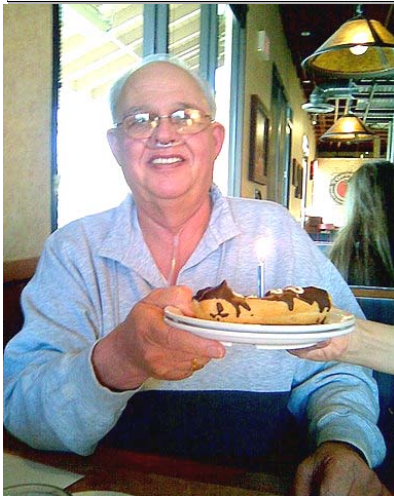
Brethren,

**M**ark your calendars!

The 2008 Lodge Shooting trip has been scheduled for Saturday May 31. We will have a day of target practice at "Place to Shoot" then an early dinner at a restaurant in the area. Ladies and supervised children are welcome.

Further details will be available soon.

Fraternally,  
Gary Hartjen, PM



Worshipful Richard Me'nard had a birthday late in March and he decided to celebrate at Topper's Pizza in Simi Valley. They even brought him a pizza style birthday cake!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
WORSHIPFUL!**

## Greetings from Fidelity

**W**ow, we just returned from Grand Assembly and it was very exciting. Our Grand Officers Robyn and Jenny were wonderful and made us proud.



On Sunday we were all in shock when they announced Brother David Smith as the new State Rainbow Dad, then after waiting through all but two announcements they called out Nikki Phillips as the new Grand Worthy Associate Advisor. We also had Samantha Thomson and Trisha Armstrong compete in ritual competition, Nikki Phillips entered a ceramic piece and received second place and Cynthia Canterbury sang in the talent competition and received second place. Everyone had a wonderful time and we are off to another busy year of traveling with Nikki and Dave.

We want to thank all the Brothers who have been working so hard to make our lodge better. We appreciate all your work.

Thank you for your support!

Donna Driver  
Mother Advisor

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*(Secretary's Table, Continued from page 2)*

back favorable, we will be balloting on them at this Stated Meeting. Proposed dates for their initiations are in the calendar.

Fraternally,

Carl Swanson, PM  
Assistant Secretary

## Announcements!

### RV Parking:

Need to get your RV off the street? Contact Jay Monroe at (805) 660-4232 for information on RV parking at the Lodge.

### Masonic Apparel:

Plan to purchase your Lodge Hat, Jacket, or shirt today! It makes a great gift for that "special Mason" in your life. New shirts with an embroidered logo are available. Contact Dave Smith, PM, at (805) 526-4594.

### Building Reservations:

Need a place for your own reception, meeting, banquet, or other special function? Contact Jay Monroe at (805) 660-4232, or Monroeappraisal@sbcglobal.net for information.

### High 12 Luncheon:

I would like to invite all Masons in our Lodge to attend a Masonic luncheon. Our lunches are held on the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month at high noon. We meet at the Plug Nickel in Westlake Village.

High 12 is International and has a scholarship philanthropy. We invite the brothers to come and find out about us. Any questions, call me at 526-4594.

Dave Smith, PM

(Words from the West, Cont. from page 2)

and gates has begun.

This month the Lodge is planning to confer two First Degrees and two Third Degrees. See the April Calendar for more details.

Also note that the Shrine Circus is on April 25,26,& 27. Let's all give our support!

Finally, I will be attending the Southern Junior Wardens' Retreat on April 4-6 followed quickly by the Southern Senior Wardens' Retreat which I will attend on May 2-4.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Tom White  
Sr. Warden

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## **Q&A with Oscar**

**T**his is a new section that we hope will be interesting to all members. Each month Oscar will feature a question and answer session with someone affiliated with Simi Valley Masonic Lodge, or masonry in general. It may be another brother Master Mason, a candidate, a member of Eastern Star, Job's or Rainbow, or even the Junior Deacon of Whatsit Lodge, Dogtown, Idaho. If they're a person of interest, Oscar will Q&A'em

This month Oscar features Worshipful Terry Baker, Master of Simi Valley Lodge #806.

Q. Worshipful, you have been elected by your brethren to serve as Master of Simi Valley Lodge for 2008. What induced you to become a Mason?

A. My wife's grandfather was a Mason. He was the Master of Big Bear Lodge in the '80s. My wife wanted to keep the Masonic tradition going in the family. And, since none of the other members of the family had joined, she wanted me to join. I haven't regretted the decision."

Q. In what lodge were you made a Master Mason?

A. I was raised in Van Nuys Lodge in 2001.

Q. What offices or stations did you hold in that or other lodges?

A. I started out filling the last half of 2001 as the Marshal. Then I jumped up to Senior Steward and then Junior Deacon. Just after that I moved out to Simi Valley and decided to join this lodge.

Q. What other Masonic bodies are you affiliated with? What have you done there?

A. I joined Pasadena Scottish Rite and then became a charter member of the San Fernando Valley Scottish Rite when it was formed a couple of years later.

I joined Al Malaikah Shrine and they immediately put me to work. My top line signer for my Shrine petition just happened to be the Captain of the Temple Guard unit. So my membership in the Guard was preordained. I ended up being President of the unit in 2003.

I also joined the Motor Patrol and the Amateur Radio Shrine Club. I have been on the Circus and Transportation committees for the last several years.

Q. How has Masonry affected your life?

A. It has made my life a lot busier. And in that busyness, I've gotten to travel around the country a lot. The travels have introduced me to a lot of people that I wouldn't have otherwise met. For the most part, they have been very good experiences.

You always hear about traveling Masons running into the local Masons and having an instant bond. I always listened to the stories and thought that they were somewhat exaggerated. Well, that perception changed last summer. My wife and I were on vacation in Scotland and on Wed. night, the phone rings. She answers the phone and tells me it's for me. I thought that it was just the resort office calling. I take the phone and am surprised to be talking to the Provincial Grand Secretary for Aberdeenshire. He had my name and the village that I was staying in from the letter of introduction that I had. Well, he tracked me down to the resort. He called to invite me to a special Degree that they were hosting that Friday night. It was a very special night for them, but I had to decline because we were flying out on Friday morning. And the thoughts to change my travel plans were hard to resist. The stories don't seem so exaggerated any more.

Q. What major changes have you seen in Masonry in the last several years?

A. I've seen a rebound in the membership in Masonry. And for the most part the new members are younger. The average age of lodges are starting to drop a bit. I wasn't too sure that the dropping of the minimum age for membership to 18 would help much. But, we picked up 2 brothers last year who petitioned as soon as they turned 18. I hope that this trend can keep going.

Q. As newly elected Master of SV Lodge how do you see your role within the lodge?

(Continued on page 6)

## More Masonic Trivia

**J**uly 2, 1751, Ferdinand VI of Spain issued an edict against Freemasonry. Father Jose Torrubia secured a special dispensation from the Pope, joined a lodge, secured the names of its members, and proceeded to have them arrested. Hundreds were arrested, persecuted, and imprisoned.

When Mussolini gained control of Italy, Masonic lodges were declared illegal and the grand master was arrested, tried, and imprisoned, where he died. Mussolini also ordered all Masonic references removed, including the emblems on the base of Garibaldi's monument in Rome. After the restoration of the republic, fascist emblems were removed and the Masonic emblems restored.

In Fascist Spain under Franco, it was a crime to be a freemason. Masons convicted had to serve prison terms equal in years to the number of Masonic Degrees possessed. Master Mason: 3 Degrees = 3 years.

Winnedumah Lodge #287 of Bishop, CA holds its meetings at 270 feet below sea level, the lowest lodge in North America.

In 1954 Martin's Station Lodge No. 188 of VA was opened 952 feet below the surface of Cumberland Mountain in Cudjo's Cave, which lies between Cumberland Gap, Tenn. and Middleburo, KY. 345 Masons were

present and a Master Mason Degree was conferred.

Chicago, IL has three American Legion Posts whose memberships are entirely Masonic.

All four Presidents of the Republic of Texas, David Burnett, Sam Houston, Mirabeau Lamar, and Anson Jones, were Masons.

Between 1737 and 1779 two sailing ships of interest operated off the U.S. eastern seaboard, Freemason and Master Mason. The Freemason caught fire and sank in Marblehead Harbor, Mass in 1779.

On November 10, 1928, the grand lodge of California held a special communication at Culver City, to lay the corner stone of the Masonic temple. The lodge room was so crowded that the Grand Lodge officers were unable to enter. They retired to the ladies' powder room to open the Grand Lodge for the ceremony.

In 1801, Czar Alexander I of Russia banned the Craft. In 1803 he rescinded the order and became a Freemason. But in 1822 he again ordered Freemasonry banned in Russia.

In 1799, Barton Lodge in Upper Canada accepted "good merchantable wheat" in payment of lodge dues.

Lodge St. George in Bermuda has rented an old state house since 1816 from the Governor for the sum of "one peppercorn per year."

Abraham Jones served as Grand Master of Kentucky in 1933-34 and Grand Master of Illinois in 1840-41.

Dr. Carlos Rodriguez-Jimenez was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Venezuela in 1947. In 1957 he became the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Japan.

In 1892, the tallest building in the world was the Masonic Temple at Randolph and State Streets, Chicago, Illinois.

Brother William Brockmeier (1866-1947) of St. Louis conducted 5586 Masonic funeral services.

Thomas Jacob Shryock served as Grand Master of Maryland for 32 years. He died after being elected to serve his 33rd.

The largest Master's chair is in Ophir Lodge #33, Murphys, CA. It is 15 feet long and can seat the Master, living Past Masters, and visiting dignitaries.

On June 7, 1921, Mystic Lodge #21 of Red Bank, NJ conferred half of the Master Mason Degree on Brother Lyman C. Van when the power went out. He didn't receive the rest of the Degree for several weeks, making him for a time, a "Two-and-a-half Degree" Mason.

(Q&A with Oscar, continued from page 4)

A. This is a tough question to answer. The Master has so many roles to fill. There are administrative, ritual, financial and social pieces. I guess the main role would be Chief Juggler. You have to keep your eye on everything and make sure that each of the pieces gets the attention that it needs. And you have to balance each of them to ensure that nothing gets all the attention and others get none.

Q. What objectives and goals have you set for your term as Master?

A. This is going to sound like the usual Grand Lodge speech, but membership is a big goal of mine. I don't want the new members simply to add more dues into the budget. I think that we have a very good group and we have something to offer. By growing the membership,

we can spread the word more and keep growing.

Q. How important is family involvement in the lodge?

A. Family is extremely important to the lodge. If we can keep the families involved in the activities of the lodge, then they will be more supportive of the members when the 'have to go every Wednesday to lodge'. Plus, with the family members involved, we have a larger, more diverse, group to pull ideas from for continuing activities.

Q. What do you see for the future of our lodge?

A. I see the lodge growing both in membership and in community involvement. We have started a good program with the Child ID. I think that we can work from that and get the word out that there is a Masonic

Lodge in Simi Valley and that we are active.

Q. Is there anything you would like to add?

A. I think that I've rattled on enough for now. I'm always available to talk to anyone about just about anything. All you have to do is ask.

And now youse guys know a little more about Wor. Terry. Next month we're gonna have a surprise guest. Since I don't know who it is, it's also a surprise to yours truly. This is Oscar signing off and reminding youse guys to be nice to each other because, as my goomba says, whatca do is whatca gonna get back in spades, ya understand?

## Our Appendant and Concordant Bodies:

*All groups meet at the Simi Valley Masonic Center, unless otherwise noted.*

### **Fidelity Assembly #242, Order of the Rainbow for Girls**

Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 pm.  
Donna Drivere, Mother Advisor, (805) 526-7785  
Trisha Armstrong, Worthy Advisor



### **Bethel #345, International Order of Job's Daughters**

Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.  
Barbee Groshko, Bethel Guardian, (805) 582-0974



### **Simi Valley Chapter #637, Order of the Eastern Star**

Meets 2nd Thursday at 8:00 pm.  
Jeanine Meyers, Worthy Matron (805) 279-3213



2918 Los Angeles Ave,  
Simi Valley, CA 93065  
www.simigreenacres.com  
(805) 526-1312

Simi Valley Lodge Internet Access



www.dslextreme.com

**Mail all Lodge correspondence to:**

**Simi Valley Lodge #806, F&AM  
1541 Patricia Avenue  
PO Box 806  
Simi Valley, CA 93062-0806  
Lodge Phone: (805) 581-9806  
www.simivalleylodge806.org**

# April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  <i>7:30pm:</i> <i>Jobs Daughters meeting</i>	2 <i>5:30pm:</i> <i>Stated Meeting Dinner</i>  <i>7:00pm:</i> <i>Stated Meeting (Inspector's OV)</i> <i>WEAR YOUR TUX!</i>	3	4	5
6	7  <i>12:00pm:</i> <i>High-12 meeting At the Plug Nickel in WLV.</i>	8  <i>7:00pm:</i> <i>Rainbow meeting</i>	9	10  <i>7:30pm:</i> <i>OES Meeting</i>	11	12
13  <i>LAMSB Grand Master's Breakfast @ The Sportsman's Lodge in Studio City.</i>	14	15 <i>7:00pm:</i> <i>OSI @ Conejo. (1° prof, 1st &amp; 2nd sections of 2°)</i> <i>7:30pm:</i> <i>Jobs Daughters Meeting</i>	16  <i>7:00pm:</i> <i>Double 1° for Mr. Doug Ridley &amp; Mr. Paul Luedke (if elected)</i>	17	18	19
20	21  <i>12:00pm:</i> <i>High-12 meeting At the Plug Nickel in WLV.</i>	22  <i>7:00pm:</i> <i>Rainbow meeting</i>	23  <i>7:00pm:</i> <i>3° for Bro. Jeff Hayden</i>	24	25  <b><u>SHRINE CIRCUS</u></b>	26  <b><u>SHRINE CIRCUS</u></b>
27  <b><u>SHRINE CIRCUS</u></b>	28	29	30  <i>7:00pm:</i> <i>3° for Bro. Maurice Cohen</i>			

# May 2008

## Tentative Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> <i>12:00pm:</i> <i>High-12 meeting</i> <i>At the Plug Nickel</i> <i>in WLW.</i>  <i>7:00pm:</i> <i>SVMBA meeting</i>	<i>6</i>  <i>7:30pm:</i> <i>Jobs Daughters</i> <i>meeting</i>	<i>7</i>  <i>5:30pm:</i> <i>Stated Meeting</i> <i>Dinner</i>  <i>7:00pm:</i> <i>Stated Meeting</i>	<i>8</i>  <i>7:30pm:</i> <i>OES Meeting</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>  <i>7:00pm:</i> <i>Rainbow meeting</i>	<i>14</i>  <i>7:00pm:</i> <i>OSI @ Oxnard.</i> <i>(2009 Planning</i> <i>Status, 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sect.</i> <i>of 1°, Lecture)</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i>  <i>9:15am:</i> <i>LAMSB meeting</i> <i>@ Pasadena</i> <i>Scottish Rite</i>	<i>19</i>  <i>12:00pm:</i> <i>High-12 meeting</i> <i>At the Plug Nickel</i> <i>in WLW.</i>	<i>20</i>  <i>7:30pm:</i> <i>Jobs Daughters</i> <i>meeting</i>	<i>21</i>  <i>7:00pm:</i> <i>Multiple 2° TBD</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>  <i>7:00pm:</i> <i>Rainbow meeting</i>	<i>28</i>  <i>7:00pm:</i> <i>Degree TBD</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>  <i>Lodge Shooting</i> <i>Trip @ "A Place</i> <i>to Shoot"</i>