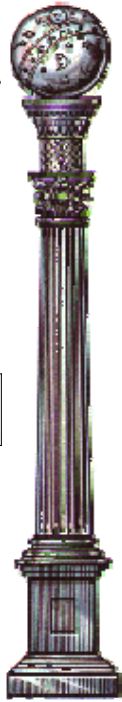




THE
TRESTLEBOARD



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

Volume XVII, Issue IV

April 2010

Master:	Jay Monroe	(805) 660-4232	monroeappraisal@sbcglobal.net
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Trestleboard:	Carl Swanson, PM	(805) 491-4200	engineercarl@yahoo.com

Words from the East...

Spring is here.....

Brothers, we have a full calendar for April 2010. First let me thank all who assisted in making March an exciting and eventful month. The "Back to Lodge Night" was a huge success in many ways. We had a full house of between 75 and 80 people in attendance. We reached out not only to brothers of Simi Valley Lodge, but to Masons within the Simi Valley/Moorpark community and many of them responded. We have received a few new applications for degrees and application for affiliation with more likely to come in. In this endeavor, we also reached out to brothers who had lost contact with Masonry and now wish to return, some to affiliate with our lodge after they are reinstated by the original lodge. Thanks to all who attended and especially the brothers and officers who worked hard in seeing that night happen! It is truly a joy to know that we have re-opened the doors to those that were lost from the fraternity. **I WAS ABSOULTELY AMAZED AT HOW MANY VISITORS COMMENTED ON HOW FRIENDLY SIMI VALLEY LODGE IS, MY ONLY THOUGHT BEING "SHOULDN'T ALL LODGES BE!"**

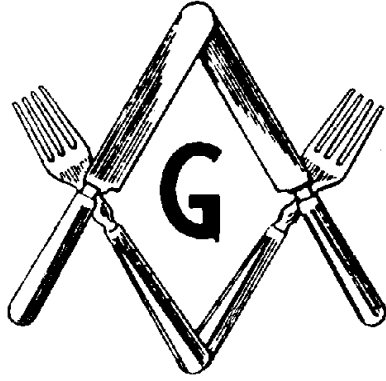


We initiated Mr. Gary Boston into the fraternity this month and now know him as Bro. Gary Boston. We had a good turn-out of about 23 brothers that evening. Make it a point to put your hand in his at the next function you attend and greet him as a brother.

On Saturday March 20, we had a Pizza Night at Topper's Pizza attended by about 25 people. It was an enjoyable casual evening. Given that we have the lodge Birthday night on April 24, we will postpone our next social evening out to May. A restaurant has not yet been selected, but will likely be a bit more upscale and therefore \$\$\$ pricier than our previous destinations so plan accordingly if you wish to attend. Details will follow in the next few weeks.

As of the writing of this celebrated communication (I know this must be a great joy to read as I get e-mails from Wor. Swanson with great anticipation of its arrival!) we are practicing to raise Bro. Jeremy Johnson to a Master Mason on March 31st. By the time we meet at our next Stated Meeting Bro Johnson should be a Master Mason. Congrats!

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DAVE'S DINER

Dave's Dinner for this month is a popular favorite among the brothers and their guests:

- * Green Salad
- * Chicken Breast
- * Rice Pilate
- * Mixed Vegetables
- * Homemade Dessert
- * Coffee and Punch

Please e-mail or phone your April Stated Dinner RSVP for yourself, family member(s) and/or guest(s) to Jo at k.richter1916@sbcglobal.net or call her at (805)522-5601 by Sunday, April 4.

If you have a 2010 Standing RSVP and can not attend the Stated Dinner, please cancel your RSVP. \$8.00 per person with RSVP; or \$9.00 per person without RSVP.

The girls of Fidelity Assembly #242 will be your servers this month and would much appreciate our kind generosity, appropriately placed in the red cups at each table.

Words from the West...

Hello Brethren,

Another month has come and gone -- where does the time go?

The Masonic Back to Lodge Night was a huge success thanks to the persistence of Worshipful Monroe. March has turned out to be a very busy month and April is beginning to look just as hectic. All of us who are moving up and especially those who have volunteered to move up in June have a lot of work to do. Remember, there are many brothers who are willing to help with ritual or floorwork.

The 49th birthday of the lodge is scheduled for April 24th along with a talent show -- I know the youth orders are planning on showing off some of their talent, but they were wondering how many brothers are planning on entertaining us? So if you have talent, no matter how hidden and rusty it is - now is a good time to show off - you are among friends.

Calendar reminders:

March 24th is a 3rd degree practice with the degree taking place the following week on the 31st. Please attend if

you can, so we can show our soon to be raised brother the support we give to one another.

I am putting together the calendar for next year - I welcome all ideas. Also, I am planning the offices for next year and will be contacting many brothers. Your input is always welcome, please feel free to let me know if you have any ideas on how to make the lodge a better place.

Thanks,

**Bob
Sr. Warden**

The History of Masonry
in California, Part 3
Submitted by Gary Trammell, HA

In the earlier days of the settlement of California, most of the growth was in the northern end of the state. More recently, the southern part has seen the same pattern. In 1860, San Diego Lodge # 35, Los Angeles #42 and Lexington #104 were the only Lodges in the southern half of the state. Today nearly 45 percent of California Lodges are south of Tehachapi.

A fraternity, any fraternity, is whatever its members make it. Who those members are will play a large part in making it what it is. Let us look at some Masons who formed the lodges of early California:

La Loge La Parfaite Union Lodge No. 17 in San Francisco, commonly called "the French Lodge",

(Continued on page 4)

From the Secretary's Table...



My Brothers,

This past month, I attended the Secretaries' Retreat put on by the Grand Secretary and his staff down in Irvine. I found the information presented to be relevant and helpful. Some of the sessions addressed the "nuts and bolts" processes necessary to perform the duties of the office, such as technology and iMember. Others were intended to provide background and scope as to the rationale behind some of the things that we do. Recognition of other Grand Lodges, is a good example. Still others were simply informative, such as the session presented by Very Worship Allan Casalou on Gender and Freemasonry. While I had known about "Co-ed" Lodges, I had no idea of their origin or popularity worldwide, nor how their history merges with that of the Order of the Eastern Star. Many Co-Masonic, or Feminine Lodges are actually tenants in Masonic properties here in So. Calif. though we do not formally recognize that obedience of Freemasonry. Overall, it was a good opportunity to network with other Secretaries in our region, and I came away with some new skills on iMember (query the iMember database and select results based on specific characteristics such as dues status, age or proficiency) as well as a few ideas for the Hall Association, Officers and Masonic Formation committee.

My wife and I are leaving on an extended trip prior to the end of March. Worshipful Carl Swanson, our Assistant Secretary and Editor in Chief of the fine publication that you are currently perusing, will be filling in for me at the Stated Meeting and degrees. Before I go, however, one of the things I will be delivering to the Master is a list of members who are delinquent in their dues. If you are on that list, you can save the busy members of the Membership Retention Committee (formerly known as the Delinquent Dues Committee) some of their valuable time, and the expense of mailing and printing if you would take the time to get your dues caught up. Our annual dues payment is just \$88.00. That amounts to \$7.33 a month or \$0.24 a day. While I acknowledge that there are a very few of our Brothers who simply cannot afford even that modest amount, I have to believe that almost everyone can. Having said that, I am proud that we were able to vote to remit the dues of three of our Brothers last month. I take pride in being a member of an organization which is willing to extend such charity when truly needed.

We continue to receive new membership petitions. I believe that there will be at least 2 new applications for degrees, plus an Application for Affiliation read at the April Stated Meeting. Our Lodge continues to grow. Of even more importance, our newest members seem to be taking an active part in the Lodge, which is to everyone's benefit. If you are not participating, you are missing out and depriving us of the pleasure of your company as well.

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Announcements!

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 Mike Thompson at (805) 404-6173, or mrmikefla@pacbell.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 Greenhouse Café in Thousand Oaks.

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

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Finally, if you have had the opportunity to enjoy some of the social events that our Worshipful Master has arranged in the past months, please make a point of letting him know. I think his efforts are leading the way to the growth of our membership and in bringing the existing members closer together. And don't forget the birthday party and talent show on April 24th. It should be fun, especially if some of you urge on your more talented Brothers to take the stage and showcase their talents. Worshipful Don? Brother Steve? The roar of the greasepaint, the smell of the crowd....?

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Gary L. Hartjen PM HA
Secretary

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has the honor of being the first non-English-speaking Lodge in California. And, using the French ritual, it stands out also as the Lodge whose Master, Alexander Kaufman Coney, saved a Brother's life.

In his early years, Coney went to sea and sailed all over the globe. He became a Mason in 1875. As Purser of the vessel City of Havana, while docked in New Orleans, he managed to assist a stranger who came aboard the ship one evening. The stranger introduced himself as a Mexican revolutionary leader named Dr. de la Boza. He identified himself as a Mason as well, for whom the Mexican government had offered a large reward. He asked Coney, as a Brother Mason in distress, to conceal him aboard the ship until the vessel reached Vera Cruz. Coney knew it was against ship

rules to take anyone aboard in this manner, but he knew that here was a Master Mason in distress and it was his duty to help him. On the way, the vessel stopped at Tampico where Dr. de la Boza had an extremely narrow escape from being caught, again with Coney's direct assistance. He finally escaped in the darkness of night when the vessel finally reached Vera Cruz.

Coney, however, did not know what became of him until several years later while he was on a visit to Mexico City. While sightseeing in the city one day, he was recognized and brought by several uniformed officers to the Presidential Palace. There he learned, to his amazement, that the Brother whose life he had saved was not a Dr. de la Boza, but General Porfirio Diaz, President of Mexico. Thereafter, he became Diaz's lifelong friend, and served as Mexican Consul General in St. Nazaire, France; in Paris, and later in San Francisco. He affiliated with La Parfaite Union in 1878.

James W. Robinson, took up the practice of Law in Nacogdoches, TX in 1824 and became very active in State politics. Soon, the Texas provisional council elected him Vice President of the Texas Republic. He was later appointed one of the first district judges of Texas. In December 1836, he was captured in the Battle of San Antonio and was taken to Mexico City as a prisoner of war. He was able to persuade General Santa Ana to free him in order for him to try to arrange an armistice. In 1850, he and his wife moved to San Diego where he was one of the organizers of San Diego Lodge #35.

Hilliard P. Dorsey was the first Master of Los Angeles Lodge #42 in 1854. During the Mexican War,

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(Continued from page 1)

Bro. Roy Havens successfully passed his Entered Apprentice Obligation and will be passed to Fellowcraft on Wednesday April 21st at 7 PM. Please plan on attending another great evening to see another brother makes his journey through the degrees.

We have a great opportunity for all brothers to shed Masonic Light in the community at a Child ID event on Saturday April 17, 2010 at Madera Park in Wood Ranch, Simi Valley. We are looking for many volunteers for this one day event. For those of you attending, come clad in a Simi Valley Masonic Lodge Shirt of any type so that the community can recognize us as a group.

On Wednesday April 7, 2010 we will have our Stated Meeting Dinner. I have been informed by Jeanine Meyers of Simi Valley Eastern Star that it will be a really good dinner. Check out the dinner details in this trestle board. Be sure to thank Jeanine Meyers and the other ladies of the Eastern Star for the wonderful job they do. Jeanine stepped in and saved the Back to Lodge Dinner in March – we men were lost in the wilderness, I mean kitchen, and she got it all worked out. Jeanine, Thank You!!!!

The ladies will have a program for the Stated Meeting Dinner when the closed business meeting is in session. Gentlemen, please bring your lady and allow her to have an enjoyable evening also.

April also marks the 49th Anniversary of Simi Valley Masonic Lodge. On Saturday April 24th, at 6:30 PM, we will have our Lodge Birthday Dinner combined with a talent show by the youth groups. Tickets are \$12.50 each and \$6.00 for children 10 and younger. Please make reservations soon as we need to buy food, etc. Chicken breast will be the

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he served as a Captain of the Mississippi Regiment under Jefferson Davis. He came to California in September, 1849, and pioneered in the cultivation of walnuts near San Gabriel. However, he is most remembered for having fought a duel with another Lodge member during his year as Master, even though Grand Lodge had ruled that dueling between Brother Masons would be penalized by expulsion. Nevertheless, the duel took place two weeks later; each suffered a severe wound, and Grand Lodge expelled them both.

Domenico Ghirardelli, the founder of Ghirardelli's Chocolate Company, was a member of Lodge La Parfaite Union #17. He was born in Raphalo, Italy, in 1817, and migrated first to Lima, Peru, where he became close friends with James Lick. In 1849 when news of the California gold discovery reached Peru, Ghirardelli followed Lick to San Francisco. After first trying his luck as a miner, he soon returned to his confectioner's trade, and opened a "Candy & Syrup Manufactory", producing only the best French and American candy. Over the years, the business evolved, until it finally focused only on chocolate in San Francisco in 1895.

Peter Lassen was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1800, and in 1830 he came to the United States and worked his way overland to Oregon City. He moved on to Sutter's Fort, and in 1844, he became a Mexican citizen and was granted a ranch area in what is now Tehama County. After the Mexican War, he traveled overland to Missouri with Commodore Stockton, and then returned in an immigrant train of 12 wagons carrying the Charter of Western Star Lodge #98, under the jurisdiction of the

Grand Lodge of Missouri. This Lodge was supposed to have been opened on Lassen's property, in a small settlement he established on Deer Creek. However, it moved to Shasta during the gold rush, and Lassen became the Charter Junior Warden of his Lodge. He was killed somewhat mysteriously in 1859 while prospecting for gold in the Honey Lake region of what is now Lassen County.

The first Master of Mount Moriah Lodge #44, Philip Sheppard, was initiated three times and passed twice! Born in Plymouth, England, in 1813, his early life was as a sailor. During these years he was initiated an Entered Apprentice in a French Lodge that met in a cave near Alexandria, Egypt. However, he had to leave before he could be passed, so he applied for his Fellowcraft Degree in an English Lodge at Kingston, Jamaica. However, his French work was so different from that of the English Lodge that he had to be initiated again. Then once more before he could be passed, he had to sail. He tried again in New York, and here again the work was so different from either the English or French that another initiation was in order. But once again, he had to leave before getting the Fellowcraft Degree. Finally, while in port at Rio de Janeiro, he was passed in St. John's Lodge #703. He arrived in San Francisco as Captain of the vessel Arkansas in December 1849, and applied to California Lodge #1 for the Third Degree. But, by then, he had such a jumble of French, English, and American work in his mind that the Lodge decided that he had to be passed again. He finally became a Master Mason in California Lodge sometime between November 1850, and May 1851. In 1853, he withdrew from California Lodge to help organize Mount Moriah Lodge #44, and he remained a member

until his death in December 1865.

Many of the early California lodges no longer exist. Towns, particularly mining towns, were successful only as long as the mines they supported produced a profit. During our 150 years as a Sovereign Grand Lodge, nearly 300 Lodges have become extinct. However, Freemasonry in the Grand Lodge of California has still survived. At present there are about 74,000 Masons in about 350 Constituent Lodges, which can be found in every city and in or near most of the smaller towns in the state. We are alive and well and, at last count, membership is still healthy and growing.

(Editor's Note: After several years of faithfully supporting the cause as Masonic Education Chair for the Trestleboard, Bro Gary Trammell has set down his pen. He promises future submissions, but not at the rate of which we had grown accustomed. I want to thank him for his many years of selfless and faithful work!

Star Notes...

Greetings!



April is a busy month for Simi Valley Eastern Star. This month we have our Deputy Grand Matron's Official Visit as well as our Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron Official Visit. Our sisters and brothers will be working hard to make sure that our ritual work is in tip-top shape!

Have a very Happy Easter!

Star love,

Shawna Swanson-Shirk, WM
Dan Madison, WP
Simi Valley Chapter # 637

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main entrée served with the usual fanfare and birthday cake for desert.

On Tuesday April 27, 2010 Conejo Lodge will be hosting a Community or Layman's night where they open the door of their lodge to the community. We have been asked by Wor. Tom Waite of Conejo Lodge, at the direction of the District Inspector, to assist. I am seeking volunteers to participate on a Board that will answer questions from the community members who attend. Please let me know if you can assist. I am seeking Past Masters and/or members well knowledgeable and experienced in Masonry. We will be having a similar event in September.

On the horizon, we have a Pancake Breakfast planned for Saturday May 1, 2010, 8 AM to 12 Noon. Tickets will be available through myself and from the youth groups. All net proceeds directly go to the youth groups. This is a great and easy way to raise money for the youth groups and enjoy a casual and fun morning with the brothers. Bring your family, friends and neighbors.

Other events on the agenda are a BBQ at the lodge in June/July close to July 4th. The date and details will be determined. In September we will have a Layman's Night where we open the doors of the lodge to the public and prospective candidates. Note this is different than Back to Lodge night which was directed at Masons. The lodge picnic will be on Saturday September 11, 2010. Other event ideas include a fishing/camping trip to the Sierras in summer or early fall. Those interested let me know.

Proficiency practices will continue on Wednesday nights when we do not have a degree or Meeting.

Officers, please remember OSI will be at Conejo Lodge on April 20th this month. 1st Degree qualifica-

tions for those officers advancing mid-year is still scheduled for the June OSI meeting on Tuesday June 15th at Conejo Lodge.

It is a real pleasure serving the lodge this year. I am excited at the level of participation of the Brothers and am thrilled by the commitment of the officers. A special and on-going thanks to our wonderful and dedicated Past Masters who, without, we would be lost. Thank you all.

REMEMBER:

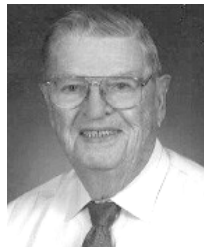
WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS LODGE NIGHT!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Jay Monroe
Wor. Master

IN MEMORIAM

William A. Elliott
1916—2010



Bro. Elliott was initiated in Simi Valley Lodge in 1965, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in 1968. He lived in the Antelope Valley for 36 years, and worked for civil service and Rockwell during that time.

In addition to his Lodge membership, Bro. Elliott was also a member in good standing of Deadwood Consistory, AASR.

Bro. Elliott passed to the Celestial Lodge above on March 21, 2010.

Greetings from Fidelity...

By the time you read this we will have attending our 2010 session of Grand Assembly. We have several girls that will have attended for their first time and I am sure they were amazed. Trisha Armstrong will be doing a solo and we have four girls who are competing in a group talent dance. Trisha is also competing in the ritual competition. Cynthia Canterbury is our grand choir girl. We are all very excited that our girls are taking such an active part in the sessions.



We do have several perspective girls that we are talking to and hope to have another intitation soon. We look forward to serving the stated dinner in April.

Thank you for your continued support!

Donna Driver
Mother Advisor



April saw a group DeMolay Initiatory and DeMolay Degree day at the Pasadena Scottish Rite. Pictured in the photo above are (from l to r): an unknown young fellow; Tom Waite, Master, Conejo Valley #807; Max Shoemaker, Master Councilor, So Cal Jurisdiction; Anthony Melendez; Skyler Badakhsh; Arthur Melendez III; Arthur Melendez, Jr., Master of Hollywood Lodge.

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 Mondays at 7:30 pm.
Donna Drivere, Mother Advisor, (805) 526-7785
Samantha Thomson, Worthy Advisor



Bethel #345, International Order of Job's Daughters

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



Simi Valley Chapter #637, Order of the Eastern Star

Meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30pm.
Shawna Swanson-Shirk, Worthy Matron (805) 813-2321
Dan Madison, Worthy Patron (805) 758-4500



(805) 526-1312
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Simi Valley, CA 93065
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Lodge Internet Access provided by:






www.dslextreme.com

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1541 Patricia Avenue
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April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 <i>12:00pm:</i> High 12 meeting @ Greenhouse Café in Thousand Oaks. <i>7:00pm:</i> SVMBA meeting	6 <i>7:30pm:</i> Job's Daughters meeting	7 <i>6:00pm:</i> Stated Meeting Dinner <i>7:00pm:</i> Stated Meeting & Inspector's Official Visit	8 <i>7:30pm:</i> OES Meeting	9  Shrine Circus	10  Shrine Circus
11  <i>LAMSMB breakfast honoring the Grand Master</i> Shrine Circus	12 <i>7:30pm:</i> Rainbow Meeting	13	14 <i>7:00pm:</i> 2° practice	15	16	17 Child ID event at Madera Park
18	19 <i>12:00pm:</i> High 12 meeting @ Greenhouse Café in Thousand Oaks.	20 <i>7:00pm:</i> OSI @ Conejo. <i>7:30pm:</i> Job's Daughters meeting	21 <i>7:00pm:</i> 2° for Bro. Ray Havens	22	23	24 <i>6:30pm:</i> Simi Valley Lodge 49th Birthday Dinner & Talent Show!
25	26 <i>7:30pm:</i> Rainbow Meeting	27 Conejo Lodge Laymen's Night	28	29	30	

May 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>8:00am: Pancake Breakfast at the Lodge.</i>
2	3 <i>12:00pm: High 12 meeting @ Greenhouse Café in Thousand Oaks. 7:00pm: SVMBA meeting</i>	4 <i>7:30pm: Job's Daughters meeting</i>	5 <i>6:00pm: Stated Meeting Dinner 7:00pm: Stated Meeting</i>	6	7	8
9	10 <i>7:30pm: Rainbow Meeting</i>	11	12	13 <i>7:30pm: OES Meeting</i>	14	15
16	17 <i>12:00pm: High 12 meeting @ Greenhouse Café in Thousand Oaks.</i>	18 <i>7:30pm: Job's Daughters meeting</i>	19	20	21	22
23	24 <i>7:30pm: Rainbow Meeting</i>	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					