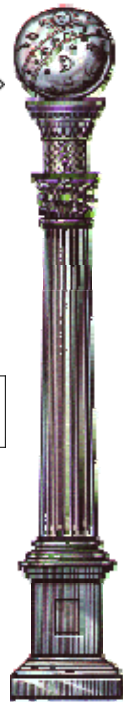




THE
TRESTLEBOARD



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

Volume XVI, Issue I

January 2009

Master: Tom White (805) 573-9559 thomgwhite@roadrunner.com
Sr. Warden:
Jr. Warden: Jay Monroe (805) 660-4232 monroeappraisal@sbcglobal.net
Secretary: Gary Hartjen, PM(805) 217-3691 ghartjen@sbcglobal.net
SVMBA Pres.
Trestleboard: Carl Swanson, PM(661) 305-1003 engineerCarl@yahoo.com

Words from the East...

Brethren:

2009? Wow! Another busy year has begun and I know that it will be a great one. The new year offers all of us a chance to improve ourselves in Masonry and one of the important ways to do this is to give your full support to the programs and activities of our Lodge.

I have asked the Eastern Star to again provide us with our Stated Meeting Dinners and they have again graciously accepted this important function. We will also again enjoy the fine dinner service provided by the Job's Daughters and the Rainbow Girls. We must be reminded that these three organizations rely upon our support of these Dinners not only as Brothers in Masonry but also as a source of financial support for their respective programs.

Please, try to attend every Stated Meeting Dinner this year and give your support to these fine organizations and Concordant Bodies of Freemasonry.

Also, in keeping with one of the major themes of

my vision for the Lodge in the year 2009, our Masonic Formation Officer, Joe Reiner, PM, will present a brief talk on some sub-



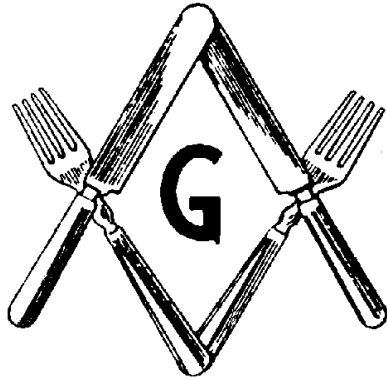
ject of Masonic Education at every Stated Meeting Night. I am certain that he and his committee will endeavor to make each presentation both exciting and informative which will provide another way to improve ourselves in Masonry.

January will also be a very busy month for our Degree Teams with four Degrees scheduled during the month. On January 21st we will be conferring two 1st Degrees followed one week later on January 28th with two 2nd Degrees.

I hope that January will be as interesting and exciting for you as I know it will for be me as your new Master.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Tom White, Master



DAVE'S DINER

Josephine Richter and the EMERA Club Ladies will prepare another delicious dinner prior to the Stated Meeting on January 7.

- Salad/Salad Dressing on the Side
- Beef Meat Loaf with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
- Green Beans
- French Buttered Bread
- Brownies
- Coffee & Lemonade

RSVP can be made by e-mailing Josephine at k.richter1916@sbcglobal.net or calling Josephine at (805) 522-5601 by Tuesday, January 6.

Dinner is \$7 per person for those with advance RSVP, and \$8 per person for those who come without RSVP.

OSCAR ON THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF FREEMASONRY

*From the writings of MW Brother L.G. Catt, PGM
Grand Lodge of Australia*



Masonry, the art of building, began many thousands of years ago, from the dawn of civilization. Man has always been a builder, and wherever a civilization has existed we find the remains and crumbling ruins of towers, temples, tombs and monuments, originally erected by the industry of human beings; and these invariably have some mark or monument bespeaking a vivid sense of the Unseen, and the builder's awareness of his relation to it.

The Masonic art of building probably reached its greatest peak in the erection of temples and cathedrals. Ruskin, in his *Seven Lamps of Architecture*, argues that the laws of architecture are moral laws, that there are two sets of realities - the material and the spiritual - so interwoven that the practical laws are exponents of moral laws.

The discovery of the square was a great event to the primitive mystics of the Nile and very early it became an emblem of truth, justness and righteousness, which it remains to this day. So too, the cube, compasses, triangle and keystone, while the tools, which fashioned these, the level, plum, chisel, mallet, gavel and 24-inch gauge, have attracted to themselves symbolisms of the laws of the Eternal.

Socrates made probably the greatest discovery ever made - that human nature is universal. It has been found that races far removed from each other by space, distance and time, but at roughly the same stage of culture, have used the same or similar symbols to express their thoughts, hopes and aspirations. The outstanding example, as ancient as it is eloquent, is the idea of the trinity and its emblem, the triangle. When the social life of man becomes the prism of faith, God is a trinity of Father, Mother, Child. Almost as old as human thought, we find the idea of trinity, and its triangle emblem everywhere - the two best known examples being Siva, Vishnu and Brahma in India corresponding to Osiris, Isis and Horus in Egypt.

Square, triangle, cross and circle are the oldest symbols of humanity and, as symbols do, point beyond themselves to an invisible truth which they seek to embody. Sometimes we find them united, the square within the circle, and within that the triangle, and at the center the cross. These earliest of emblems indicate the highest faith and philosophy, betraying not only the unity of the human mind but its kinship with the Eternal - the fact that lies at the root of every religion.

The virtues of faith, hope and charity, embodying love in its broadest sense, and the four cardinal virtues of temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice, are enshrined in Masonic lore. The various symbols that have become associated with Freemasonry through the centuries all fortify in one way or another these desirable virtues.

(Continued on page 3)

*From
the
Secretary's
Table...*



As your newly installed Secretary, I am looking forward to a great upcoming year under our Worshipful Master, Tom White. I find myself climbing a learning curve that will eventually allow me to fill the shoes of my predecessor, with the able support of our Assistant Secretary, Worshipful Carl Swanson. Fortunately, Worshipful Joe Reiner had things well organized and ready to go for 2009.

While I get synched up electronically with Grand Lodge, I have been processing our annual dues and sending out your new cards. With that in mind, if you have not yet sent in your \$86.00 annual dues, please take a moment to do so as soon as possible. Our dues are the primary source of income for the Lodge and allow us to conduct our program throughout the year. Also, when you put your check in the return envelope, please make note of any changes in your contact information, such as a new phone number, mailing address or e-mail address so that I can update your information.

Wishing you a happy and rewarding New Year in Freemasonry.

Faternally,

Gary Hartjen, PM, HA
Secretary

(Oscar, continued from page 2)

At this point, let it be acknowledged that Freemasonry is not a religion - neither is it a creed or sect, nor a substitute for religion. While the individual Freemason has the right to hold his own opinion with regard to religion and public affairs, neither in any lodge nor in his capacity as a Freemason may he advance his views on theological or political questions

Freemasonry is a vast, worldwide fraternity based on spiritual faith and moral idealism. It helps a man to think through to a more satisfactory meaning of life. It is a way of life, a code of conduct, a pattern of behavior, philosophically subscribing to the Golden Rule, in a world society which today is fractured by deceptions, duplicities, tensions, torn by violence and acts of terrorism.

During his period as Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland, Sir Leslie Orme Wilson, then Governor of Queensland, often commented that Freemasonry might not be able to make a bad man good, but that it could make a good man better.

The future of Freemasonry is very bright indeed. Since its ancestral beginnings Freemasonry, at various periods, has survived international wars, political and religious suppressions, and the victimization of its members. While the principles and the objects of the Order have been so firmly established over the centuries, it is sensible to conclude that its future appeal will be as a beacon of light drawing men of integrity, strength and goodwill within its lustrous ambit.

Announcements!

RV Parking:

Need to get your RV off the street? Contact Mike Thompson at (805) 522-8736 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

The Master's Remarks

at the occasion of the 49th Annual
Installation of Officers
December 13th, 2008
Presented by Thomas G. White
Master, Simi Valley Lodge #806

Freemasonry is the World's first and the World's largest fraternal organization. It is both a body of knowledge and a system of ethics based upon the belief that each man has a responsibility to improve himself while being devoted to family, faith, country, and fraternity.

Freemasonry is founded on the ethical and moral doctrines of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth and all Masons are taught that as the Children of God, all men and women are Brothers and Sisters entitled to dignity, respect, and consideration for their feelings. Therefore, Freemasonry must be a force to be used and not a form to be served.

The younger generations of men today are faced with many choices, including a plethora of organizations competing for their membership. Even within Freemasonry the number of sub-organizations, programs, and activities seems endless; especially to the newly initiated. It is difficult also, if not impossible, for any man to be active in all things and still to be effective. The same is true of our Masonic Lodges; especially smaller ones with limited resources.

Therefore, we as a lodge must concentrate our efforts on a few, select, areas of importance which are relevant to the vision of the Master and can meet the diverse needs of the Lodge Membership.

My vision for 2009 emphasizes two of the fundamental tenets of Freemasonry – Education and Charity. Why have I chosen these two?

First, the new generation of Masons is coming from Applicants for membership in Freemasonry in their 20s and 30s. These younger Masons are

very interested in learning more about the rituals, the long history, the rich traditions, and the philosophical origins of Freemasonry. If we as a Lodge wish to attract and, more importantly, retain this new generation of Masons, it must be our responsibility and our duty to promote Education. Thus, my Brethren is the emphasis upon Masonic Education so important.

Secondly, but not subordinate, in these very serious and devastating economic times, there exists the need for Charity like no previous time since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Thus, my brethren is the emphasis upon Charity both good and timely.

Freemasonry is not an educational institution but it does promote education at every level of society. While not all of our members are scholars and not all of our brethren can write papers or read and understand abstract philosophical treatises, I submit to you that every Lodge should offer a little something for the mind at every Stated Meeting night. A brief 5-10 minute talk should suffice.

At this Lodge Officer Installation Ceremony our Grand Master, The Most Worshipful Larry Adamson, has charged me "to instruct the Craftsmen in the various duties and virtues which they have been selected to illustrate" and admonished me "to spread and communicate light and instruction to the Brethren of my Lodge". In fact it is the Master's duty "to give the Craft the necessary instructions whereby they may pursue their labors".

To this end I have appointed worshipful Joseph J. Reiner as the Masonic Formation Officer of this Lodge for the ensuing Masonic year. He is eminently qualified by not only his many years of leadership in this Lodge, by not only his many years of experience in his private and public life, but also by having his Certification in Masonic Forma-

tion granted by the Grand Lodge of California upon his completion of the Masonic Formation Course. I am certain that Worshipful Reiner and his committee will provide us with both relevant and motivating presentations.

Recently, one Sunday, there was overheard a conversation between two neighboring farmers standing outside their church. They were discussing the morning sermon, the subject of which was "Charity".

Farmer Smith said to Farmer Jones, "You know, we've been friends for so many years that we're like brothers. Jones replied, "Yeah, I know what you mean; like brothers to the end." Smith then said, "I wonder what would happen if one of us lost all of our animals in a flood?" Jones replied, "The other one would surely share his animals, of course!" Smith then asked, "If you had 100 horses would you give me half?" "Positively!" said Jones. Smith again asked, "If you had 100 cows would you give me half?" "Without hesitation!" said Jones. Finally Smith asked, "If you had two pigs would you give me one?" This time Jones did not respond immediately but hesitated with a very thoughtful expression on his face. Finally Jones looked Smith in the eye and retorted, "Come on, that's not fair, you KNOW that I have two pigs!"

Yes, they were "LIKE" Brothers. They were definitely not "TRUE" Brothers as we in Freemasonry not only profess to be, but who also must act upon those Masonic tenets of Brotherhood and Charity.

From the Holy Writings, Leviticus 19:18 enjoins us to love our neighbor as our self, and Proverbs 17:1 proclaims that a friend is always loyal and brother is born to help in time of need. Therefore we lay aside self and act together for the best interest of our Great Brotherhood and relieve especially those who are in serious need. Freema-

(Continued on page 6)

Holiday Party Pictures...



Greetings from Fidelity Assembly

It is hard to believe that we have come to the end of another year. We would just like to say thank you to all who have supported us this last year and wish you a Happy New Year. I am not sure how soon this will publish but our big event coming up is January 3rd at 1pm and that is the reception for our Grand Worthy Associate Advisor, Nikki Phillips. We would love to see you there.

Be safe and thank you for your continued support!

Donna Drivere
Mother Advisor



Conejo Valley Hi-12 Club

The High Twelve club installed their new core of officers for 2009.

There is an open invitation to come to the Plug Nickel Restaurant in Thousand Oaks on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month and have lunch with the new officers. They are President Bob Thompson, 1st VP Starr Thompson and rounding out with Reese Padfield as 2nd VP. Reese is the new Master of Lodge 807. Dave Smith will continue handling the club newsletter.

Come down and say "Hi".



Simi Valley Chapter #637, OES

Happy New Year! Simi Valley Chapter is beginning the new term with our official visit of our Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron. We have three petitions and possibly more for an initiation in the near future. We are excited to be growing.

Our Chapter is pleased to assist the Lodge with the stated meeting dinners and we hope to see you at the next one.

Shari Madison
Worthy Matron



**To the Worshipful Master,
Officers and Brethren of
Simi Valley Lodge #806:**

I would be honored to have your attendance at the 2009 Installation of Officers for Lux Lodge #846 in San Diego, CA.

The installation will occur on Monday, January 12th at the San Diego Scottish Rite Center. Dinner will start at 6:30 PM with the ceremonies to follow.

If you are able to attend, please RSVP to me -- my contact details are below.

Most Sincerely and Fraternally,

David L. Revels
Master-elect, Lux Lodge #846
(805) 304-4188 (cell)

(Continued from page 4)

sons in England for example make the largest contribution to Charity, which is second only to their National Lottery.

Some of you who may have studied Masonic Poetry may recall the "Regius Poem" which was written around the year 1390. Although I was too young to remember the author who composed it I do recall it being nearly 800 lines in length. I am certain that the rest of you might also enjoy hearing that entire poem. However, because time is limited at this Installation Ceremony today, I will recite only the last three lines.

*Amen! Amen! So mote it be!
So say we all for Charity.
So mote it be.*

These three lines are particularly significant to my vision of a Lodge which stresses Charity as one of its important tenets. To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent upon all men but particularly upon Masons. In fact, in one of our Masonic degrees, we are taught that of Faith, Hope, and Charity, the greatest of these is Charity and although Masonry is not a welfare agency it does emphasize that the duty of every person is to assist the needy, the helpless, the widow, and the orphan wherever they may be.

Therefore, I entreat you my Brethren, to join me in my vision of a Lodge more knowledgeable in the rich heritage of our noble fraternity and in my vision of a Lodge which is philanthropic in its support of our various Masonic Charities.

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
Nicole Phillips, 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.
Shari Swanson-Madison, Worthy Matron (805) 807-7925
Dan Madison, Worthy Patron



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

Lodge Internet Access provided by:



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**

January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 <i>1:00pm: Rainbow GWAA reception for Nikki Phillips</i>
4	5 <i>7:00pm: SVMBA meeting</i> <i>12:00pm: High-12 meeting At the Plug Nickel in WLV.</i>	6 <i>7:30pm: Jobs Daughters meeting</i>	7 <i>5:30pm: Stated Meeting Dinner</i> <i>7:00pm: Stated Meeting</i>	8 <i>7:30pm: OES meeting</i>	9	10
11	12	13 <i>7:00pm: Rainbow meeting</i>	14	15	16	17
18	19 <i>12:00pm: High-12 meeting At the Plug Nickel in WLV.</i>	20 <i>7:00pm: OSI @ Anacapa: Opening, Stated Meet- ing Protocol, Balloting, Closing</i> <i>7:30pm: Jobs Daughters meeting</i>	21 <i>7:00pm: Double 1° conferral</i>	22	23	24
25	26	27 <i>7:00pm: Rainbow meeting</i>	28 <i>7:00pm: Double 2° conferral</i>	29	30	31

February 2009

Tentative Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <i>7:00pm: SVMBA meeting</i> <i>12:00pm: High-12 meeting At the Plug Nickel in WLV.</i>	3 <i>7:30pm: Jobs Daughters meeting</i>	4 <i>5:30pm: Stated Meeting Dinner</i> <i>7:00pm: Stated Meeting</i>	5	6	7
8	9	10 <i>7:00pm: Rainbow meeting</i>	11	12 <i>7:30pm: OES meeting & initiation</i>	13	14
15	16 <i>12:00pm: High-12 meeting At the Plug Nickel in WLV.</i>	17 <i>7:30pm: Jobs Daughters meeting</i>	18 <i>7:00pm: OSI @ Simi Valley 2nd Section of 3rd, Lecture, 3rd Profi- ciency</i>	19	20	21
22	23	24 <i>7:00pm: Rainbow meeting</i>	25	26	27	28