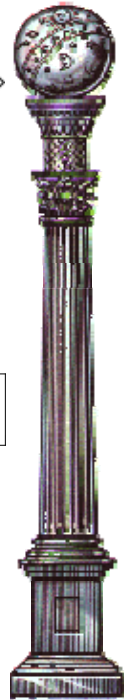


THE TRESTLEBOARD



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

Volume XV, Issue V

May 2008

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Words from the East...

Brethren,

April was another busy month for the Lodge. We had a double 1st Degree on the 16th. Please welcome our 2 newest members, Doug Ridley and Paul Luedtke. Both are really excited about their degrees. If you check the calendar, you will see that they are scheduled for their 2nd Degrees next month. We might even get to see a long form proficiency or two, so stay tuned.

May brings more fun. The annual shooting trip is coming up at the end of the month. This is always a fun day of noise, friendly competition and just good fellowship. Please let Gary Hartjen know if you are coming and how many. We need a rough head count for reservations. We are stopping at the Claim Jumper for an early dinner after the shoot.

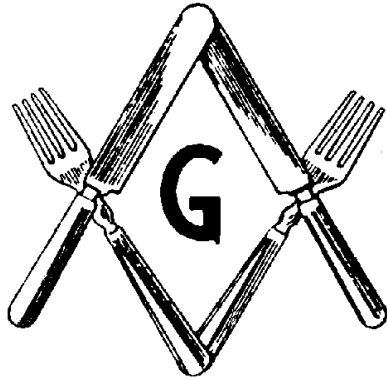
In June we are reviving an old tradition and adding to it, a bit. We will be having an all

Masonic family yard sale in the parking lot on June 21st. That is the tradition. As for the adding to it, we will also have the United Blood Services Blood Mobile there for a blood drive. And since we will have so many families coming through the yard sale, I thought we could set up the Child ID booth and maybe have some information available on all the Masonic family. More information will be coming on this. But start looking through the closets and garages and see if you can find some items for the yard sale.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Terry Baker
Master





DAVE'S DINER

This month's Stated Meeting Dinner is an old favorite...the way Mom used to make:

Salad
Meat Loaf
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Vegetable
Dessert
Hot & cold drinks

Job's Daughters will be the servers for this month. As usual, dinners will be \$7/person for those with RSVP, and \$8/person for those without RSVP. Please call your reservations in to Jeanine Meyers at 805-279-3213 or Josephine Richter at 805-522-5601.

SVMBA Notes

Hello Brothers:

The Building Association is having another busy year. The front fence project is coming along well. Worshipful Mayea is doing an exceptional job as project manager for this task. Thank you Wor. Mayea. Special thanks to Bro. Bob Purdum for his huge ef-

(Continued on page 3)

Words from the West...

Brethren:

It's MAY already and we are nearly half-way through the current Masonic Lodge Year for Simi Valley Lodge #806. It has been a very busy and productive six months under the leadership of worshipful Terry Baker; especially the month of April when there were five Wednesday nights of activities including the Stated Meeting, Degree Rehearsals, and Degree Conferrals.



The Degree Conferrals took place on the last three Wednesdays as follows: April 16--a double First Degree Ceremony for Brothers Doug Ridley and Paul Luedke; April 23—a Third Degree Conferral on Brother Jeff Hayden followed on April 30 by the Raising of Brother Maurice Cohen to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

Congratulations to both of our newest Entered Apprentice Masons and our two newest Master Masons!

Lodge activities in April also included participation in the Seventy Sixth Annual Grand Master's Breakfast sponsored by the Los Angeles Masonic Service Bureau and held at the Sportmen's Lodge in Studio City, CA on Sunday April 13. The Grand Master, Most Worshipful Richard Hopper delivered an inspiring speech on his vision for the Grand Lodge of California and our own Robert Beeson III, PM, was seated among the notables as the elected Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Los Angeles Masonic Service Bureau.

Other members of our Lodge in attendance included: Worshipful Terry Baker, Master; Tom White, Senior Warden; Joseph Reiner, PM, Secretary; Carl Swanson, PM, Assistant Secretary; Jay Monroe, Senior Deacon; Gary Hartjen, PM, Tiler; Donald Lee, Junior Steward; Brother James Lee.

On April 18,19, & 20 the Annual Junior Warden Retreat for Southern California was presented at the Ontario Airport Marriott Hotel under the Direction of Ken Nagel, Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of California. It was a distinct honor and privilege for me to participate in this very intense and informative training event and I want to thank the Officers and Members of Simi Valley Lodge #806 for providing me the opportunity to attend this very valuable weekend Retreat.

The weekend of May 2,3, & 4 I will be attending the Annual Senior

(Continued on page 3)

(Words from the West, continued from page 2)

Warden Retreat at the very same location in Ontario, CA under the direction of Larry Adamson, Deputy Grand Master and which will be a continuation of the training begun at the Junior Warden Retreat. The month of May presents many Masonic activities in which to participate including multiple Second Degree Conferences and the social highlight of the month—the Annual Lodge Shooting Trip at “A Place To Shoot”. Please refer to the May Calendar for all of the Masonic Activities available this month.

S&F,

Tom White, SW

(SVMBA Notes, continued from page 2)

forts in labor and equipment towards this project. And thanks to all the brothers who have been able to assist with demolition and clean-up

Spring is here and it is time for quarterly house cleaning. Our youth groups trade off on this important task. This time the Job's Daughters will be cleaning the lodge in May on a day fitting their schedule to be announced soon.

The Building Association has two vacancies on the Board. If you are interested, please contact Jay Monroe (805) 522-4232, or e-mail monroeappraisal@sbcglobal.net. This is a great way to serve the lodge and brothers. Election of new

Greetings from Fidelity

Many of you have probably already heard our news but for those who don't here you go:



We had our Grand Assembly in March and not only came back with a new grand officer, Nikki Phillips who was appointed as Grand Worthy Associate Advisor but they also appointed Brother Dave Smith as the new State Rainbow Dad. We were all very excited. Needless to say Dave will be quite busy with his new duties as he also was appointed as Grand Representative to Scotland for Eastern Star. We could not be prouder of our Papa Smith. We are getting ready for a new year traveling up and down the state with our grand officers.

On May 4th we will be having our Mothers Day Tea and everyone is invited. It is a very special day.

We would like to thank all the brothers who came to visit the girls and look forward to your next visit.

Thank you for your support!

Donna Drivere
Mother Advisor

members will occur at the next Stated Meeting in May.

As a reminder to all who use the lodge, please treat it as your home. If something needs to be cleaned pitch in or let us know. Please do your part in keeping the dining area, lodge room, and

(Continued on page 4)

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

(SVMBA Notes, continued from page 3)
restrooms looking good. This will maximize our enjoyment of the facility and leaves a good impression upon visitors and potential tenants.

Please do not park adjacent to the lodge building. There should be a 30 feet wide lane around the building to accommodate emergency vehicles and pedestrian ingress/egress to the building.

As the fence project nears completion, new projects are already under consideration. Maintaining and updating the lodge will be a constant theme for the next few years as the budget allows.

Currently, our RV parking area is full, but there may be a few openings this month. Please pass the word along to anyone you know who may need a space.

Our next regular Building Association meeting will be held on Monday, May 5, 2008 at 7:00 PM. All are invited to attend.

Sincerely,

Jay Monroe
President SVMBA

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William & Karina Strayhorn are proud to announce the birth of their first baby daughter:

Alexandria Maya Strayhorn



Born 4/20/2008 at 6:39pm. 6.72 lbs and 19.5 inches

OES News

Our next meeting is May 8th and all Star members are encouraged to come and see what is going on in Simi Valley Chapter.



Conejo Valley Days are almost upon us and Conejo Chapter needs our help. If you can volunteer some of the you time April 30 thru May 4 please contact Art Weiss or Barbara Weiss at Home: 805-499-9158 or Art Cell: 805-559-0134 or Barb Cell: 805-559-0112.

Our Chapter will once again be manning a precinct and again need your help. Contact Nila Vandermark if you can give a few hours. This is a chapter fund raiser, and we also receive money for attending the classes on how to set up and run a precinct.

Don't forget our May stated dinner that will be prepared by the ladies of the chapter. Please call your reservations in to Jeanine Meyers at 805-279-3213 or Josephine Richter at 805-522-5601.

Q&A With Oscar

This week we feature Worshipful David Smith. It seems that Dave has been a fixture of our lodge since time began; well at least since 1974, which to some is before time began. He was initiated, passed, and raised within 4 ½ months (June 26 to November 2nd.), which is amazing since back then all ritual and proficiencies were in long form and passed from mouth to ear.



He received the Hiram Award in 1983, and served as Master of Simi Valley Lodge in 1999. He is a man dedicated to his family, and devoted to the ideals of our Masonic brotherhood. I don't know of anyone who isn't proud to serve with this remarkable man and Master Mason. I present David Smith, PM, HA:

What brought you to Masonry?

A co-worker, Glen Elmore, invited me to attend a GM Masonic Square's club breakfast.

It is said, "Masonry is a way of life". How has Masonry affected your life?

It has completely enveloped my life. I liked it from the beginning. I was raised on a Saturday morning and became the Jr. Stewart Saturday evening.

How has Masonry affected your family?

I guess it rubbed off on all of them. Our daughter joined Rainbow in 1975 and our youngest son Wes joined DeMolay. Our eldest

son David is married to a former Rainbow girl. Ann later joined OES.

Is your family associated with Masonry and what organizations?

None of the children have remained in Masonry or any of the organization, except for my wife Ann. She is still a member of the Eastern Star and also a member of Nile. I am a member of Scottish Rite, the Shrine and a member of International High-12.

You have been associated with Rainbow for some time, how did that come about?

After our daughter joined Rainbow I soon joined the Advisory Board and have been on the board ever since.

You were recently appointed Rainbow Dad for the State of California. How were you selected and what does that mean?

The selection is made by the Supreme Deputy who is fed information about the potential candidate; his years of service to Rainbow and participation in all functions. The potential candidate is not notified or aware of the selection until Grand Revelations at Grand Assembly.

What does your position mean?

There is only one male office in all of Rainbow attached to the Grand Officer's and that is State Rainbow Dad. It means you are required to travel with the girls to their official visits and receptions, help where necessary. If a girl has

car trouble or other problems you are one of the first people she calls on for help. You are also security.

What other position have you held in Rainbow?

I have been Rainbow Dad in Fidelity Assembly many times and chairman of the Advisory Board 3 times.

What's next for you in Rainbow?

After being State Rainbow Dad there is not much but to return to the active duties of Fidelity Assembly and the Board.

What do you see in the future for Rainbow Girls?

Like all other Masonic organizations the Rainbow has membership problems. We are trying to build with new members just as all Masonic organizations and hope we can turn it around. Many of our potential members are involved in other activities that take up their time, both in and out of school.

Tell us about Ann's Masonic career?

Ann joined Eastern Star in order to attend our daughters Rainbow meetings. In 1984 she became Worthy Matron, in 2001 she was a Grand Officer, and in 2005 she was a Deputy Grand Matron. She also belongs to the Nile.

What other Masonic organizations are you active in?

Other than Simi Lodge I am active with International High-12 Club, being president twice. I am also a life member of Al Malaikah Shrine holding the office of director for 10 years. I am an active member of Stagecraft and have been president of two different

(Continued on page 6)

(Q&A with Oscar, continued from page 5)
Shrine Clubs. I am a member of Simi Valley Chapter OES and have been Worthy Patron twice.

How do you see our Lodge in comparison to others?

I see good things in Simi Valley Lodge because of our younger officers who have more enthusiasm and better Masonic education. Other Lodges do not seem to have the same enthusiasm getting candidates and holding them. There have been Lodges who have had their charter in jeopardy because of lack of interest and new candidates. I do not see this in Simi Valley Lodge.

Membership in Masonry is increasing - what do you think is the reason?

Grand Lodge has instituted educational schools for up and coming Warden's which teaches them how to run a successful lodge. In one word it is education.

What can we do to improve relations with Eastern Star and the youth groups in our Lodge?

The first and one of the most important is participation within the groups. The Lodge officers are young and wrapped up with Lodge work, which is good, but they still do not have the larger picture of the Masonic Family. They need to have their wives participate in activities that involve not only the Lodge but the Eastern Star and youth group functions.

Youth Groups: I see the Lodge taking no active part in youth group activities, even visitations to the youth groups twice a year. As for Rainbow, I see only 2 or 3 Lodge officers attending their Official Visit and that is usually because they have a daughter in Rainbow. The problem I have with

the Worshipful Masters now is that if they hold an office in any of the groups I feel they should step down for their year so that they can become Master of all groups.

How have we changed the composition of our Lodge?

Younger officers, improving sideline attendance and fresh, new ideas. They don't just talk a subject to death, they do it. New roof, repainting the dining room, new drapes in the Loge and new fencing in the parking lot; all helping to improve the looks of our Lodge.

What do you think we can do to foster more family involvement?

First I would like to see all of the groups be more interactive with each other's social functions. Not just the Lodge visit, but also the youth groups interacting with Lodge social functions where possible.

What can we do to foster a closer relationship with our community?

We can participate by advertising our Lodge in promoting service projects. i.e. Teddy bears for cops and cookies for cops. Visiting assisted living home, manning the polling precincts and the lodge, participating in the Memorial Day Ceremonies.

Thank you Worshipful Dave. And now we know a little more about David Smith. Perhaps we can bring him back to get to know the whole story.

In the next Q&A I will grill another surprise guest from Simi Valley Lodge. Until then, this is Oscar signing off and reminding you guys and gals to be nice to each other, because if you ain't, you gonna get it back, like my goomba says – in spades. God Bless and good night.

**Congrats to our
newest
Master Mason!**



Brother Jeff Hayden was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on April 23, 2008.

(SVMBBA Notes, continued from page 4)

An additional note from the Building Association:

Please reserve **Saturday, May 3**, (next Saturday), for a day of painting the new wrought iron fence. Everyone is invited. If we have enough volunteers, we should be done by 1:00 PM. Paint and peanut rollers will be supplied.

Come join us for a day of good fellowship and not so hard work.

Refreshments will be supplied.

Thanks,

Mike Mayea, PM²

We have Pictures!



Our table at the LAMSB breakfast honoring the Grand Master. This year it was held at the Sportsmen's Lodge.



Worshipful Dave Smith, proudly displaying his State Rainbow Dad suit bag.



The front of the lodge property is a changing'.



Worshipful Dave posing with Nikki Phillips, who was appointed Worthy Associate Advisor.



The plaque on the left hand pillar, dedicating the fence project to Bro. Joe Wilk, Jr.



The plaque on the right hand pillar as you enter the lodge parking lot.

A Visitation to a Prince Hall Lodge.

I have been in touch with the Prince Hall Lodge in San Fernando, Lillard Dandridge Lodge #99, for about the last year or so to arrange a visit to one of their meetings or for them to attend our Lodge. I received a call recently from their secretary, Brother Willie Lewis, P.M. He and W. M. Theodore Magee, have invited us to attend their Stated Meeting on Friday evening, May 9th, at 7:30 PM.

As you may recall, two Past Masters from the Prince Hall Lodge in Oxnard visited with us a while back and I have been trying to arrange a return visit to their Lodge since then. Apparently their Lodge is not very active and we never received an invitation.

However, Dandridge Lodge in San Fernando is much more active. I was told that they may even have a Second Degree on that evening as they only meet once a month.

Needless to say, this is the type of situation that occurs only once in a great while. I've been a Master Mason for over 30 years and can remember when the Prince Hall Lodges were considered "clandestine" by the Grand Lodge of California and for us to attend one of their meetings were grounds for expulsion from the Fraternity. Fortunately, this is no longer the case. This will be my first time also.

I hope that you will all wish to travel (literally) from West to East with Worshipful Terry and I to enjoy a different ritual than that which we employ. Please consider this invitation to attend as an important facet in our Masonic education. I hope that we can establish a good brotherly relationship with the Prince Hall organization.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience about attending.

Gary Trammell (gartram@dslextreme.com)

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



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Simi Valley Lodge Internet Access
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www.dslextreme.com

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1541 Patricia Avenue
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Lodge Phone: (805) 581-9806
www.simivalleylodge806.org

Fourth Annual Lodge Shooting Trip

The Worshipful Master and Worshipful Gary Hartjen invite you to go to the shooting range with us on Saturday, May 31st, 2008. Meet at the Lodge at 8:30 a.m., or at the range at 9:30 a.m. Bring a sack lunch and/or non-alcoholic cold refreshments if you wish. We will leave by 3:00 p.m. for **Claim Jumpers Restaurant in Valencia on the way home for a great early dinner.**

@->--- **Ladies are invited** ---<-@



Announcing the 2nd Trap Shooting Championship: a contest for best trap shooters with trophies for 1st and 2nd place. Same rules as last year (since I got no complaints). Oil up your shotgun or arrange to borrow one. You will need at least 50 rounds to compete. There will be a \$5.00 fee to compete, to cover the cost of birds and trophies.

The range is in San Francisquito Canyon, near Saugus, called (aptly enough) "A Place To Shoot". Information on the range may be found at www.aplacetoshoot.net.

Ear and eye protection is available to use if you don't have your own. Cash only for admission payment, which is \$12.50 + \$3.00 target holder deposit for adults, \$7.00 for 11 to 17 year olds. Credit cards are OK for ammo, targets, and clay birds (you must use clay birds from the range).

Driving Instructions: Go to the I-5 Freeway, going north. Exit at Magic Mountain Parkway and go left to The Old Road. Turn right and go to Rye Cyn. Rd where you turn right. Rye Cyn. Turns into Copper Hill Dr. Take Copper Hill to San Francisquito Canyon Rd, and turn left. Go approximately 8 miles up the canyon. The road to "A Place to Shoot" will be on the left with a sign.

Please RSVP so I can make restaurant reservations

If you are interested, contact and leave a message for Gary at:
805-306-1240 / glhartjen@sbcglobal.net .

See you there!!!

May 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 <i>SVMBBA fence painting party @ the Lodge. ALL ARE INVITED!</i>
4	5 <i>12:00pm: High-12 meeting At the Plug Nickel in WLW. 7:00pm: SVMBBA meeting</i>	6 <i>7:30pm: Jobs Daughters meeting</i>	7 <i>5:30pm: Stated Meeting Dinner 7:00pm: Stated Meeting</i>	8 <i>7:30pm: OES Meeting</i>	9 <i>7:30pm: Visit to Lilliard Dandridge Lodge #99, PHM</i>	10
11	12	13 <i>7:00pm: Rainbow meeting</i>	14 <i>7:00pm: OSI @ Oxnard. (2009 Planning Status, 1st & 2nd Sect. of 1^o, Lecture)</i>	15	16	17
18  <i>9:15am: LAMSMB meeting @ Pasadena Scottish Rite</i>	19 <i>12:00pm: High-12 meeting At the Plug Nickel in WLW.</i>	20 <i>7:30pm: Jobs Daughters meeting</i>	21 <i>7:00pm: Double 2^o for Bro. Luedke and Bro. Ridley</i>	22	23	24
25	26	27 <i>7:00pm: Rainbow meeting</i>	28	29	30	31 <i>Lodge Shooting Trip @ "A Place to Shoot"</i>

June 2008

Tentative Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <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>	3 <i>7:30pm:</i> <i>Jobs Daughters</i> <i>meeting</i>	4 <i>5:30pm:</i> <i>Stated Meeting</i> <i>Dinner</i> <i>7:00pm:</i> <i>Stated Meeting</i>	5	6	7
8	9	10 <i>7:00pm:</i> <i>Rainbow meeting</i>	11	12 <i>7:30pm:</i> <i>OES Meeting</i>	13	14
15	16 <i>12:00pm:</i> <i>High-12 meeting</i> <i>At the Plug Nickel</i> <i>in WLW.</i>	17 <i>7:00pm:</i> <i>OSI @ Anacapa.</i> <i>(Qual. & Install.</i> <i>Sched, 1° prof., 1st</i> <i>& 2nd sect. of 2°)</i> <i>7:30pm:</i> <i>Jobs Daughters</i> <i>Meeting</i>	18	19	20	21 <i>Blood Drive, Yard</i> <i>Sale & Group Info</i> <i>Day @ the Lodge.</i>
22	23	24 <i>7:00pm:</i> <i>Rainbow meeting</i>	25	26	27	28
29	30					