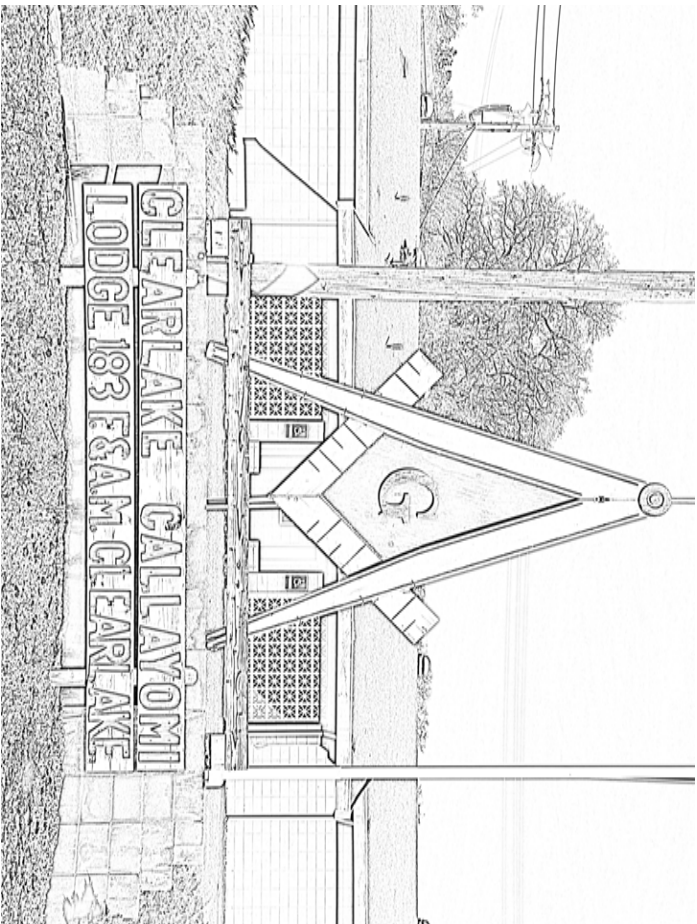


Clearlake Masonic Lodge #183 F&AM
7100 S Center Drive
Clearlake, CA 95422



APRIL 2023



Serving Masons and their Families, Across the Lifespan

EMOTIONAL HEALTH DESERVES attention, just like physical health. In the same way you turn to your physician with medical questions, it's important to seek emotional support when you're facing difficult feelings or hard times. As California Masons, you have an incredible resource available in MCYAF, which has a team of licensed professionals ready to help. With a sliding-scale fee schedule and video-conferencing services available, MCYAF's model of care is available to all. **Scan the code to visit [MCYAF.org](https://www.mcyaf.org) or call (877) 488-6293 to learn more or schedule a session.**

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AS THE SUN RISES IN THE EAST

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

MICHAEL McKEOWN

Brethren, family, and friends,

It brings me great pleasure to again address you from the pages of the Clear Lake Callayomi Trestleboard.

Stated meeting is on April 5. Temple Board meeting at 5:00-6:00 (all are welcome to attend), dinner at 6:00, and lodge opens at 7:00. The Junior Warden informs me that dinner will be prepared by Brother Mike Salter and the menu will be French Dip Sandwiches, Green Salad, and Cookies.

Last week (as I write this) our lodge, with some parts filled by members of Hartley lodge, performed a 3rd degree for Br. Derby. Your lodge officers worked hard for several months preparing for the degree, and it was super duper. Everyone did a fantastic job and created a moving experience for everyone involved, but especially for our new Master Mason. When we first enter the lodge from between the pillars in the North West corner of the lodge and become an Entered Apprentice Mason we experience something that is a bit overwhelming, albeit short, and much of it will be forgotten, but when we experience the third degree we are left with an indelible memory that we will remember the rest of our lives. This is why everyone involved in putting on a third degree works so hard to do the best work they can, as we know the lasting impact our performance will have.

Now we will be practicing the first degree, as we will be reading into the record two new applicants for the degrees of Masonry in our lodge.

I am told by our inspector that the next School of Instruction will be at Hartley Lodge on April 13, 7:00 p.m. SOI is open for anyone who has attained the degree that is being practiced.

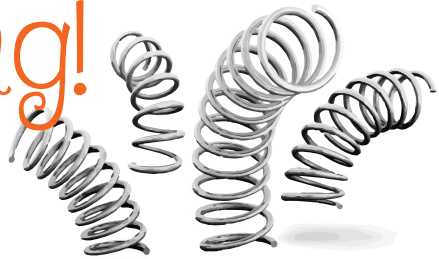
The president of the Temple Board asks me to mention several items that are on his agenda for the next Temple Board meeting: He has received quotes for and we will vote on the repair of the three corners of the roof that have not been done yet and the re-painting the breakfast sign that faces the highway. We will also be voting to approve the small fee to turn on the Intacct accounting system. O.E.S. rent increase will be discussed, as well as identifying exactly which dishes and other things O.E.S. needs to move out of the storage spaces.

Yours in Freemasonry,
Michael McKeown

Lodge Officers

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Secretary	Donald N. Auradou dauradou@hotmail.com	(707) 850-6033
Inspector	David L. Jones, PM justdave9@gmail.com	(707) 994-9315

Spring HAS
Sprung!



Our recent third degree has made me reflect on what it is men are searching for when they seek out membership in our fraternity, and what it is they think after they learn what they've really become a part of after being raised to Master Mason. Many that I have met as they approach Masonry for the first time don't have a very clear vision of what their experience will be like, or what Freemasonry even is. They might know their grandfather or some other significant figure in their life was a Mason, but Masons of a previous generation were very circumspect about what happens in a lodge, leaving their male descendants with little idea of what Freemasonry is. In many cases these men of today only know their grandfather (or whoever), was a man of good moral character, an upstanding member of their community, and suspect that some of that must have come from their involvement in Freemasonry, and they want to learn it for themselves.

Some men who approach Freemasonry with interest in joining have an interest in the esoteric mystery school kind of thing. A little bit of Googling and watching some YouTube videos will assure these aspirants that Freemasons are the Illuminati controlling the world with unseen hands, and that we know secrets about alchemy and Hermeticism. Luckily no one I have met actually believes any of the wilder stuff that can be found online, but it does spark interest in wanting to learn what it is our secrets really are. And yes, there is a great deal of influence from alchemy and Hermeticism in Blue Lodge Masonry, but Illuminati, hmm, not so much.

After experiencing the 3rd degree, the most common comment I have heard is how impressive it is that those that put on the degree memorized so very much stuff. The average person might have memorized a few songs, maybe a speech or poem they had to memorize in school, very likely they have memorized some prayers. But when they experience the 3rd degree and hear very lengthy prayers, a monster of an obligation, and a 1/2 hour long lecture, they are blown away by the dedication and time such an impressive

display of memorizing must have taken.

I believe Freemasonry's insistence on memorizing goes beyond keeping our ritual secret. There are after all only a few things that we are enjoined to keep "secret" that we learn in Freemasonry. Memorizing is a curious thing. We start out barely able to regurgitate the very first sentence, and if we read through the whole thing we are tasked to learn (as best we can through the morass of the cypher, with the same symbols meaning completely different words in different places), it's just incredibly overwhelming. But then as time goes by, sentence after sentence gets recorded in our memory. We run across lists of words that are sometimes listed alphabetically or in reverse, sometimes listed by an order of hierarchy of largeness or importance. Some things we find easier to memorize by incorporating small hand or body motions (perhaps one thing is in one hand, and another in the other). Sometimes we might memorize the first word of each paragraph so that we can keep the paragraphs in order. Some things we might memorize with funny words to keep them in the correct order, like Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice might be "Time For Prune Juice"

These tricks of memorizing put the mind in a position to be able to realize some of the real mysteries of Freemasonry. I wonder if memorizing was made to be a part of Masonry for this purpose, as so much of Masonry's inner teaching is about the One Thing.

This One Thing can not be spoke of in words, but can only be revealed to a mind that has been prepared. Memorizing certainly trains the mind, and I think creates a pathway for this revealing to occur. This single core secret of Freemasonry is secret because it can not be spoken about. Not that it is so secret we are mandated not to speak about it, but rather it is of a nature that words fail to describe or explain. As soon as we open our mouths to try to describe it, we are already wrong. Every Mason must discover this secret for himself. In the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry there are degrees which address this subject that are called the "ineffable" degrees. Ineffable because this root secret is impossible to be spoken about directly.

Today as our fraternity is becoming increasingly thin, we must travel some distance to pursue our further education in Freemasonry with the different bodies of the York Rite and on the other side as it were, the Scottish Rite. The York Rite consists of the Royal Arch, where some mysteries of the 3 degrees are explained, and new mysteries are introduced. The Cryptic Council takes that to another level, filling in more information about the Hiram Legend's historical narrative, and the Commandery, or Knights Templar explains an aspect of our history that is also filled with mystery (Oak Island?).

The Scottish Rite is different. The Scottish Rite explores the esoteric meaning of the philosophy of Freemasonry. The Scottish Rite is known as the "university of Freemasonry". Instead of aprons Scottish Rite Masons wear round hats, which are not removed during prayers or the Pledge of Allegiance. The Scottish Rite is popular, with sideliners on both the north and south side.

It is important to note that the 3rd degree, or Master Mason degree, is as high as one can go in Freemasonry. In the rest of the York Rite there are not numbered degrees like our 1st, 2nd and 3rd. They just have names. In the Scottish Rite the degrees are numbered, up to 32 (the 33rd is an honorary degree). It is not accurate to refer to someone as a "32nd degree Mason". A Freemason can only attain 3 degrees and can be referred to as a "3rd degree Master Mason". Someone who has attained the 32nd degree in the Scottish Rite is properly referred to as a "32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason".

As Masons we have several primary directives, or goals. Clearly an obvious one is we take "good men and make them better". In the Blue Lodge we are in the business of making Masons. That is our primary focus. We are not a philanthropy. We may choose to do some philanthropy; Masons are known for their good work in their community, but we are not primarily in the business of philanthropy. We are in the business of making new Masons, and we should make every effort to be available in our communities for those good men that seek out membership.

We want lots of Masons (such as would seek us out) because another goal we share is to bring civility to the world. We do this by example and by our recognition that we are all members of one single human family, stuck on a spaceship that is going endlessly in circles and not going anywhere. As Masons we are taught to recognize the fragile nature of our existence in the recognition that at any moment we may be re-united with the Supreme Architect in his glorious and celestial lodge.

As Masons we are taught to live with fidelity, honor, and integrity. We are taught to love, respect, and to support those who lead, and when it is our turn to lead, to do so with equanimity and justice. These behaviors and ethics demonstrate to the world that by becoming a Master Mason we became a better man, and show how the world could be if all of the human species were to adopt these philosophies.

But all these moral lessons are best fulfilled when the core lesson, the core secret of Freemasonry, is absorbed. It is this core secret that has the opportunity to change the world in a positive way. It is this secret that is the root of creating civility in the world. This is what much of the Scottish Rite, the university of Freemasonry that explores Freemasonry's core aspects, is about. It is what the Point Within a Circle that is supposed to be represented in every regular lodge room represents. It is what the compass which traces the path of the Monad references. It's about a single point, a single thing, that never changes and never ceases.

If there is actually only "one thing" going on, then it must be something that is happening right now this very minute and never changes and never stops. Can you identify for yourself right now this very minute what is going on that is not changing? Identify everything you can right now in your sensory and thought space and find the one thing among them that is not changing and never ceases.

This secret has to do with an inversion of awareness, the recognition of a mistake of observation we make every single minute of the day. We see with our eyes and we think our thoughts and we say "I see this

thing”, “I think this thought”, but we make a mistake of ownership when we think this way. Can you turn your attention around and see this entity that sees? Can you turn your attention around and see the one who is thinking thoughts?

Imagine a situation which you interpret to mean someone is being a jerk and you feel irritation, and then you think he might be limited in his capacity to behave and now you feel compassion. Which one are you? Are you the irritated one that growls? Are you the patient one that behaves compassionately? Are you the one that chooses whether to growl or be nice? Had you not realized his incapacity to behave in the manner you would have thought appropriate and adopted compassion, you would have been stuck in the first interpretation’s response of irritation, but you would have been making a mistake, believing in and identifying in a learned behavioral response that was incorrect. Neither case was “you”. From the outside looking in you realize you are not either the irritated one OR the compassionate one. You are the awareness of those things. Currently we place our identity on the changeable non-real things, instead of placing our sense of identity on the sense of Awareness itself, the Awareness that is the one thing that is going on.

The primary mistake we make as humans is taking ownership of that which belongs to the Supreme Architect. We put our focus on this supposed “I” that does things, sees things, thinks things, and chooses things. The inversion of awareness I am talking about happens when we identify with the sense of awareness rather than identifying with the “seer”, the “doer”, the “thinker”. If we put our sense of identity on Awareness instead of all the changeable stuff, a switch happens. It is the cosmic giggle when we realize that what we were searching for was right there all along but we were ignoring, so caught up we were in identifying with all the stuff that is not real and ignoring that which is perennial, unceasing, unchanging, always here, right now, in this eternal moment.

est quod, omnia unum
Michael McKeown

APRIL

Birthdays

Robert Loudermilk	04/05/23
Richard Hammes	04/10/23
James Kennedy	04/12/23
Craig Campbell	04/15/23
Helga Luck	04/20/23
Michael Salter	04/26/23
Linda Rayford	04/28/23
Dylan Lucius	04/29/23
Emilee Crowley	04/29/23
Michael McKeown	04/30/23

HAADDDY

3RD DEGREE

Anniversary

Brandt Peterson	04/11/23
Larry Oslin	04/13/23
Michael Salter	04/20/23
James Kennedy	04/28/23
Michael McKeown	04/28/23



Masonic Homes of California

SENIOR OUTREACH SERVICES

Masonic Senior Outreach Services (MSOS) connects senior Masonic family members with the resources they need to stay healthy and safe at home or in a retirement community in their local area.

Care management is provided to California Masons and their wives, widows, and mothers. There are no financial eligibility requirements to receive MSOS care management with a demonstrated need.

Financial support is need-based and offered to California Master Masons in good standing for five consecutive years, age 60 or older (55 or older, if permanently disabled) and to their wives, widows and mothers.

Services Include:

- Assistance reconnecting senior members to their Lodge
- Regular visits and/or telephone contact
- Help navigating health-related matters, financial situations, and care plans
- Information about local support services, public benefits, home care providers, and transportation agencies
- Support in selecting a retirement community



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