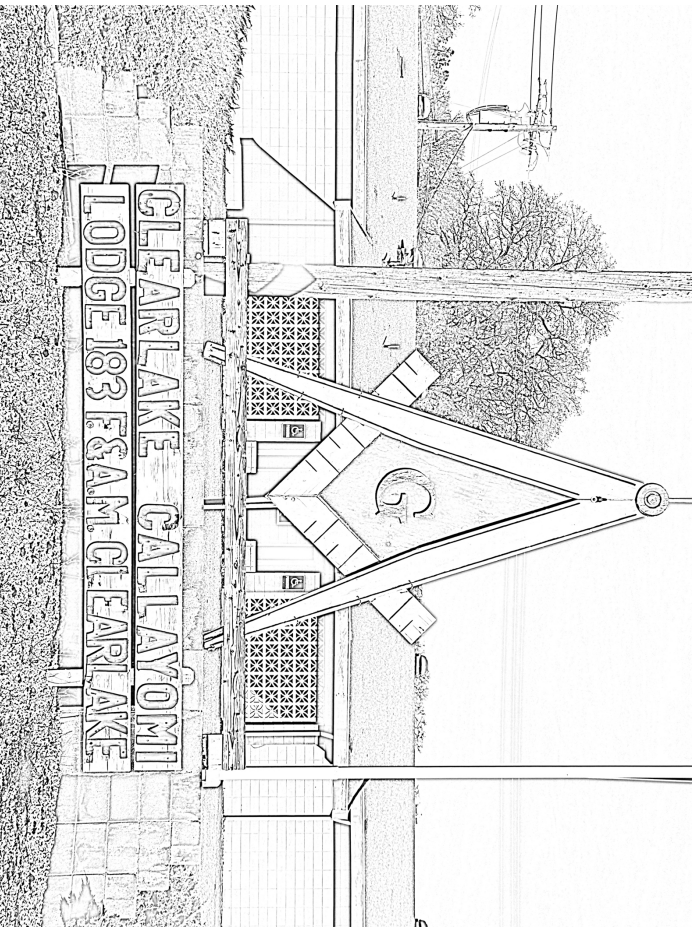


Clear Lake Callayomi No. 183
P.O. Box 3590
Clearlake, CA 95422



JULY 2023



AS THE SUN RISES IN THE EAST

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

MICHAEL McKEOWN

Brethren, family and friends of Clearlake Callayomi Masonic Lodge,

I am as always proud and happy to again be addressing you from the pages of our humble lodge. I hope you don't mind the Trestleboard seems to generally just be me writing; not that I mind. The Master's Trestleboard is the space to set a tone and serves as a reminder of our mission as Masons. And in a busy lodge publish a calendar. We're not so busy. However, I encourage articles from the wardens and the Secretary if they so choose, and indeed anyone else. Until then, I hope you find my missives entertaining. I enjoy writing them, and I gain an education along with you.

The stated meeting for the month of July is next week July 5. Hall meeting 5:00, dinner at 6:00, meeting at 7:00. Summer dress.

No practices scheduled in the near term as we enjoy our summer break, but I would encourage us officers to run through our work for the 1st and 2nd degrees at least a couple of times a week to maintain our proficiency as we will have to perform those two degrees at some near point.

It occurs to me that the wider readership of this Trestleboard that does not often attend lodge probably is unaware that we have been doing a brief Masonic education period at the end of every stated meeting. We have looked at a number of curious things about our craft like the history of the Tyler and how they used to be dressed in bright costumes. We have looked at why we can't cross the alter/east line when the lodge is open. We have considered the Point Within the Circle (of course), and a number of other topics.

If you have an area of interest in Masonry and would like to share your knowledge with us, by all means please feel welcome to do so. Articles for this Trestleboard are also welcomed and encouraged. I'm sure our readers would welcome reading from someone else.

Many of us joined Masonry because of an interest in our mysteries and hoped that once they were known and understood we would become the better man that Masonry promises. However, once we completed the three degrees we realized we had joined an initiatory club. One where the work is practicing degrees to make new Masons.

We also discover that we have joined an organization where we hang out with good men who aspire through a rigorous practice of integrity to be better men, better husbands, better fathers, and better community leaders; which is super cool and awesome and we all benefit from that. But little of the hidden mysteries and how they can lead to a better man are discussed. The real secrets are hidden from most Masons.

If the hidden mysteries interest you, please join us. Our meals are simple and our meetings short, and our fellowship and discourse are grand. If you know a good man that would find our Craft entertaining, please invite him to dinner. We can not ask a man to be a Mason, but we can lead the way and encourage him that he is the kind of man that should consider asking to be made a Mason.

We need to make more Masons. We can't wait for them to knock on our door. We have to be proactive in our own little circle of influence to attract men who might ask to be a Mason. We need to make more masons for Clearlake Callayomi's benefit, and we most assuredly need to make more Masons so that a ground swell of civility takes hold globally in human consciousness and becomes our reality.

Michael McKeown

Lodge Officers

| | | |
|------------|---|----------------|
| Master | Michael McKeown, PM mastermasonmichael@gmail.com | (707) 337-9410 |
| Sr. Warden | Bryce Brin Brycebrin@gmail.com | |
| Jr. Warden | Robert Hipkiss, Jr., PM hiphouse12895@gmail.com | (707) 995-9568 |
| Treasurer | Brandt N. Peterson, PM brandtpeterson707@gmail.com | 707-489-6734 |
| Secretary | Donald N. Auradou dauradou@hotmail.com | 707-433-2836 |
| Inspector | David Jones, PM justdave9@gmail.com | (707) 994-9315 |

Happy Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Roy George | 07-07 |
| Jacob Lyons | 07-09 |
| Rodney Yanez | 07-12 |
| Drake Christensen | 07-13 |
| David Jones PM | 07-15 |
| Robert Hipkiss Jr. PM | 07-27 |

HAPPY 3RD DEGREE Anniversary

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Gerhard Luck PM | 07/12/23 |
| Jerry Russell PM | 07/27/23 |

I recently reviewed my Masonic library with an eye towards the oldest books. It is likely I have modern reprints of even older books, but my attention fell on three old original hard bound volumes. “Ancient Mysteries and Modern Masonry” by Rev. C. H. Vail, 1909, “The Men’s House” by Joseph Port Newton, 1923, and “The Lodge and the Craft” by Rollin C. Blackmer, 1923.

I like looking at the oldest Masonic texts I can find because we learn from our forbears. Coming into Masonry we know little about our culture, our ethics, or how we are expected to conduct ourselves. We can only learn this from our brothers who have been in Masonry for a while. I feel like the further back in time I go in regards to this education of our core values, the closer I get to what might have been the original intent of the Great Institution of our Gentle Craft. I do not doubt at all that the lapse of time and the ruthless hand of ignorance has hidden the real secrets even deeper by being forgotten and overlooked by an uneducated Masonry. The word “ignorance” in the above well recognized quote, is a technical spiritual term to refer to one who has not realized who they really are yet; i.e., one who is not yet Self realized, or to use an overused term, enlightened. But then that is why Masonry is all about the perenial, eternal, creative Light that pervades all nature. Ignorance is the ruthless destroyer. The pure light of our original source is the harmony that will one day exist in our world when all humans are awakened. But I digress.

The oldest of these three books, the 1909 book “Ancient Mysteries and Modern Masonry” by Rev. C. H. Vail leads one down an interesting path. The author actually has an entry in Wikipedia, and there are three of his books listed on Amazon. The one mentioned here is available as an eBook for a dollar. Mine is an original 1909 hard copy and is very delicate.

While the National Organizer of the Social Democratic Party of America, forerunner of the Socialist Party of America, Vail toured the United States speaking on various socialist topics for seven of the first nine months of 1901, traveling over 14,000 miles and visiting 19 states.

On January 1, 1901, Vail was nominated by the Social Democratic Party of New Jersey as its candidate for Governor of New Jersey. After resting for the month of September, Vail hit the campaign trail. In the immediate aftermath of the August assassination of President William McKinley by Leon Czolgosz, an anarchist, Vail faced hostile crowds and suffered cancelled meetings by those who confused the doctrines of socialism and anarchism. Vail refused to bow to intimidation and delivered 29 addresses during the course of the 1901 campaign. By the end of the year, Vail had toured 25 states and delivered 241 public lectures.

He had considerable experience and skill as a public speaker (he spent the rest of his working life as a pastor), so it makes sense when we learn that “Ancient Mysteries and Modern Masonry” is a collection of a series of lectures, first given in Pullman Memorial Church, Albion, New York. The purpose of these lectures is to consider the origin and nature of the Ancient Mysteries and Modern Masonry and to show the relation which they bear one to the other. Chapters include The Egyptian, Hindu and Persian Mysteries, The Christian Mysteries, The Meaning Of True Initiation, Masonic History, and The Origin and History of the Knights Templars.

The inside front cover of my original 1909 copy has an image of a globe with latitude and longitude lines, but no continents drawn, and instead has images of the G with rays coming out of it at the top, the Royal Arch keystone in the middle, the double headed eagle of the Scottish Rite (which could be a Pheonix or a Gandaberunda, but that’s another fascinating subject) on the right, Knights Templar on the left, and a square, a compass (not together in the normal fashion),

a plumb, a level, and a holy bible below. In the 10:00 position there is an inverted triangle with rays coming out of it, and the triangle is centered in three concentric circles of short rays. I do not know what that symbol is. Above this world image is a Swastika. This was 11 years before the earliest recorded use of the ancient symbol by Germany, so I'm sure the author meant to use it for its ancient esoteric aspect, and not as a political statement.

In the very first pages of the book he speaks about our mysteries having "...their origin from the first great Teachers and Guides of humanity". These are called "Sons of Venus", they formed the "Nursery of Adepts"-the nucleus of the first Great White Lodge. Surrounding the Chief there was a small band of Beings who came to earth to labor for the evolution of young humanity. Another class of Beings who aided in this work was called Agnishvattas...". He goes on: "There were many already in possession of occult knowledge who were so engrossed in selfishness that they could not be brought into the divine path; and their abuse of this power over the forces of nature made them giants of evil."

He continues a page on: "Antiquity had held that there was a science of the soul, a knowledge of things unseen, a Gnosis..."

And finally I want to share a section from the most interesting chapter: "The Meaning of True Initiation": "The six qualifications (a) Control of Thoughts-purity and calmness which result from control of the mind. (b) Control of Actions-mastery of one's actions and words. (c) Tolerance-freedom from bigotry, from an exaggerated attachment to any doctrinal belief, leading to a wide impartiality. (d) Forbearance-freedom from resentment in respect to real or fancied wrongs. (e) Steadfastness-incapability of being turned aside from one's purpose. (f) Faith-confidence in the power of the Master to reach the truth, and of one's self to grasp and wield it."

Michael McKeown

Assisted Living and Memory Care, Elevated



The **PAVILION**

AT THE MASONIC HOMES

Welcome home! The Masonic Home at Union City is pleased to announce the grand opening of its new Pavilion, where those who need memory care and assistance with day-to-day living can enjoy comfortable living quarters in a beautiful, community-minded atmosphere.

Our person-centered philosophy of care offers residents the opportunity to live their best life safely, with a helping hand when needed. From a rousing card game, an event in our communal living spaces, or just relaxing in their beautiful new apartments, residents find that the Pavilion offers a haven for their body, mind, and soul.

Call to schedule a tour today:
(888) 466-3642

34400 Mission Blvd. in Union City, CA



Masonic Homes
of California

Masonichome.org