

FREEMASONS

Petaluma-Hamilton Lodge #180 F. &A.M.

On the Hour



FEBRUARY, 2012: VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

FROM THE EAST



My brothers, I cannot express the honor I feel in being elected to the Oriental Chair this year to serve as the Lodge's

Master. I have a very long tradition of excellence to live up to, but I have no doubt that with the help of our officers and Past Masters this year will stand as a rousing success for Petaluma Masonry, for the Fraternity, and for ourselves as men and Masons.

I have so many people to thank for their leadership and guidance during my Masonic career thus far, but I would especially like to take this opportunity to honor our Past Masters. Having lead groups and organizations in the past, and having sat in the East for degrees, and at Worshipful Chalmers' right hand all of last year, I felt I was fully prepared to lead this fantastic Lodge; very little, however, could have prepared me for the experience thus far. Our Past Masters have helped me with the transition in so many ways, with their patience, understanding, advice, and leadership, and for that I am eternally thankful. I am reminded of a conversation I had with our Assistant Grand Lecturer some months back, where he mentioned that the title 'Past Master' is not automatic, that it is earned and hard-won - a life-long accolade worthy of all veneration. The next time you are at a Lodge, at the Officer's School of Instruction, or abroad in the world,

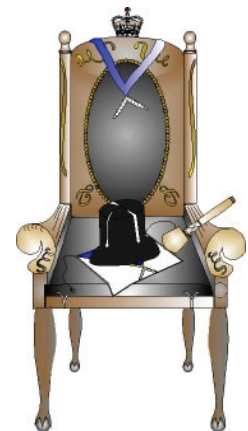
and you see a Past Master, please make sure to thank them for all of their labors.

The word for this year is 'Education.' I am a big believer in personal development, in advancing or improving oneself, and that is an aspect of the Fraternity that surely caught my attention years ago. Through 'Exploring Masonry' nights, focusing on the First, Second, and Third Degrees, goal achievement workshops, and an expansion of our library I hope to help our Lodge learn and grow. However, education is not just about we ourselves, and to that end not only have I found room in the budget to increase our commitment to local schools this year, but also the Wardens and I are working with several civic groups to promote the best aspects of society and Petaluma's rich community, building a tighter-knit base for the future.

This month we are going to confer the Third Degree of Masonry upon Brother Tim Giddings, which will be a festive and enjoyable affair as his son, Brother Daniel Giddings, takes part after a recent world-spanning trip. We have a number of candidates studying for their First and Second Degree proficiencies, and my hat is off to all of the coaches who are giving these men a full-bodied education in Masonry. In addition, I know we have several local men who have expressed interest in joining our Lodge, and I have encouraged them to continue visiting that they may know the brethren, and we them, before applying.

I have no doubt this is going to be a truly fantastic year for Petaluma Freemasonry; we have an officer line filled with energetic and motivated men, well-suited to their stations, we are moving forward with many exciting plans and programs, and we are helping many learn the true value of membership. A big thank you both to the officers of last year, and to those who have stepped up this year.

Fraternally,
Christopher C. Wright



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FROM THE WEST



I would first like to express my gratitude in your confidence as Senior Warden for 2012, I shall endeavor to work my hardest towards a successful Masonic year.

One of the main jobs I have as Senior Warden is coordination of the candidates and their coaches. We have several brothers that have not made that step towards that sublime degree just yet, and they need your guidance to get them there. I'm looking for a few generous brothers who would be willing to devote a bit of time each week towards helping these Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts to achieve that which you already have accomplished. In most cases the bond between candidates and their coaches last much longer than the amount of time it takes to pass proficiency. I would attest to this positive relationship through the bond that I have with my own candidate coach Stan Jones PM. We share a friendship that will last our Masonic career, and I now ask members of Petaluma-Hamilton to share this positive experience with our newer members. Make a difference in one of your brother's lives.

In the upcoming year, I am determined to bring people together in our lodge, and possibly through this, we may show prospective men that we are having a good time, and make a difference in our community. We will be having several events at our lodge throughout the year that all are welcome to attend. That being said, our Junior Warden is planning a Super Bowl Potluck party at the

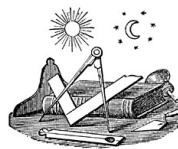
lodge. If you plan on spending the day watching the game and would like to meet some new people, or join old friends, come on down to the lodge, bring something you enjoy eating and watch the game!

We can also look forward to board game nights, card game nights, use of our pool table, an outdoors activity day, and a few Masonic education nights in the upcoming year. If you have any further ideas of events you want to have, I'm all ears. Also, if you have a few board games or other games that you would like to donate to the lodge, please send me an email (woodypurdy@gmail.com) or give me a call at 707-536-1417.

I am also looking for volunteers of any degree for the Butter and Eggs day parade, we will be sponsoring the Child's ID booth and I will need brothers to come out and represent our fraternity. This should only take a few hours of your time on that day and is a very worthy cause.

Let's have some fun this year, and spread some of that worthy cement!

William Purdy
Senior Warden



FROM THE HALL ASSOCIATION

As the outgoing Hall Association President for 2011 I have to really give congratulations to the board for the fantastic work done on and in our wonderful building. In addition to the wonderful refacing we gave to the Templar room's ceiling, many of our downstairs tenants thrived, even in

this uncertain economic era. We were able to organize and prioritize the attic, donating what we didn't or couldn't need to charity, and had new, long-lasting LED lights to frame our All-Seeing Eye and upper bannister during the Winter season.

I heartily encourage everyone, not just the newly-elected Hall board, to attend our next meeting on February 1st, 2012, in the upstairs game room at 7pm. Our following meeting, lead by the new Hall Association president, will be on Wednesday, February 29th, at the same time and place. It is a great way for brothers to take an active role in the management of the building and Lodge, and we always encourage input into upgrades, improvements, and suggestions for our beautiful and historic building.

What a marvel that our Hall has weathered earthquakes, storms, fires, and two world wars in almost pristine condition. For one-hundred thirty years it has stood as a cornerstone of downtown Petaluma, and for that each of us has much reason to stand proud. I personally enjoy our many public events if for no other reason than many Petaluma residents have lived here their entire lives, but have never looked up or wondered at the history of our building. With the clocktower an iconic symbol of Petaluma, I am always pleased to detail our building's longevity to the interested.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Fraternally,
Christopher C. Wright
Outgoing Hall
Association
President



"Walk to the Edge of the Light"

FROM THE SOUTH



I think that it is just now starting to set in that my proficiency for being Junior Warden, the Officer Installation, and everything else that went along with these is actually over. I find it odd (but very satisfying) that I currently sit in the South considering, at least in my mind, that I haven't been a Mason for that long. I really want to thank the entirety of the brethren for putting their faith in me to serve in such a position for the following masonic year. I believe this is especially meaningful to me since two of my

I want to thank the entirety of the brethren for putting their faith in me to serve

closest friends will be serving as Worshipful Master and Senior Warden. I never thought I would have seen the day, but at last, they are upon us.

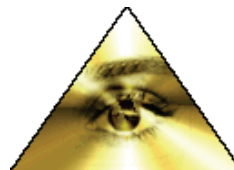
Now onto the business of being Junior Warden. It will be my ongoing best effort to bring the best and some may say, varied, dinners to our stated meetings. I'm actually quite excited to be in this position since I want to bring something new and exciting to what, at least in my humble opinion, has been kinda the same old stuff. I'll keep all my brothers on their toes as to what will be on the plate in front of them at our meetings but, no worries, it won't be anything too over the top. I believe this coming meeting will be chicken carbonara so everyone

keep a good appetite and leave room for dessert! Just a reminder, it is always greatly appreciated to make reservations for each meeting so that I can coordinate with how much food we will be needing for each meeting. I point fingers at no one when I say this but I throw it out there, as a gentle reminder, nonetheless.

I am currently in the process of hosting a Super Bowl party at the lodge on February the fifth. Come one, come all and invite who you like to share time with brothers as friends as we see our 49ers win their sixth Super Bowl! Yes...yes I did just say that and now that you're reading it in the trestle board that makes it true. Going for somewhat of a potluck feel to this party so if all those that would like to attend could bring some small food and drinks there will be more than enough for everyone. Also, myself and the Senior Warden are putting our heads together in an attempt to plan more events for us all at the lodge that will bring the brethren even closer together. Game nights, movie nights, card games, etc., have all been discussed and both he and I are more than open to any other ideas any of our brethren may have. Let's make this year one of the funnest we've had in some time...I know that is my great aim I have in view.

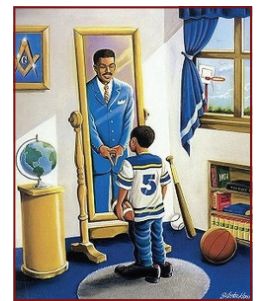
Again, thank to all those who have helped me get to where I Masonically am this year. I am forever grateful to the great men around me who make me be a better man and a better mason.

Fraternally,
Anthony Timmer
Junior Warden



Many years ago, a young boy coming of age was tasked with fetching water from the farm's well. The first time he opened the door however, seeing the darkness looming before him, he cried and refused to go out into the cold. Even though he had a lantern, he explained to his father, it only shone a little bit. Understanding, his father gave him a simple piece of advice: "walk to the edge of the light, and before you know it, you will be at the well." Scared but trusting his father, he set out to fetch the water. Of course, carrying the lantern, he never reached the edge of the light, but realized that he would be okay – the light he carried was all he needed to push back the darkness, and his own fears, wherever he went.

I tell this story because this year, our focus is education and personal development. Freemasons use light as a symbol of knowledge, open-mindedness, and reflection on the world around us. It is our aim, aided by the officers, members, and friends of our Lodge, to help spread the light Freemasonry encourages; to promote knowledge, banish ignorance, and help leave a positive mark on this world and especially this community.



February Birthdays

Rob Taylor	4
Stephen Olmsted, Jr	9
John Gause III	12
Martin McKeay, KYGCH	12
Richard Warren	17
Douglas Dondson	18
Ewald Westphal	22
Hubert Bechtel	26



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FEBRUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Hall Association Meeting [7pm]	2 Stated Meeting [6:30 dinner, 8pm Meeting]	3	4
5	6 Royal Arch Chapter #22 Convocation [8pm]	7 Rainbow Assembly #6 Installation [7pm]	8	9 Third Degree Practice [7pm]	10	11 Rainbow Assembly #6 Reception for Grand Editor Valerie Rice [7pm]
12	13 Secretaries' Association Luncheon, Windsor Golf Course [12pm]	14 St. Valentine's Day	15 Redwood Empire Council #46 Stated Assembly [8pm]	16 Third Degree Practice [7pm]	17	18
19	20 President's Day	21	22 School of Instruction, Santa Rosa Scottish Rite [7pm]	23 Third Degree Conferral [7pm]	24	25
26	27	28	29 Hall Association Meeting [7pm]			