



TRESTLE BOARD

Natoma Lodge #64

APRIL
2009



FROM THE EAST

Greetings from the East—

It's hard to believe that the first quarter of 2009 has passed! March was another great month, full of opportunity and excitement at Natoma Lodge! We celebrated the youth of our nation and at the Stated Dinner we gave our appreciation to our own International Order of Rainbow for Girls Assembly #90. I myself was honored by a presentation from them as I was given 'my' mascot, which I am to bring to all Assembly meetings (his name is 'Bubba'). Thanks Girls, that was really nice! Our Rainbow Assembly has supported us all year long by attending to our needs at the Stated Dinners, by assisting us in special events, and I am grateful for their assistance at last December's installation of officers. Our youth are there for us and as such we appreciate their efforts and want to say 'Thanks' for their service and commitment.

As March was Youth Appreciation month we had a great presentation from Judy Delise, the Principle of Theodore Judah Elementary School in Folsom, who spoke to us about her experience with the Masonic Student Assistance Program (MSAP) and how Masonry has affected her school. We also had a great presentation from Brother Carlton Galbraith on Scottish poet and Mason Robert Burns on the 250th anniversary of his birth.

We were also honored by the Senior Grand Steward, our own Worshipful Bill Miklos, PM, as well as many of the Grand Officers in a reception hosted by our Lodge, *An Evening in the Tropics*. It was so nice to see the Grand Master as well Worshipful Miklos in Hawaiian shirts! It was a great evening! Special thanks to all those who worked so hard to

make this event fun and successful, especially Worshipful Wes Mindermann, PM, and Kim Titus.

April is a celebration of service. Service to our Lodge, service to our community and service to the world in which we all share. This month we celebrate our annual Hiram Award recipient Fred Vefredo for his years of service and dedication to our Lodge as well as our community—well done Brother Fred, thank you for your service!

April also means the annual Folsom Parks and Recreation's Eggstravaganza—an event truly fun to watch and rewarding to be a part of. If you are interested in participating in the event or the egg-stuffing, please see the Junior Warden Scott Leventon.

Our annual Youth Benefit Auction, which was scheduled for this month, has had to be re-scheduled due to circumstances involving a depressed economy. In addition, the committee did not have enough volunteers to make it work optimally. We have decided to postpone the event until later in the year when (hopefully) the economy improves and we have had the opportunity to get more volunteers interested in undertaking the commitment. Brother Doug Roberts (Chair) and the Auction Committee have made this event successful in the past years, but this year there just was not a good turnout of volunteers, which, coupled with the economy has led to this postponement. I am asking for your support—I need volunteers to come forward and help keep this successful program going. We need more members on this committee to take some of the burden from Brother Roberts and the select few who have come forward thus far. How unfortunate it is that we celebrated our youth in March but later that month had to postpone an event designed to support them because there are not enough people

interested in contributing to the effort! Once we have a staffed committee we will proceed with the event, and hopefully the economy will provide a more conducive atmosphere for giving. Please see myself or Brother Doug Roberts if you are interested in participating in this wonderful and rewarding committee.

As we progress through 2009 we have many events scheduled. May is Public Schools month, June is our annual Lodge picnic and of course our Youth Benefit Auction will be later this year.

As Masons, we are here for many reasons, but the common factor is that we all share the desire to impact our world in positive ways. One way we accomplish this goal is by volunteering to serve in the communities in which we live. As our most recent Hiram Award recipient is an example of this principle, so should we endeavor to support our communities. There are so many reasons to volunteer—to have a sense of belonging, to support a cause by giving of your time when financial means are limited, to put into practice the belief you have in a cause and to give back to that which you have received. Alexis de Tocqueville stated almost two centuries ago that the defining characteristic of an American is their commitment to service. I like to think that we, as Masons, exemplify what it means to be a truly great American. As such, what better way is there to validate de Tocqueville's sentiment than to step up and be counted? The opportunities are there, my Brothers and Ladies, and one such opportunity we let go of by allowing the Youth Auction to slip away in April. The good news is that we have the opportunity to right the ship! The youth of this nation look to us as role models, and we, as those role models need to show the world what Masons do and who we are!

Travel well, and let your footsteps cast a permanent impression on the path. -S

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SUNSHINE REPORT

Lois Holden, PM Corky
 Holden's wife, has been diagnosed with brain cancer.

Harvey Phillips is in Kaiser in Vallejo and has been there for a while with no improvement,

Earl Campbell is back at home with his wife and is doing better.

Rob Warren's Mom is doing better with her cancer treatments.

Please keep these very important people in your thoughts and prayers.

Paul



FROM THE WEST

My brothers, we are dedicated to bringing you Masonic light on a regular basis. This task, assigned to me, has been recently accomplished on the evening of our Stated Meeting either in Lodge or immediately following dinner so as to share the presentation with our ladies. Our April Stated Meeting and dinner is filled with distinguished activities including the presentation of the Hiram Award to Brother Fred Vefredo and a 3rd Degree proficiency that will be delivered by, Herman Graham, our Brother of 47 years. These accomplishments are due significant recognition without pressure from time constraints, and therefore this month's Masonic Formation presentation can be found elsewhere in the Trestleboard. The citations at the close of the essay offer even more information, and I invite you to seek further light through your personal investigation.

I am pleased to announce our newly raised Brother Christian Ramsey, has taken the leadership roll as chairman of the Dirty Hands Committee. We are confi-

dent the Brethren will support his management of the committee by their active participation. However, there is also a need for additional committee members – a committee by definition is greater than one.

We will conduct a seminar on the proper investigation of perspective candidates on Thursday April 23rd at 7:00 PM. As discussed in the March Trestleboard, the investigation of new members is critical to building and maintaining the sound structure of Freemasonry. We will discuss, the statutory requirements of the investigation per Grand Lodge, additional questions specific to being a member of Natoma 64, information the candidate should receive from the investigation to support his interest in Masonry or not. Additionally we will discuss the etiquette of the investigation.

Lastly, as indicated above, two of our Brothers will be acknowledged for their significant achievements at our April meeting. Brother Herman Graham will provide his 3rd Degree proficiency after 47 years in the fraternity, exemplifying perseverance worthy of congratulations. And most notably Brother Fred Vefredo will receive the Hiram Award, the highest honor given a Master Mason for his service to the Brotherhood. I congratulate both these Brothers for their dedication to the

craft and deserving recognition. Please consider attending the April Stated Meeting, it will be a memorable evening.

Yours in Brotherhood and
On the Level,

Mike

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Celebration—Natoma Lodge No. 64 will be awarding up to five (5) one thousand dollar (**\$1,000**) **scholarships** at its 51st Annual Celebration of Public Schools scheduled for the Stated Meeting dinner on **May 7, 2009**.

The intent of the scholarships is to recognize and support well-rounded students who demonstrate civic pride, leadership, community service, and a financial need. Applicants must be entering an institution of higher learning in the summer or fall of the year 2009. Applications must be completed and mailed on or before Saturday, April 4, 2009. Direct any questions and application requests to Mr. Wes Mindermann at (916) 365-3772 or dumpengr@aol.com.

LET'S EAT

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RSVP YOUR STATED MEETING DINNER
RESERVATIONS TO THE JUNIOR WARDEN SCOTT LEVENTON
AT scott_leventon@sbcglobal.net

If You Forget To RSVP, Please Come Anyway...But You Will Be Charged The Full
\$12.00 Cost Per Meal.



FROM THE SOUTH

Greetings Ladies and Brethren,

It is difficult to believe that Spring is almost here and that we already forwarded our clocks up an hour. At our March dinner we honored our Rainbow Assembly by having youth appreciation night. It was a real honor to serve our young ladies and have them as our guests for dinner.

April will be here before you know it and so will the Easter Eggstravaganza which is Saturday, April 11, 2009 at Lembi Park. We will be stuffing eggs

on Wednesday April 8th at the Folsom Community Center at 6:00 PM. I need volunteers to help both there and with the Child ID booth on Saturday, we will start at 8:00 AM and go until there are no more children to ID .

Our annual lodge picnic is going to be at Jack Kemp Park on Saturday June 20, 2009. I picked this park because all the picnic tables are close together so we can have good fellowsip with one another. We are working with the City of Folsom to get an RSVP on the park. I have assembled a com-

mittee to work on the menu.

Our lodge is once again going to be in the ritual competition led by our own Bill Miklos PM. We had our first practice and we will continue practice through out the competition, wish us luck as we try to bring home another title.

Travel well,

The other
Scott



“I WANT TO BE A MASON”

On January 07, 2009 Worshipful Grand Master Larry Adamson, Deputy Grand Master Kenneth Nagel, Junior Grand Warden Frank Loui, Grand Secretary Allan Casalou, Grand Lecturer Paul Hennig and Assistant Grand Lecturer (Div I) David Perry, ventured north to the remote town of Ukiah, Ca. for a very special Masonic raising. John Tollow had applied for the degrees for Masonry. The brothers of Ridgewood Lodge #146 voted upon and accepted Mr. Tollow to receive the degrees of Masonry. However, time is short as Brother Tollow is slowly dying. He has been fighting diabetes for years. A little over a year ago he had to start blood dialysis due to dysfunctional kidneys. During the last two years he has also suffered two significant strokes. Brother Tollow has been committed to convalescent care since June of 2008. One of his dying wishes was to be a Master Mason!

John Dixon Tollow is my father and was born in Santa Barbara, Ca. on June 21, 1949. John is an Eagle Scout, past assistant scout master (Troop #46, Ukiah, Ca), 9th degree Grandmaster of Shorin-Ryu karate, silver and gold smith and now the first man to be raised a Master Mason “on the spot” on U.S. soil (the first was overseas for General Douglas Macarthur). Brother Tollow chartered the first ever martial arts Boy Scout karate explorer post (#213) in the history of scouting. As he grew up, he spent many hours with his grandfather Ernest Tollow and his favorite Uncle Arnie Oakeson who ended up having a great influence on Brother Tollow’s upbringing and what kind of man he wanted to be as he grew up. You see, Ernest Tollow and Arnie Oakeson were master Masons from the Magnolia Lodge of Santa Barbara and both were 32° Scottish Rite Masons from the Valley of Santa Barbara.

“I was only about 4 years old. I remember my grandfather all dressed up in a tuxedo. He put on this white apron in front of the mirror. He was “talking to himself” in the mirror. He told me that he was going to a meeting. I asked him what the apron was for and he told me that he was a Mason and that it was

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Continued... Freemasonry: a Dedication to Public Education

effects of World War I had diminished the supply of qualified teachers for our class rooms as they left for the war and work in the factories. After witnessing the closure of schools in our state and across the nation, he overcame his apprehension that Freemasonry may be accused of interfering in politics, which is regarded as non Masonic and was especially a sensitive issue in the early 20th century. He therefore, put forth a proclamation as Grand Master of California on August 13th, 1920 that the week commencing with September 27, of that be year shall be public schools week and all Masters and Wardens of lodges in the jurisdiction are to bring before the brethren of their lodge the issues of public education and set about offering support to relieve the existing troubles of their locality. It was this proclamation that laid the ground work, which directs the efforts that the Masons of today make every April in support of local public schools.

Freemasonry's positive support and involvement in public education is wide spread. The chronicles of this active involvement for the purpose of enlightenment in the liberal arts and sciences to the masses of society can easily fill pages beyond the capacity of this publication. We can assuredly state that our institution Freemasonry, and, most individual Masons have always valued the edification of mankind and promoted the expansion of knowledge and thereby freedom, through publicly funded schools.

I thank all the teachers who tutored and put up with me, for the skills and the ability to bring you this short paper.

- Mike

BIRTHDAYS					
Robert Warren	2-Apr	Dale Hawley	21-Apr	Daniel Brown	17-Apr-1996
Thomas Golden PM	4-Apr	Benjamin Harvey	23-Apr	Charles Phillips	17-Apr-1985
James Loughridge	4-Apr	Peter Tibbens	24-Apr	Darren Marin	19-Apr-1995
Jack Wolfe, PM	4-Apr	Wayne Armstrong	25-Apr	Herman Savely	20-Apr-1968
We_ Mindermann	9-Apr	Robert Copeland	26-Apr	Charles Lushbaugh	21-Apr-1993
Robert Johnson	10-Apr	Craig Davis	26-Apr	Jack Wolfe PM	21-Apr-1961
Bob Englehart	11-Apr	Eric Wulff	27-Apr	Edward Swanson	22-Apr-1999
James Clarke	13-Apr	Dwight Gilmore	28-Apr	James Murphy	22-Apr-1981
Charles Rurka PM	13-Apr	ANNIVERSARIES		Derek Jones	22-Apr-1969
Morgan Roberts	14-Apr	Herb Anderson	6-Apr-1963	Emil Hensley	23-Apr-1960
James Grey	16-Apr	Charles Rurka PM	7-Apr-1982	Tim Roberts	24-Apr-1996
William Armstrong	17-Apr	Elmer Wrye	8-Apr-1987	Terry Center	25-Apr-1990
John Castro, PM	19-Apr	Stanley Solid	9-Apr-1992	Derek Crangle	26-Apr-2007
Duane Gray	19-Apr	Leslie Clark	13-Apr-1992	Larry Lesieur	27-Apr-2000
Walvin Schnaible	21-Apr	Walton Skinner	14-Apr-1976	Casey Norris PM	28-Apr-1967
		Herman Graham	16-Apr-1959	Harold Graves PM	30-Apr-1975



FESTIVE BOARD

You are invited to attend
Northern California Research Lodge's
Festive Board
Hosted by Volcano Lodge# 56
16180 Charleston-Volcano
Volcano, CA 95689



Saturday, April 18, 2009

11:00 am Meet at the lodge in Volcano
12:00 pm Lunch/Festive Board/Ladies invited
and Special paper presentation
“Freemasonry in the Mother Lode”

Cost is \$10.00 per person

This can be paid by Pay-Pal or

Mail a check to:

NCRL

c/o John Cooper, PM, Secretary

543 Green Ridge Drive, #6

Daly City, CA 94014

Questions contact: Bill Miklos, at 916-533-3317



HALL ASSOCIATION HAPPENINGS

Contingent upon Lodge approval, the Hall Association has approved making improvements in the Center's kitchen facilities scheduled for early April 2009. Improvements include commercial grade refrigeration, an improved dishwasher, and an icemaker. While the Hall Association shares everyone's concerns about current economic conditions and a desire to minimize expenditures, a surplus of good quality used equipment on the market has reduced prices to a level where it was felt that previously deferred replacements could now be economically made. As such, we are asking that all items be removed from the refrigerators and freezer by the end of the April 2009 Stated Meeting.



Freemasonry: a Dedication to Public Education

Freemasonry has a long and significant history as a benefactor for the education of mankind. It is widely held that modern Freemasonry evolved from ancient stonemason guilds, or operative masons, and additionally that the stonemason guilds were influential in creating systems for training the trades and crafts. Their ancient systems like ours today, included designations and stages of education defined as apprentices, journeyman and masters of the work. Speculative Masonry, or Freemasonry, has adopted this system and nomenclature to develop good men into better men, and instruct each Brother in the betterment of their character for the advancement of society. Like the stonemason apprentice our entered apprentices begin their learning at initiation, and likewise after proving themselves proficient, refine their education and understanding of the vocation as journeyman before being advanced to masters of the craft. Our ancient operative brother Master Masons were enabled to freely travel in foreign countries in the pursuit of happiness and a better life. Therefore, as "Speculative Masons" or Freemasons, we naturally and instinctively support public education to promote the freedom of all mankind through knowledge, and as well, for the social advancement of men and women and refinement of our society.

Institutions of higher education – collages and universities – were developed by the ancient Greeks and Romans before Christ. These institutions, however magnificent and instrumental in the development of society, were not typically available to the common man. By comparison the modern phenomenon of public education is a system structured to educate the masses of our entire society, especially in the basic skills of reading, math, and science, which are now regarded as elementary.

Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry gives credit for the early promotion of public education in the United States to Brother James DeWitt Clinton who served as Governor of New York from 1803 to 1815. He also was a candidate for president losing to President Madison in 1812, and was instrumental in planning and promoting construction of the Erie Cannel. Certainly not the least of his accomplishments however, was the founding of the New York Society of Public Schools. The New York Society of Public Schools was chartered by the New York legislature and charged with providing an education to all children who were in need of schooling (otherwise not schooled by religious or private institutions). The Society secured funding, built schools, trained teachers and supported existing private and church owned schools in their efforts to educate children of all classes, but primarily to benefit middle and lower class families. Brother Clinton not only used his influence as a Governor and a legislator, he also was the Grand Master of New York from 1806 to 1820 and influenced Freemasonry in New York to fund and support the New York Society of Public Schools in its works. The New York Society of Public Schools that he helped found relinquished its charter in 1842 and turned over all its holdings to the New York Public School System. The influence New York had on our nation in the early 19th century was significant; therefore this regional movement can be deemed instrumental in the national adoption of publicly funded education.

The history of Freemasonry and the California public school system runs long and deep. Shortly after California attained statehood, our public school system was instituted in the early 1850's. Many however, regard John Swett, a Mason who was the first State Superintendent of Schools, as the father of California's Public School System because it was by his leadership, beginning in 1863, that the public system in California was set on a path that lead it to later successes. John Swett secured the passage of laws creating a state board of education, providing for institutes where poorly equipped teachers might get help, organizing the schools into grades, establishing school libraries, providing for the certification of teachers and laying a sucure financial basis for the support of public education. Most significantly, before his term ended rate bills by which tuition was charged to parents was eliminated, which made schools absolutely free in all districts for at least five months each year.

Subjectively I suggest, an even more noteworthy contribution from California Freemasonry to our State's public schools system came from Grand Master Charles Albert Adams, who made a lasting impact when the

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Continued... "I WANT TO BE A MASON"

a great honor to wear the white apron of lambskin. Of course I asked him about that day years later when I was an adult and he told me that he didn't know what I was talking about. Neither my grandfather nor my uncle talked much about masonry. They told me that I had to become a master mason before they could tell me more. They taught me to lead an upright life. Be true to others and be true to myself. Treat others the way you would want to be treated whether they were rich or had nothing. Set the good example for others and don't become the example others avoid.

"I learned from my grandfather and my uncle that Freemasonry was something special, something strong that bound good men together for a common purpose. I remember my grandfather's ring with the double-headed eagle. He wore it everywhere and he wore it proudly! One day I was looking through the local newspaper and noticed the column where they listed those who received tickets for traffic violations and the fees they had to pay for their violations. Most of the penalty fees were rather expensive. They ranged anywhere from \$25 and up to \$100 or more. This was back in the 1960's. At the bottom of this list I saw my grandfather's name. His punishment for speeding was \$5. I asked him about this incident and why he only had to pay \$5. My grand father looked at me and smiled as he pulled out his lapel towards me. "You see this pin", as he showed me a square and compass? The judge has one just like it!"

"I was with a friend at a swap meet years ago in Santa Barbara. Someone was selling old books. They looked like they had been thrown around the table as people looked through them. Out of the corner of my eye I noticed one with a double-headed eagle on the outer seem of the binding. I pulled it from amongst the other books and bought it immediately. Seeing the double-headed eagle I knew it to be Masonic and thus a special book. My friend asked me why I'd buy such an old and worn looking book instead of a new one from the bookstore. I told him that this book was special. I couldn't exactly tell him why it was special, but I knew it was. The book was "Morals and Dogma" by Albert Pike.

Over the years I've heard a little about the Freemasons, but not much. Not until I saw "National Treasure" did something click in my mind about freemasonry. The mystery, the secrecy and especially the history that included our nation's forefathers interested me the most. That's when my dad (Brother John Tollow) started to tell me about his grandfather and his uncle. When my dad speaks of freemasonry, there's always a sparkle in his eye and excitement in the air. He couldn't explain to me why as he really didn't know why, but he told me that I should seek out a lodge and learn about freemasonry.

In 2007 I was dispatched to a call of a possible vandalism to a residence. I work for the Citrus Heights Police Department in Sacramento County. As I was gathering information I noticed several stickers for the Shriners and the square and compass with the letter "G" posted on the garage cabinets. I asked my complainant if he was a mason. He told that he was and kindly gave me a brief background on freemasonry and what he did to lead a Masonic life. I readily asked for an application from Daniel Scott who I learned was a past master, 32° Scottish Rite, KCCH and the 2007 Illustrious Potentate of the Ben Ali Shrine. I wanted to be a member of the lodge in Folsom, Ca. where I lived. Dan contacted a fellow noble and brother of Natoma #64 named John Luddington. I applied for the degrees and was raised to master mason in May of 2008. My brother Matthew was raised to Master Mason in August of 2008 with Ridgewood #146.

On one of my visits back home in Ukiah, I asked my dad why he never became a mason. John answered, "I don't have an excuse why I never asked to become a mason. I always wanted to be a mason. I've read everything I could find on the fraternity. Back in the 1980's I located the Ridgewood Lodge (#146) in Ukiah, California. Their meetings were held on Fridays. At that time I was running a karate school and taught classes on Fridays. I figured that I would wait and apply to be a mason when I had more time to invest. I was too busy trying to help support a family. I knew that it's forbidden for masons

Continued... "I WANT TO BE A MASON"

to outwardly solicit and ask people to join their fraternity. You had to find a mason and then request to join them.

During the 2007 and 2008 year that I was studying and learning the Entered apprentice and Fellowcraft degrees I spoke with Leslie "Gordie" Clark PM and Michael Titus (2009 Senior Warden) about my dad, his grandfather and uncle. I told them how my dad was raised and how he lead his life. I told them how my brothers, my sister and I were raised. Matthew and I earned our Eagle Scout. We both earned our black belt in my dad's dojo (karate school). At the karate school alone, he taught everyone about decorum and the principles of the Scout Oath and Law (a scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent). On the wall of our dojo we have posted "The Morals of the Dojo". At the beginning of every class we would recite these morals. "One, to strive for the perfection of character. One, to defend the paths of truth. One, to foster the spirit of effort. One, to honor the principles of etiquette. One, to guard against impetuous courage. I have found each of these morals to be linked to the very beliefs that Freemasonry teaches our brothers.

Worshipful Clark and Brother Titus both told me that it sounded like to them that my dad led the life of a mason and raised his children like a Masonic father would, but didn't know it. I advised them of his failing health after the first stroke he sustained. Worshipful Clark told me that this was the one and only circumstance that anyone should be told to ask for membership due to his failing health. After talking to my dad, he asked for an application for membership of his own free will and accord. Brother Matthew Tollow obtained an application from Ridgewood Lodge #146 and gave it to my dad.

Around Thanksgiving of 2008, my mom (Jean Tollow) called to let me know that my dad had turned for the worse and could slip away at anytime. My dad's application had been misplaced and had not been turned in to the Lodge to be investigated or voted upon. I first contacted Gordie Clark PM to see what could be done to possibly hurry up the process as we had no idea how much time my dad had left. I was advised that the only person with any power to make anyone a Master Mason on the spot was the Grand Master of the State of California and that type of request would be a decision not taken lightly.

I contacted Worshipful Grand Master Larry Adamson by telephone. Worshipful listened to my request. I gave him a background on who my father was and the life he led. I advised him that my dad simply wanted to be a Master Mason. Our motivation for this request was not for a way to get Masonic Home benefits. His wish was to be like his grandfather, a Master Mason!

I was advised by Worshipful Adamson that there was a way to do it, but specific protocol had to be followed and circumstances met before this request could possibly be granted. In less than an hour, I received a call from the Assistant Grand Lecturer David Perry. My brother Matthew was contacted by Worshipful Adamson as well as David Perry. Worshipful Master Kenneth Dewell of Ridgewood #146 and the secretary of Ridgewood Lodge Kenneth Query PM were advised of my dad's request and what exactly had to be done to possibly make this happen. We were advised that my dad's application had to be read in Lodge at the very next stated meeting in December (a few days away). The fraternal investigation had to be completed and then voted upon at the stated meeting in January. Only then could Worshipful Adamson possibly raise my father to the sublime degree of Master Mason without going through all three ceremonies and proficiencies.

On January 7, 2008 the officers and members of Ridgewood Lodge #146 opened lodge for the purpose of conferring the third degree of masonry at an alternate location. John Dixon Tollow was initiated an Entered Apprentice, Passed to Fellow Craft and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in a short ceremony at the Ukiah Convalescent Hospital. This occasion was the first time in California Masonic history and only the second time in U.S. Masonic history that any man was raised to master mason on the spot (first time on U.S. soil as General Macarthur was raised overseas). Afterward, we returned to

Continued... "I WANT TO BE A MASON"

the lodge and appropriately closed lodge.

Brother John Tollow is still with us. As my mother (Jean Tollow) put it, "I haven't seen him this alive in months. I don't know what it is, but just being a Mason has given him a personal reason to live. He has lived many months past what we expected as it's so natural for someone in his condition to just give up and wither away. His son Matthew (brother Tollow) goes to see John most everyday and reads to him from the "Freemasons for Dummies" book. When he does pass away, I believe he'll be at peace as he has accomplished most everything he set out to do.

On March 6th of 2009, my brother Matt and I took our dad, mom, my family, my younger brother Paul and his family to the Ridgewood Lodge's dinner before the stated meeting. Matt and I took our dad to his first lodge meeting which he thoroughly enjoyed. My brother, Paul Tollow, had his application to receive the degrees of Masonry read in lodge. Our father continues to do better and looks forward to the day his third son is initiated into our Masonic family.

Ridgewood Lodge #146 is located in Ukiah California approximately 2 hours north of San Francisco off of U.S. Highway 101 (205 W. Perkins St Ukiah, Ca. 95482). Brother Brian Wegesser is a Master Mason of Natoma Lodge #64 in Folsom, Ca., an affiliate of Ridgewood Lodge #146, a 32° Scottish Rite Mason with the Valley of Sacramento and a member of the York Rite bodies out of Suttercreek, Ca. Matthew Tollow is a Master Mason



Grand Master's Project



Advancing the *Study and Understanding* of Freemasonry

The three Masonic youth orders were formed in the 20th century, and their relatively short histories have been clearly traced for the benefit and education of their young members. Masonry, with its roots in the 17th century, does not have such a well-documented past. The Grand Master's Project will help change that.

As the world's first and largest fraternity, Freemasonry's past is inextricably linked to the societies, governments, and histories of its host countries. Masonic values, tenets, and ideologies played a key role in developing constitutional democracies around the world. As only limited academic research has been devoted to the subject, widely varying accounts of Freemasonry's origins and history, many written by fanatics, conspiracy theorists, or laymen, have perpetuated myths and muddled the true history and perception of our fraternity.

The Grand Master's Project will lift the veil of secrecy that surrounds the craft and dispel myths by advancing the study and understanding of Masonry's history and how it has influenced society as we know it today. The project will raise funds to form a partnership between the Grand Lodge of California and the University of California at Los Angeles to support the work of Dr. Margaret C. Jacob, Distinguished Professor of History.

Dr. Jacob is among the world's foremost Masonic scholars. Her work, including the book "The Radical Enlightenment: Pantheists, Freemasons and Republicans," provides important insight into the early development of Masonry, and is

largely responsible for documenting and establishing connections between early European Freemasons and the craft today.

The project funds will be used for ongoing UCLA faculty research and graduate student support in one or more of the following ways:

Faculty research in the history of Freemasonry

- Support the costs of research related to the history of Freemasonry and democratic society

Curriculum development

- Support development of a course in the history of Freemasonry and democratic society

Graduate student support

- Support graduate student work and interest in the history of Freemasonry and democratic society

Lectures on the topic of Freemasonry

- Support public lectures on topics related to Masonry delivered by invited scholars

It's time we take the lead in how Masonry is defined to the world by supporting research that will sort fact from fiction and establish our true role in history. ♦

Return Service Requested



We're on the Web:
www.calodges.org/no64

DATES TO REMEMBER

04/02 6:30pm	Dinner	Natoma Lodge	Festive	Public
04/02 8pm	Stated Meeting	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Casual	Master Masons
04/03 8pm	American River	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Casual	Master Masons
04/08 6pm	Egg Stuffing	Folsom Community Center,	Casual,	Everyone
04/08 7pm	Hall Association	Natoma Lodge	Casual	Masonic Adults
04/11 8am	Shrine Club	Natoma Lodge	Casual	Shriners & Wives
04/11 8am	<i>Eggstravaganza</i>	<i>Lembi Park, Folsom,</i>	<i>Casual</i>	<i>Everyone</i>
04/14 7:30pm	Amaranth	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Formal	Amaranth Memb.
04/18 11am	<i>NorCal Research Lodge</i>	Volcano Lodge, 16180 Charleston-Volcano	Casual	Masons & Wives
04/20 7pm	Rainbow	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Formal	Masonic Adults
04/27 7:30pm	York Rite Bodies	Sutter Creek	Bus. Formal	York Rite Masons