



# TRESTLE BOARD

Natoma Lodge #64

May  
2009



## FROM THE EAST

Greetings from the East—

April ushered in the renewal of Spring, and with it the annual Folsom Parks and Recreation Department's *Egg-stravaganza* Easter Egg Hunt. There were so many kids, and the Child I.D. Booth was busy most of the morning. Many thanks to Junior Warden Scott Leventon and his crew for all the hard work in organizing and executing this year's event!

I would like to extend my right hand in friendship and brotherly love to our newest members Brother Bill Sexton by affiliation, and Brother Rich Gardner, our newest Entered Apprentice! Please take a moment to welcome our new Brothers the next time you see them.

Your Hall Association has been busy upgrading the Lodge kitchen—we have new appliances that will bring us up to code—many thanks to the committee responsible for making this happen!

April was also the first level of competition for our ritual team, led by Worshipful Bill Miklos. We always do well and won the State competition a few years ago—to all the members who have spent extra time in representing us, and to Wor-

shipful Miklos for leading us, we are truly grateful!

May is our annual Public Schools celebration, so show your support by attending the May Stated meeting and see what a wonderful program Worshipful Wes Mindermann and his committee have put together. Freemasonry has always supported the concept of a sound public education, and we at Natoma Lodge have put that ideal into action by supporting the schools and students in our community. You will be greatly rewarded by participating in this year's event, so I am looking forward to seeing you all there!

Looking ahead to June, we will be having our annual Lodge picnic. Every year we take this opportunity to socialize with each other, to involve our families, and also to invite our community to see who we are and what it is we do. Take this opportunity to invite your neighbors to fellowship with us. For more information or to volunteer for the picnic committee, please see our Junior Warden Scott Leventon.

In closing, the April/May edition of the *California Freemason* magazine has a great article by the Senior Grand Warden, Worshipful William Bray, who calls for us to *play to your strengths*. In these recent economic times of trouble we really need to buckle down and use our

strengths to help those who need it. We give back to our communities in ways other than sending money. Our Child I.D. booths and our Dirty Hands club are just a couple of examples that require time and effort to make a difference in the community. Even though we are financially challenged this year, we are still strong in number, and we can still make a difference in our community simply by being there for them. We are always looking for a few good men (and women) to give of themselves in making our presence known in Folsom. Our Dirty Hands club and our Child I.D. program can always use your assistance. If you want to make your presence count in our community, please see your Junior Warden Scott Leventon for more information about volunteering for the Child I.D. events or Brother Christian Ramsey for the Dirty Hands club.

*Travel well, and let your shadow make a statement!*

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## SUNSHINE REPORT





## FROM THE WEST

Brethren,

By the time this reaches your hands we will have completed the District level, first round, competition of the 2009 ritual contest. With luck, and the skill our team has shown the past four years, we will proceed to the Division level competition. Natoma 64 has consistently been represented in the ritual competition, and fared very well taking the title in 2007. Our participation has made us better ritualists and also better leaders of our lodge. The practice and competition brings us together and offers a medium by which we can develop a team of leaders for the benefit of Natoma 64.

Freemasonry is rebounding in California and across the country, and Natoma 64 is prepared and organized to meet the demands of potential new members who seek a 21<sup>st</sup> century fraternity that promotes values, which strengthen our society and support our nation of free men and women. We have attained this position of strength through the forward thinking and prudent management of the Masters (Past), and the leadership teams that they assembled. If the membership honors me with election as Master in 2009/2010, it is my intent as well as obligation to extend this legacy of

strength and leadership. It is not an obligation I take lightly, or one I consider mine alone; it is our obligation.

As a member of Natoma 64 these past four years, I have observed each Master build a corps of officers and committee men, strong teams, who have enriched our lodge bringing to fruition goals that benefit us and our community. Building the best team has been a critical element to each Master's success. We all know from professional and personal experience that identifying the talents of each individual and placing these individuals in situations where their talents can be best used is tantamount to success and achievement of our goals. Ritual competition, degree and ritual practice, and other exercises provide a means to strengthen a selected team, but it is the selection and appointment of officers and committee men that is *prima fascia* to these successes.

This year has, thus far, flown by, and Worshipful Barbu is enjoying the results of his thoughtful planning and building these past months. Scott Leventon just returned from the Junior Wardens retreat fired up and jazzed as he considers the challenges and opportunities of the next two years. My wife and I will be attending the Senior Warden's retreat May 15<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>. All of which signals to me that the time for contemplating is over, now is the time to identify the team

that will lead our lodge in 2010.

Brothers, those slated for election will most likely be elected; humbly and hopefully this includes me. As one of his last duties, the outgoing Master traditionally relieves all appointed brethren from their respective duties. Therefore, all appointed positions will be open. One may naturally assume certain positions are already filled; I am not making that assumption. I therefore encourage and request all brothers considering any position of leadership – committee chairmen, committeemen, coaches, and line officers – to contact me personally. I especially encourage new members young and old to consider these opportunities. Do you want to serve but are not sure how, call me. If you have an idea for a project or event, call me. Natoma 64 is your lodge it deserves your attention, whatever you can offer. All input is welcome, no effort is insignificant, no one will force you to provide beyond the length of your cable-tow. I look forward to hearing from many!

*“Hide not your talents. They for use were made. What's a sundial in the shade?”*

**Benjamin Franklin**

Yours in Brotherhood and On the Level,

Mike



## FROM THE SOUTH

Brethren and Ladies,

We are barely in April and it has already been a busy month. I want to first thank the Lodge for sending me to the Jr. Warden's retreat down in San Ramon. I learned a lot and I will be considering my vision statement. I got to meet our Sr. Grand Warden William Bray III and his lady Linda, they both are very nice and personable people and I enjoyed their company. I also got to meet a lot of people and had a great

time even though I went from one activity to another with little time for myself. A special thanks to Brian Ludwig, Jr. Warden of Placerville Lodge for last minute transportation.

We had our Folsom Easter *Eggstravaganza*, a large number of our Brethren, our ladies and our Rainbow girls stuffed 12,000 eggs this year, all to watch the kids pick them off the baseball fields in about a minute. The child ID booth was a big success, we had about

200 children come through. I also want to thank all the Brethren who showed up at the park at 7:00 AM to help set up the Child ID computers and worked for a few hours to make this event a resounding success.

Travel well,

The other Scott



## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Celebration**—Natoma Lodge No. 64 is awarding six (6) one thousand dollar (\$1,000) **scholarships** at its 51st Annual Celebration of Public Schools scheduled for this Stated Meeting dinner on **May 7, 2009**.

Congratulations to the to the following \$1,000 scholarship recipients:

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Ms. Kelsey Onstenk         | Bella Vista High School   |
| Ms. Allison Foster         | Oakmont High School   |
| Ms. Meghan Powers          | Folsom High School  |
| Ms. Aubrey DuFrane         | Casa Roble Fundamental High School  |
| <b>Ms. Carolyn Sweeney</b> | Mira Loma High School (One of our outstanding<br>Rainbow Assembly young ladies!!) |
| Ms. Kayla Harris           | Oak Ridge High School   |

Natoma Lodge will host dinner for the recipients and their guests. Normal Stated Meeting dinner charges apply to all others. Thanks to the members of Natoma Lodge for their continued support and to the members of the 2009 Public Schools Celebration Committee for their hard work in putting this event together.



## LET'S EAT

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO RSVP YOUR STATED MEETING DINNER RESERVATIONS TO THE JUNIOR WARDEN SCOTT LEVENTON AT [scott\\_leventon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scott_leventon@sbcglobal.net)**

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

Dinner Vittles—

Starter – Green Salad w/Ranch dressing,

Main Course - BBQ Tri Tip, Corn Relish Potato Wedges & Dinner Rolls,

Dessert - Strawberry Short cake.

### BIRTHDAYS

James W Murphy	3-May	Wayne Kramer	30-May
Jack B. Wolfe PM	4-May	Teddy Stevens PM	30-May
Cecil Williams	4-May		
James R. Nielsen	5-May		
Eric L. Wells	6-May		
Michael Carter	7-May	Richard Dalgren	11-May-74
George E. Ruble	8-May	John Barrozo	2-May-73
Howard W. Keene	12-May	John Thorne	7-May-69
Herman I. Savely	12-May	Ronald Peters	7-May-71
Charles Lushbaugh	14-May	George Ruble	12-May-49
Scott Leventon	17-May	Rich Briner	13-May-87
Seth Logsdan	19-May	Howard Day	13-May-70
Elmer Wrye	20-May	John Castro	13-May-89
Daniel Leonard	21-May	Daniel Joseph	13-May-97
Jerry Vagg	21-May	Ed Halvorson	14-Jun-97
David Johnson	21-May	Dan Pomplun	14-May-98
Emil Hensley	23-May	Tommy Smith	14-May-80
Carlton Galbraith	23-May	Frank Mason	14-May-98
Chad Carlock	24-May	Brian Wegesser	15-May-08
Tony Small	24-May	Herbert Blomquist	17-May-63
Lloyd Parker	28-May	Everett Thorne PM	17-May-67
Harvey Owens PM	29-May	John Holt	18-May-94

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

### ANNIVERSARIES

Dennis Johnston	16-May-02
Ralph Seymour	19-May-76
Gary Simpson	19-May-93
Charles Straw	21-May-75
Wayne Peterson	21-May-69
Ralph Jones	22-May-68
Erick Kirjola	24-May-63
Darryl Petker	25-May-06
Tom Ayers PM	26-May-93
Corky Holden PM	27-May-71
Dennis Parham	27-May-04
Jeff Thompson PM	28-May-80
Ronald Flanders	29-May-64
Robert Buck	30-May-79



## Masonic Education

### Why do Freemasons end their prayers with the phrase “So mote it be”?

It is customary in contemporary English to end prayers with a hearty “AMEN”, a word meaning “So Be It.” It is a Latin work derived from the Hebrew word meaning “certainly”. Thus a congregation saying “AMEN” is literally saying “So be it”. The word *mote* is an archaic verb that means “may” or “might”, and traces back to Old English. The phrase “*So mote it be*”, which is the same as “So be it”.

Now that we’ve established the equivalence of “AMEN” and “So mote it be”, the question remains, “Why do Masons end their prayers with “*So Mote it be*”? The answer goes back to the Regius Poem of about 1390 AD, the oldest known Masonic document (now housed in the British Museum, London). It is one of the Old Charges or Gothic Constitution used by early Freemasons to regulate to guide the Mason trade and rules of manners and moral conduct. The poem ends famously with this couplet:

*Amen! Amen! So mote it be!*

*So say we all for charity.*

Thus Freemasons today end their prayers the same way they did in 1390. the next time you’re in Lodge and say “*So mote it be*” after the chaplain finishes a prayer, remember that your are continuing a 600—year old Masonic tradition.

*Amen! Amen! So mote it be!*

*So say we all for charity*

## Hall Association Happenings

Come check out your upgraded kitchen!

The kitchen has been restored to its original design—that of a commercial kitchen that can be used for cooking and serving large numbers of meals or even catering. Improvements include commercial grade refrigeration, an improved dishwasher, and a 500 lb icemaker.

Our Hall Association really stepped up, taking advantage of current economic conditions ... and a surplus of good quality used equipment on the market ... to snag this equipment at fabulous prices. Proactively taking this action to replace outdated equipment will keep us out of hot water with the inspectors and makes the lodge more attractive to prospective renters.

Hats off to Paul Tibbens, Wes Mindermann, Worshipful Scott Barbu and the rest of the Hall Association team for helping to ensure a steady supply of meals!!!

# Masonic Education

## OUR MASONIC PENALTIES

The penalties by which every Mason symbolically binds himself to fulfill his obligations are ancient in Masonry. No man is certain of their origins. But they were probably added to the ritual at a time of great persecution, when the very lives of Masons depended upon the secrecy of their Brothers.

Our enemies believe that Masonic metaphors mean exactly what they say and nothing else. In other words, they believe that Masonry is composed of “signs” like “stop” and “yield” traffic signs or the “exit” sign over a door.

To them signs mean exactly what they say and are not liable to interpretation. But the fact is that Freemasonry is made up of metaphors and symbols which allow multiple interpretations. When a man comes into Masonry, his life changes from the dead letter of “sign” to the living letter of metaphor.

The metaphoric content of Freemasonry is signaled to the proto-Mason exactly where it should be - at the obligation, the most solemn, emotional, and impressive part of the initiation, not at some other “explanation” part where only the intellect is concerned. The candidate has already been told that the obligation contains nothing contrary to moral, civil and religious duties.

The only penalties Masonry inflicts are reprimand, suspension and expulsion. We retain the ancient penalties, not to frighten or disgust, but because they are important symbols in the tradition and in the study of the fraternity.

At the very least, they make plain the torture and agony of conscience any good man should feel at the thought that he had violated his sworn word - for the good and honest man is ever his own most severe judge, censor and critic. We may escape the judgment of others for our misdeeds, but never the condemnation of our own conscience.

In the symbolism of the penalties, as in all things Masonic, let the wise man seek for further enlightenment.



**“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, ... and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing...”**

*Does this sound familiar? It should, as it is a part of our Masonic rituals! You don't have to wait for the annual giving requests,*

You may go to [www.freemason.org](http://www.freemason.org) and create a giving plan to our Masonic foundation today!!

**“...And now abideth faith, hope, & charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”**



**Return Service Requested**



**We're on the Web:**  
[www.calodges.org/no64](http://www.calodges.org/no64)

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

05/01 8pm	American River	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Casual	Master Masons
05/04 7pm	Rainbow	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Formal	Masonic Adults
05/07 6:30pm	Dinner	Natoma Lodge	Festive	Public
05/07 8pm	Stated Meeting	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Casual	Master Masons
05/09 8am	Shrine Club	Natoma Lodge	Casual	Shriners & Wives
05/12 7:30pm	Amaranth	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Formal	Amaranth Memb.
05/13 7pm	Hall Association	Natoma Lodge	Casual	Masonic Adults
05/18 7pm	Rainbow	Natoma Lodge	Bus. Formal	Masonic Adults
05/25 7:30pm	York Rite Bodies	Sutter Creek	Bus. Formal	York Rite Masons