



The Messenger

Published for the Residents
Masonic Homes of California at Union City

Field Trip to a Field of Flowers—Written by Resident, Bruce Rick

It was March 4th, so we happy wanderers marched forth to see what the winter rains had brought forth. For the record, after forthright effort, our reward was forthcoming. (For the love of Pete, stop with the “forths” already.)

A vigorous hike brought us to the top of the hill just past the end of the runway at our little airport. This is where we go to see the beautiful horses on the ranch next door. But that day, the top and back side of the hill were covered with wildflowers, including some very impressive California poppies, our state flower.



April 2021

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Field Trip...

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Hidden among the grass and flowers, we also found an official Geodetic Survey Marker, which makes our prominent hill an important one indeed. This



brass marker, placed there in 1965 and stamped with its name of UNION-F, has its own extensive data sheet in the US Government's NOAA website. Listed are its latitude and longitude of 37° 36' 06.57643" North, 122° 00' 39.99596" West; and its elevation of 269.7 feet (3 feet lower than the highest point of the hill).

There are also detailed directions for how to get there--at least back in 1965, when you had to go through a pasture, and 1975, when you passed a cultivated field. For all this and much very technical information, go to our favorite marker's

Field Trip...

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home page at https://www.ngs.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/ds_mark.prl?PidBox=HT0408

NOAA's map shows at least two other Geodetic Survey Markers on Masonic Home property, so happy hunting if you choose to look for them. Meanwhile, we bid a fond farewell to our wildflowers and look "4-ward" to next month, when we can say "May the 4th be with you!"

Grandfather's Wooden Chest

Submitted by Ken Hamm, Worshipful Master Siminoff Daylight Lodge # 850

I hated to hear the lawyer say the things my grandpa gave away.
Like his old truck to Dad and Mom and the world war medals to Uncle John.
My name was called and something was said about an old wooden box
underneath his bed.
Just a worn out chest with a rusty hinge but I knew Grandpa kept something
special within.

When I opened the lid all I could see were some unused tools and a letter to me.
A large fancy cloth with two long strings, a small wooden hammer among other
things.

He wrote a man's job is to be a good husband, father and a friend.
I built my life as best I could by the tools laid here within.



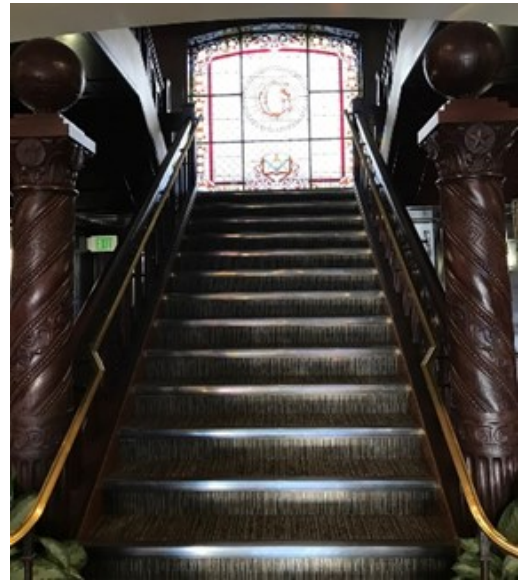
He said the compasses remind me that life has boundaries.
So, live your life within them.
The square proves true and so should you when dealing with all your friends.
Be an honorable man and walk uprightly according to the plumb.
The level teaches us to treat all men equal instead of only some.

And now it's your turn to start your journey for knowledge, love, and faith.
So live your life by the Square and Compasses and the tools of your trade.

Many years have passed by since I first opened Grandpa's wooden chest.
The tools he gave me, the words he wrote, the challenge to be my best.
Today I'll visit Grandpa at the place where he was laid;
To let him know he can be proud, I'm a Master of my trade.

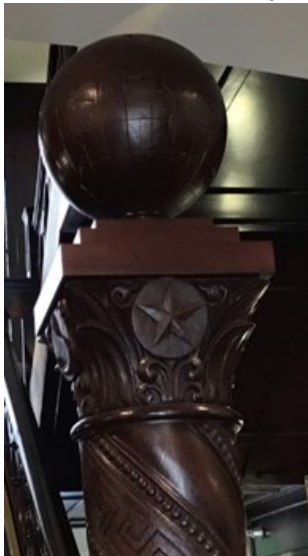
The Pillars in the Masonic Homes at Union City

Written by Resident, Bruce Rick



When one enters the foyer at the Masonic Homes at Union City, the eyes are drawn to the staircase with the globe-topped pillars, which have been retained through all of the building restorations since the original construction in 1898.

A closer look at the carved wood pillars reveals many Freemasonry symbols. The twin pillars are symbolic of the two columns that stood at the entrance to King Solomon's Temple, and represent the equilibrium between two opposite forces. The globe on the right-hand side of the staircase represents the Earth, and the globe on the left side represents the Heavens and that the Creator is present in the Heavens and on Earth. Twin pillars, like these, are seen in most Masonic lodges. The globes are atop Corinthian style capitals with Acanthus leaves, which is the most common style used. A unique design for these globe pedestals is the use of three steps, just under the globes, another significant Masonic symbol, most often related to Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.



The Heavens Globe on
Masonic Steps



The Earth Globe on
Masonic Steps

The Pillars... *Continued from page 4*

A side note here is that one can see the three Masonic steps on the Rough Ashlar fountain in front of the Sedam Building Auditorium. Placed upon each face of the right-side Earth column cap, is a special Masonic symbol. The right pillar symbols are the Star, Scythe, Maul and Spade, and Compass.



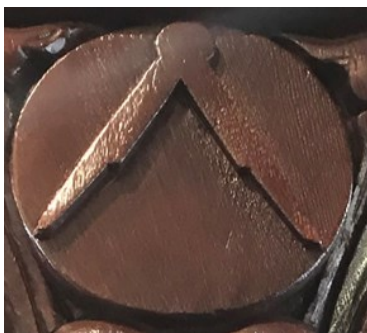
Star--leads us to our Redeemer



Scythe--time, cuts the brittle thread of life and launches us into eternity



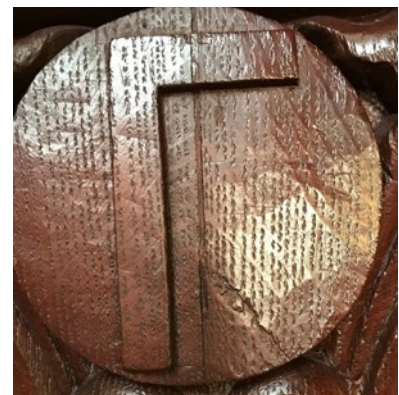
Setting Maul and Spade--our mortality



Compass--live in moderation



Pythagorean Theorem--love of Arts and Science



Square--moral and ethical behavior



Level--all men are equal



Plumb--live uprightly

On the left side Heavens pillar the symbols are the Pythagorean Theorem, Square, Level, and Plumb. These may be Masonic symbols, but the ideas they represent apply to all men and women who walk through these portals.

The Masons of California are to be congratulated on their

The Pillars...

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building and continued support of the Masonic Homes of California, as well as Masonic Outreach Services, that help California Masons and their wives, widows, or children.

Welcome New Residents



Merv Purdy
Mason of: Hiram #25
City: El Dorado
Moved in on: November 16,
2020



Grayce Charland
Sponsoring Lodge: Acalanes
Fellowship #480
City: Lafayette
Moved in: March 16, 2021



William "Bill" & Linda
Bain
Mason of: Roseville #222
City: Roseville
Moved in on: March 11,
2021



The Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Joel Ingram

Rye Bread

As many of you know, my wife is from Ukraine. There are of course many Ukrainian dishes that have gotten good press; Borscht (beet soup), Pierogis (meat or cabbage filled dumplings) and Chicken Kiev to name a few. But, on the whole, the main staples of the nation are much simpler, bread and potatoes really. The Ukrainian soil is dark and nutrient rich and is perfect for growing many types of grain and lots of taters.

Oftentimes, Viktoriya would speak longingly of a Rye bread that she had as a child. We've bought many types of Rye bread over the years, searching for the "right one," but sadly none were quite right. Always one to take up a challenge, I decided to add bread to my wry sense of humor and strive to make the elusive loaf myself.

After many hours online and countless bread baking videos, I had all the Rye instruction I could stand. I bought a bread mixer, a nice bread Cloche, four different types of Rye flour including whole malted Rye grains, enough yeast to raise the dead and various other bread making tools. I spent weeks making and feeding an active sourdough starter and getting it primed for the task at hand.

Then the big day came, I made my first loaf. It looked pretty good. I made another loaf a week later that was also was quite impressive. I'd show you pictures but we destroyed the "evidence". But you know what, after all that hard work and time spent, when I finally sat down to eat my first and second bits of Rye bread, I was reminded of something very important; I don't much LIKE Rye bread! Yeah, come to think of it... I never have.



I know, I know, I started by saying I was making this Rye bread for my wife... tis true but turns out she's gotten so used to the whole grain bread we buy at the store that's all she wants.... Who knew! But bottom line is, this whole rye bread fiasco reminded me of something rather important; that it's important to stop and not only think about what you're going to do or how you're going to do it – but WHY you want to do it in the first place!

It's so easy to do things for other people, to get busy with this or that because it's the "thing to do" or because someone else thinks you should. But it seems whenever we do this, we're likely to end up with a "loaf" of something we actually don't care for – and that's no-good no matter how much someone else likes theirs.

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Rye Bread...

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It may be true that the journey is as important as the destination (and I have enjoyed learning more about making bread and baking itself), but at the end of the day it turns out the destination is pretty important too. So, in the month of April you can be sure I'll not be making any Rye bread and should anyone need 5 lbs. of Rye flour.... You know where to reach me.

Until next month, Chaplain Joel

Spotlight on the Masonic Homes Way-By MHW Team

For the month of April our Masonic Home Spotlight shines on the work a trio of staff members take up effectively all week, every week. Margarita Sanchez, Mark Dumlao and Jason Quebec are our team members that manage and run our staff lunch canteen on 3rd Sedam.

While few residents see the work they do, you should know they are the ones that make sure staff have a free meal from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm daily. If you did poke your head in the canteen during these hours it might look like there's not much to it – just put the food in carry-out boxes and that's it, right? Wrong! There's the work of preparing all that food, setting up service and dining area, cleaning up, and tracking meals received.

Margarita Sanchez



Mark Dumlao



Spotlight on the Masonic

It's important and day after day they do it with a smile on their masked faces (we can tell they're smiling by the corner of their eyes!).

Their work is a prime example of the importance of those who do their work diligently and thereby help everyone else do the same. Thanks Margarita, Mark, and Jason! We appreciate you and the fine job you are doing.

**Thanks for being so
hard working!**

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Jason Quebec

First Croissant of the Year—Written by Resident, Bruce Rick

Just had my first croissant in a year,
It almost brought a tear
of remembering that lovely café in Paris
or that charming one in Venice,
each new morning with a fresh croissant,
ready to take that next jaunt.

Soon we should be able to get
that croissant in Fremont
but not so far as Tibet,
and yes, the Fairmont is another good bet.

‘Til then I’m satisfied with my local fare
and quite willing to share
my thanks to the staff for what I want
“Please bring that next breakfast croissant!”
(and another fried egg.)

Old Age ain’t for Sissies

Submitted by Zelma Campbell

Did you hear the one about the couple who met in a revolving door?
They’re still going around together.



*Laughter
To Get You
Through
The Day*

Slowly But Surely—Written by the SNF Recreation Team

Look how far we have come to get to where we are today! As you all know, Lorber has been in complete isolation lockdown for roughly 3 months. It was a trying time for all of us; not being able to go outside, not being able to see loved ones, and simply being isolated to just our rooms. The staff and residents have done a tremendous job in keeping all safe so that we can carry on and get through this together.



Now that most of us have been vaccinated, there is much to look forward to in the Spring of 2021! We're able to see family/friends, open the doors for some fresh air, and begin having small groups we have so longed for since the start of this pandemic. Residents and staff are overjoyed with the slow reopening of many activities we have missed over this entire year. Reminiscing with each other, motivating each other in exercise groups, and singing along to some favorite tunes. The photos here are some highlights we have had in Lorber in the past couple of weeks!

Since the last update there have been eleven Blue Box Cards submitted as of March 19, 2021. There were four compliments in this batch, one was for Mayra Castro being a caring, loving, and helpful person, who went out of her way to make one of our residents feel supported when she was ill. Another was for housekeeping/facilities who were efficient and thorough when moving furniture and cleaning the windows and screens in a resident apartment. And another was for David Bible and the Recreation staff for the wonderful things that they are doing for our residents during this time. Lastly there was a card letting us know that the servers are doing a great job! Each of these cards expressed the deep appreciation of the residents. All the supervisors of these staff members have been notified of these compliments so that the staff members can be recognized in their departments.

There were seven concerns:

- ♦ One was a concern regarding drug interactions with the Covid vaccine and whether it would potentially mean that a booster would be needed. This has been forwarded to Joseph Pritchard so that he can share all the latest information and research regarding this with the residents at the Town Halls.
- ♦ One was regarding the MHCUC Wall Calendar. It went on to describe some of the issues (mistakes) found on it. The residents suggested using a different vendor next year. This information was passed on to Kim Hegg so that she can look into the problems.
- ♦ One resident expressed his frustration at the inconsiderate behavior of some staff (Maintenance or Housekeeping) driving the Ranger carts after hours behind the back of the Head Building when people are trying to sleep). He asked that staff be instructed to not do this during the nighttime hours. This was sent to Dennis Lopiccolo to address.
- ♦ There was a concern addressed to the Kitchen/Chef suggesting that they slice Bistro Across the grain. This was sent to John Marshall for review.
- ♦ There were three staff concerns from Lorber about feeling like some staff being treated differently from others by the Administrator/Managers. These were sent to Cynthia Cruz to investigate and follow up on.

Thank you very much for continuing to use this communication tool, especially for any safety related issues. Please keep the cards coming!



Quotable

We don't meet
people by accident.
Everyone is meant
to cross our path
for a reason.

Wildlife—Written by Mike McComas

After several months of on-going construction work at the Masonic Homes in Union City, absent wildlife has found its way back onto our hill sides. As I drive up and down our roads, I can see the deer grazing on the vegetation and the Turkeys out, chasing one another. The wildlife has made the Masonic Homes their home too and we must respect their right-of-way.



Please be sure to always drive with caution on our roads when people and critters are out and about and give the animals enough time so they can safely cross the roads before you proceed with your vehicle. Thank you.

Innovations Update—Written by Jasmine Myers



Happy Spring, Family. Our focus this April is Alexa and how she's serving our community. Alexa, the smart assistant, has been diligently serving our community since last December. As we slowly open the campus, its important now more than ever to get acquainted with Alexa if you haven't yet. Our numerous safety devices around

Campus - the pendants, pull cords, smart watches, door alarms, and now Alexa; - all serve the purpose of keeping our residents safe. In April and May, we will be reintroducing you to Alexa and the benefits she provides to our community. To get us started, try asking Alexa about the beautiful weather we've been having; just say "**Alexa, what's the weather today?**" Keep an eye out for more phrases on the digital signage you can try too!

In other news, we are nearing the end of the Toi Labs smart toilet study. In the next few weeks, we will be in touch to get the seats switched out for those of

Innovations...

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you that participated. Thank you to all the participants! You've helped further this brand-new technology that will, someday soon, impact seniors all over the world to improve gut health. This is something we never thought we'd need but is slowly proving to be in-valuable. Jasmine will be in touch soon with next steps.

Are you curious about the other technologies we have cooking up here in the Innovations Department? Sign up to join our **Innovations Test Group**! We are looking for open minded residents who would be interested in helping us discern the effectiveness of the latest creations available on the markets. Give us a call at ext. 6354 and we'll reach out the next time we have something fun to try.

Previous Month's Activities



Celebration



Larry & Dorthy Hollomon



Ties, Ties, and more Ties—Written by Resident, Barbara Dippel



I have been collecting men's ties for years for a project, a quilt of ties. Beautiful, yes, but too heavy for my hands and sewing machine. Offers to anyone of this gift. I had no takers in our Masonic Homes or friends.

My quilt web has a column for items for sale, or giveaways. I posted that I would pay shipping, and in minutes, I received 3 responses. One request came from the wife of a teacher who works with handicapped boys. He gives each boy a tie and then they learn how to tie and wear their very own tie. She writes, "this is a high point in their class."

For our ties to travel across the United States and to be used for this purpose gives me goose bumps.

The final star, this teacher holds a membership in a Masonic Order here in California. I will continue to collect ties and my search is on for another worthwhile project. Thank you, donors.



Resident Birthdays

MARION PAPAY	4/2
JACKIE BROWN	4/5
CHUCK MILLER	4/7
DORIS WONG BOB MCCAIN HANS STRAUB	4/12
LIZ HART LETHA TATRO	4/14
ROGER GURLEY	4/15
CAROL YOWELL	4/16
LINDA WALLI	4/20
PETER JACKSON EVELYN RICK	4/21
CHRISTIAN EDDLEMAN EILEEN FOOTE	4/25



Resident Anniversaries

Residents	Ann. Date	Years
Jackie & Merv Purdy	4/11	69
Doug & Gayle Field	4/18	29

*May
Ur Marriage be
Blessed with love,
joy & Companionship
For all the Years of
Your Lives!!!*

Forever



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

In Memoriam



Forrest "Woody" Hibs
November 30, 1928—February 22,
2021
Mason of: Crow Canyon #551



Juanice Lee
July 30, 1927—March 8, 2021
Sponsoring Lodge: East Belt
Tuolumne #8

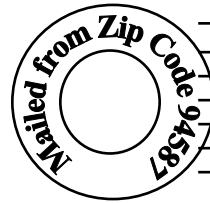
Birthdays, Weddings Anniversaries, In Memoriam



The Messenger

Masonic Homes of California

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May this day bring you blessings, joy, peace
and hope. May it linger in your heart
forever.

EASTER BRUNCH APRIL 4, 2021

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The ***Messenger*** is published monthly as a vehicle
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*Mission: "Together we create meaningful life
experiences that make a profound difference."*

***The Pillars: Safety, Personal Connection,
Experience & Efficiency***

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