

# The VALLEY MILL



A Publication of Mill Valley Lodge No. 356, F&AM | January - February 2018

## Mill Valley Lodge Officers Installed!

On Saturday, December 16, 2017, the new corps of Officers were installed in our Lodge Room. Wor. Blake Davis (WM in 2013) served as the Installing Officer, and was joined by Wor. Michael Paynter (WM for Fairfax Lodge #556 in 2011, and the Inspector of the 119th Masonic District), and Wor. Charles Hoyez (WM 1996), as Master of Ceremonies and Installing Chaplain, respectively.

Anderson Silveira was installed as our new Worshipful Master and gave a wonderful address after the Officers were installed. Also installed were: Cort Crosby, Benjamin Berk, as Senior and Junior Wardens; the Treasurer and Secretary, Retiring Master Ray

Schmalz and PM Victor Hanson, respectively; Chaplain, PM William Cullen; Senior Deacon, Thomas Benoit; Marshal, PM Barry Young; Organist, Michael Hansen; and Tiler, Eric Azinger.

Retiring WM Ray Schmalz was presented with modest monetary gift and a bound collection of the California Freemason's 300th Anniversary issues.

A delicious prime rib luncheon in our warmly decorated Dining Hall, was enjoyed by all following the ceremonies.

At our January Stated Meeting the Senior and Junior Stewards: James McCullough and Chad Marin, were installed.



**To the left are the Installed Officers and the Installing Suite of December 16, 2017: (top rows) PM Barry Young; Mar., PM Raymond Schmalz, Treas.; PM Blake Davis, Installing Officer; Michael Hansen, Org.; PM Victor Hanson, Sec.; Eric Azinger, Tiler; PM William Cullen, Chap.; and PM Charles Hoyez, Installing Chaplain; (bottom row) Cort Crosby, SW; Thomas Benoit, SD; WM Anderson Silveira; Benjamin Berk, JW; and PM Michael Paynter, Installing Master of Ceremonies.**

**To the right are the Installed Officers following the January 2, 2018: (top row) Chad Marin, JS; James McCullough, SS; Eric Azinger, Tiler; and PM Barry Young, Mar.; (bottom row) PM Victor Hanson, Sec.; PM Raymond Schmalz, Treas.; Benjamin Berk, JW; WM Anderson Silveira; Cort Crosby, SW; Thomas Benoit, SD; and PM William Cullen, Chap.**



# Remarks Of Worshipful Master Anderson Silveira at the December 16, 2017, Installation of Officers

I wish to thank the Installing Suite: Installing Officer Wor. Blake Davis, Master of Ceremonies Wor. Michael Paynter, and Installing Chaplain Wor. Charles Hoyez.

I add my congratulations to the officers that have been installed and thank you for accepting to embark this Journey with me. Worshipful Ray Schmalz has left some big shoes to fill. So big that I became concerned, how would I be able to step in after him? I mean, I'm only half his height...

All kidding aside, I know and am confident that with all of the officers by my side we will continue to build on the great work that Ray has done. I look forward to what we will build in this upcoming year.

Before I joined Mill Valley Lodge I would hear stories of Masons. Good and bad ones - everyone outside of Masonry has their version of our Fraternity. My friend Worshipful Fady Zoubi, who is here today, would tell me stories about his lodge, San Francisco Lodge, their events, and the great men that he met there.

This always caught my interest and drew me to find a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. I figured that I could find out what Masonry was really all about and at the same time do some business.

After becoming a member and while receiving my degrees I found out that Masonry was much more than what I expected: seeing the dedication and passion that the brothers have with the rituals; knowing that if I am in need I have brothers throughout the world that are ready to assist; learning about how our institution gives back to the community; and how we take care of our brothers and their widows. This is what keeps me coming and excited to be part of such a great institution.

It is said that by becoming a Mason you become a better man. Masonry has thought me much and has made me a better man. It is my hope that in this upcoming year we can provide a meaningful masonic experience for all our brothers and together we continue to become better men.



## THEO IS HOME!!!

Meet our newest member of the Mill Valley Lodge family, Mr. Theo Camelo Silveira! Theo joined us on Friday, January 5th, 2018, at 11:47 PM, weighing in at 7.69 pounds and 20 inches in length! Mygam and Anderson are holding up quite well, as new parents do, and are becoming quite adept at reading the needs of the little one...enjoy every minute, Mygam and Anderson, as Theo will really grow up fast!!!

God Bless the Silveira Family! Amen! So Mote It Be.





# 2017 MARIN COUNTY PAST MASTERS' NIGHTS, TWO FINE BRETHERN RAISED

The Past Masters of Marin County raised two fine Fellowcrafts to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in November. Brother Chad Carvey was raised in our Lodge on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, and on the following evening in Marin Lodge, Brother David Hammond ascended to the same.

The Past Masters of the Marin Lodges comprising the degree casts were joined by two Past Masters residing in Marin County making their "debut:" Wor. Alexander Teodoro (Pacific-Starr King #136, San Francisco), and Very Worshipful Allan Casalou, our Grand Secretary (Acalanes-Fellowship #480, and Prometheus #851). They were the Senior Deacon for the Second Sections at Mill Valley and Marin Lodges, respectively. Augmenting the cast were Brothers Tony Tufo and Jacob Sanderson of Marin #191, on both evenings. Special guests: at the Mill Valley degree, Keith Fox of Pleasanton #321; at the Marin degree: Wor. William Calhoun (Hannibal Lodge #1, and Past District Deputy Grand Master, PHGLC), and newly Raised Master Mason, Chad Carvey (Mill Valley #356).

## Degree at Mill Valley Lodge: (Top rows)

**Chad Carvey, PM Benjamin Wheeler, JS Jacob Sanderson, PM Alex Teodoro (Pacific-Starr King #136), PM Lee Eckles (Marin #191), PM Dennis Williams, PM William Cullen, PM Frank O'Connell (Marin #191), PM Michael Paynter (Fairfax #556 & Marin #191), SW Anderson Silveira, PM Charles Hoyez; (bottom row) PM Bruce Rossman, WM Ray Schmalz, Newly Raised Master Mason Chad Carvey, PM William Ferreira (Marin #191), JD Thomas Benoit, PM Pierre Born, and Keith Fox (Pleasanton #321)**



## Degree at Marin Lodge #191: (top rows)

**PM Barry Young; PM Charles Hoyez; PM Michael Paynter (Fairfax #556 & Marin #191), JD Jacob Sanderson (Marin #191), Chad Carvey; PM Dennis Weaver, PM Victor Hanson, PM William Ferreira (Marin #191), PM Lee Eckles (Marin #191), WM Charles Remington (Marin #191), PM Frank O'Connell (Marin #191), PM William Cullen, JW Joel Roller (Marin #191), Gabriel Clavijo (Delanova Ldg #74, Santa Cruz, Bolivia), Michael Roller, Tiler ((Marin #191), PM William Calhoun (Hannibal Ldg #1, PHGLC); (bottom row): Craig Montes, SS**

**((Marin #191), PM Allan Casalou, Grand Secretary (Acalanes-Fellowship #480, and Prometheus #851), JD Thomas Benoit, Tony Tufo, Chap. (Marin #191), Newly Raised Master Mason David Hammond (Marin #191), PM William Arney ((Marin #191), PM Pierre Born. James Redpath. and PM Bruce Rossman.**

# Third Degree Conferred Upon Gerrit C. Herbst

Masonic Year 2018 started with a bang! On Tuesday, January 16th, Brother Gerrit Herbst, FC, was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Wor. Raymond Schmalz presided in the East in the First Section because of the necessary absence of WM Anderson Silveira due to the birth of son Theo.

The Second Section of the Lecture was given by Wor. Michael Paynter, while the Third Section was by Wor. Barry Young. Brother Jerry Templet of Slidell Lodge #311 in Louisiana, and frequent visitor to Mill Valley Lodge, gave a wonderful and most worthy Charge in his ritual debut in CA Freemasonry!!!

The recently installed Officers did a terrific job in the first degree work of the new Masonic Year. They were ably assisted by Brothers Tufo and Sanderson of Marin Lodge; PMs Born, Rossman, and Weaver; and Mark Palmer.

Congratulations, Brother Herbst!!!



Events > Symposium

## Symposium



### 2018 California Masonic Symposium

The Grand Lodge of California and the California Masonic Foundation sponsor the California Masonic Symposium annually. Each symposium addresses a topic of historical and philosophical relevance to Masonry. Many symposia are open to the general public.

#### California's Masonic Pioneers

Between 1846 and 1850, California was transformed from a sleepy and distant province of Mexico into a vibrant state of the American Union. In these formative years, Freemasonry came to California with a rush. At this year's California Masonic Symposium, immerse yourself in the fascinating story of our Masonic pioneers. Learn where our first lodges came from and how they were organized. Discover the colorful and inspiring leaders who ensured Freemasonry's perpetuity in the Golden State - and see how their legacies continue to impact Masonry today!

Bring a friend! Open to Masons and members of the general public.

**Saturday, June 9:** San Francisco  
**Sunday, June 10:** Long Beach

\$20 conference only // \$15 conference with lunch

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

The California Masonic Symposium is sponsored by:





# Freemasonry and Fatherhood

**BY MIDNIGHT FREEMASON CONTRIBUTOR  
WB ADAM THAYER**

[source: [MidnightFreemasons.org](http://MidnightFreemasons.org)]

I have a two year old daughter... I should probably start by telling you that, or the rest of this article will seem entirely like conjecture. If you have a child too, I hope yours came with better instructions than mine, because so far the only real advice I've received is "Try not to kill her, and you'll figure the rest out as you go." The fact that this was given to me by a total stranger (a nurse at the hospital), told me that I was in for a real challenge.

Freemasonry has a lot that it can teach us when it comes to raising our children. For instance, sitting through the reading of the minutes can teach us about patience, which is an invaluable skill when it comes to your two year old arguing with you about watching Finding Nemo for the twentieth time this week. And haven't we all seen a grumpy Past Master throwing a temper tantrum that could rival a child?

Now, I've never really been what you would call an overly emotional person. Sure, I cried tears of joy when the Cubs won the World Series (didn't we all?), but never at weddings or a funeral, or even at the beginning of Up (which, I'm told, is incredibly sad for most people). I've noticed, however, that since Quinn has been born, there are many emotions that I hadn't considered before. Seeing her try things for the first time, or solve a problem for herself, or even just the times that she wants to cuddle on the couch and watch cartoons (currently, her favorite is the 80's run of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles), has put a near perpetual lump in my throat.

Freemasonry teaches us that our emotions are a normal part of our existence, and that (when handled properly) can make us more well rounded people. In addition to teaching us to keep our passions circumscribed, it teaches us that while traversing that circle we can and should experience the whole range of emotions, instead of staying safely at the center point.

I've also found myself contemplating my own mortality more than ever before. Being a bit morbid, I've always had a fascination with my own demise, however death has generally existed more as something that happens to other, weaker people, people who weren't strong enough to keep fighting for their existence. Of course, on an intellectual level, I knew that I, myself, would also die one day, however I never truly accepted the reality of the situation until having a child.

You see, children force us to think about the future, and in the future lies a time beyond our existence. For all of us, that day creeps closer and closer, so we start to make plans, and backup plans, contingency plans, worst case scenario plans, and even "if everything goes just perfectly, this could work" plans, to prepare our children to be able to live without us.

While having a child has made me focus on the future, it has also helped me to gain a greater respect for the past. I've been lucky in my Masonic career to meet men from so many different generations, and each has taught me something valuable when it comes to raising a child. Watching everything going on in the world, I definitely appreciate a simpler time with less things to worry about; I know my parents never had to worry about what I was watching on a tablet...

Children are, Masonically speaking, rather expensive. Money that was once going to our Masonic habit is suddenly being redirected to things like clothing, diapers, food, and whatever the heck an aspirator is. So far, my experience has been that as they age they become more expensive, and I see no reason to expect this trend to change until the time comes that I'm entirely destitute. Of course, money is only part of the expense, while the larger and more important expense is time. Time is the currency that Masons use to best improve the world around us, and children require a LOT of time. The paradox, from what I'm seeing, is that the more time I invest into my daughter, the more she will go on to improve the world, thereby accomplishing our goals.

Finally, I've found that having a child makes it very difficult to ever get around to finishing anything that I start. This article, for instance, was started nearly five months ago, and no amount of editing has made it read any better than it did when I first started writing it. The ending, which tied it all together both intelligently and eloquently, was unfortunately overwritten by the Troll Holiday special (no, I have no idea how that's possible, let's just go with it, or this will sit on my computer for another five months before being revisited).

~AT

*WB. Bro. Adam Thayer is the Senior Warden of Lancaster Lodge No. 54 in Lincoln (NE) and a past master of Oliver Lodge No. 38 in Seward (NE). He's an active member in the Knights of Saint Andrew, and on occasion remembers to visit the Scottish and York Rites as well. He continues to be reappointed to the Grand Lodge of Nebraska Education Committee, and serves with fervency and zeal. He is a sub-host on The Whence Came You podcast, and may be reached at [adam@wcpodcast.com](mailto:adam@wcpodcast.com)<<mailto:adam@wcpodcast.com>>. He will not help you get your whites whiter or your brights brighter, but he does enjoy conversing with brothers from around the world!*

# FROM THE QUARRIES

Congratulations to Wor. Raymond Schmalz upon his ascension to the Presidency of the San Francisco Masters and Past Masters Association. This group has been around for many a year with its earliest records lost in the 1906 earthquake and fire! Other Local Past Presidents of this august group include PM Stanley Bransgrove (2007), PM Jerry Pisani (2012); from Marin #191, PM Mark Rose (2010); and from Fairfax #556, PM Michael Balopoulos (1995 via Brotherhood #370 (Amity-Seal Rock #370), and Robert Ranum, (2015).

PM Stan Bransgrove and son Zach were granted membership in the Native Sons of the Golden West recently!

The Lodge was the recipient of a very generous bequest of our late member and Past Master, Cecil Crowe. He served in the Oriental Chair in 1972.

The Lodge is off to a great start in 2018 with the recent Raising of Gerrit Herbst and impending Raising of George Cagwin on Tuesday, February 27th, in our Lodge Room! Please support your new Officers, Candidate George Cagwin, son of our late PM Horace who served in the East in 1943, and renew the Light within YOU!

## LODGE CONTACT INFORMATION

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 Sat. Feb 24<sup>th</sup> –

*Masons of Marin  
SWING DANCE &  
CRAB FEED 2018* 

*Fais-do-do and Swing  
with Lulu & the Rent  
Party w/Retrobates*

*Appetizers, Clam Chowder, Salad,  
Garlic Bread, etc. — all the fixin’s*

 *Details: Ross Valley Masonic  
Center, 1122 Magnolia Ave. Larkspur  
at: 5 pm. E-Z Dance Instruction at 7:45*

*Price: 45 Clams. What a deal!*



**~Reservations Please~**

***Your check is your reservation.***

*Mail check to:*

*Markos Balopoulos*

*52 Elizabeth Way*

*San Rafael, CA 94939*

**Make check to: Fairfax #556 Crab Feed**

**Or purchase by Credit Card online at:**

**<https://larkspurcrabfeed.bpt.me/>**



**RSVP**

*Markos Balopoulos*

*[markos\\_403@msn.com](mailto:markos_403@msn.com)*

*Or call him at 415-385-5752*

**Sat. Feb. 24th, 2018**

***Social 5:00 pm. Dinner 6:00 pm.***

***\$45 per person. Limited to the***

***first 100 Reservations***

***(Chicken by request - \$20***

***Just dancing? - \$15)***





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, February 6th	6:30 PM Pot Luck Dinner (open to members and non-members) 7:45 PM Stated Meeting (Open to Masons only)
Tuesday, February 13th	7:00 PM Third Degree Rehearsal (Second Section only) AND Masonic Education Night/Work on Degree Proficiencies (Masons only)
Saturday, February 24th	5:00 PM Masons of Marin Crab Feed & Swing Dance @ the Ross Valley Masonic Center, 1122 Magnolia Ave., Larkspur (home of Larkspur Lodge #556). RSVPs necessary; limited to 100 persons. See the flier at the end of this issue of the Valley Mill! (Open to members and non-members)
Tuesday, February 27th	6:45 PM Light appetizers 7:30 PM Third Degree Conferral upon George Cagwin, FC
Tuesday, March 6th	6:30 PM Pot Luck Supper 7:45 PM Stated Meeting
Tuesday, March 13th	7:00 PM Second Degree Rehearsal (Second Section only)(Fellowcraft and Master Masons only) AND 8:00 PM Masonic Education Night/Work on Degree Proficiencies (Masons only)
Tuesday, March 20th	6:45 PM Light appetizers 7:30 PM TENTATIVE Fellowcraft Degree Conferral
Tuesday, April 3rd	6:30 PM Pot Luck Dinner (open to members and non-members)

**Mill Valley Lodge No. 356, F & AM**  
**P.O. Box 2011**  
**Mill Valley, CA 94942-2011**

**TO:**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**