



South Valley Lodge No. 187

Trestleboard



Volume 5, Issue 2

February 2024

Master's Message

Worshipful Amir Safakish

Master: South Valley Lodge No. 187

I hope that everyone is doing well and had a great holidays season. I was in Japan for most of January and missed the January stated meeting. W. Dan Manuto kindly conducted the lodge meeting with the support of W. Steve Chase, W. Jeff Gopp, and brothers Tom Teft, Don Harley, Brad Meyer, Ryan Jojin, & brother Branden Winter. Everything is going well.

Our W. Brother Steve Cole condition is improving but he is still in the hospital. Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Our brothers planning activities for this year are working hard to have one activity each month (except January). Check the calendar on the website for more information.

I think everyone enjoyed 49ers game and hope they win the Super Bowl. We will have our Super Bowl party at the hall. It is potluck. The lodge will provide some hamburgers and hotdogs but please bring your favorite beverage and Super Bowl food to share.

February is here so don't forget Valentine Day. Flower delivery is available through the Los Altos lodge who will deliver locally in the Bay Area. W. Brother David Anderson can take your order for flower deliveries at viscountleon@yahoo.com or call him at (408) 685-6352. I believe the charges are about \$20.

The Eastern Star sisters are preparing for our March Chicken Feed. I hope you can attend. It is a good chance to meet brothers of other lodges, as well as our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Sean Metroka. (<https://freemason.org/metroka>).

Have a safe and pleasant month.
~Amir~

Secretary's Message

Worshipful Jeff Gopp

Secretary: South Valley Lodge No. 187

W. Gopp has been traveling on a family emergency and was unable to provide an article for the Trestleboard this month.

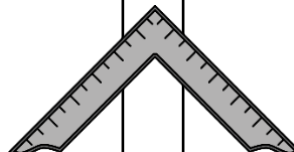
However, he would like to remind everyone that it's that time of year again when your dues are due. Please reach out to W. Gopp for your dues payments if you haven't already paid.

We have a new district inspector, W. Tim Lynch. He makes his official visit to South Valley Lodge at our stated meeting in March. Come on out and meet our new inspector for District 341.

We have lots of candidates moving through the degrees with four active Entered Apprentices and one active Fellow Craft. Along with that, we have several inquiries for membership in our queue.

Looks like 2024 will be a very busy year for degree presentations, and for the lodge in general.

Lastly, we have a new editor for the Trestleboard. Brother Brad Meyer is taking on the work of producing this newsletter every month. Thank you, W. Dan Manuto, for your diligent efforts in the past years with the Trestleboard creation and distribution.



ACTUAL BIRTHDAY		
First Name	Last Name	Birth Date
Michael	Brookman	2/10
Douglas	Dailey	2/12
John	Foster	2/13
Nick	LeBouef	2/18
Winfield	Johnson	2/26
William	Tapogna	2/26
Carl	Lehfeldt	2/28

MASONIC BIRTHDAY			
First Name	Last Name	MM Date	Years Service
Robert	Kyle	2/26/68	56
Everett	Burchell	2/15/77	47
Steve	Munyon	2/9/84	40
Gregg	Hall	2/24/05	19
Brad	Meyer	2/13/20	4

Lodge Officers 2024

Master	Amir Safakish, PM
Senior Warden	Dan Manuto
Junior Warden	Steve Chase, PM
Treasurer	Don Harley
Secretary	Jeff Gopp, PM
Chaplain	
Senior Deacon	Brad Meyer
Junior Deacon	Ryan Jojin
Marshal	Nick LeBouef
Senior Steward	Steve Cole, PM
Junior Steward	
Tiler	Tom Tefft

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LODGE COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

Freemasonry: Are We a Secret Society?

(Also found on our website blog at www.SouthValleyLodge187.com/blog)



Freemasonry, a centuries-old fraternal organization, has often been shrouded in mystery and speculation. The question of whether Freemasonry is a secret society or a society with secrets has intrigued many, prompting a closer examination of its history, practices, and core principles.

At its core, Freemasonry is not a secret society in the traditional sense of the term. Unlike clandestine organizations that engage in covert activities and maintain a veil of secrecy around their operations, Freemasonry operates openly. Its origins can be traced back to the local fraternities of stonemasons in the late fourteenth century, regulating the qualifications of masons and their interactions within their communities.

One key aspect that contributes to the perception of secrecy is the private nature of certain rituals, symbols, and traditions within Freemasonry. These elements are kept confidential among its members, fostering a sense of unity and exclusivity within the fraternity. However, this secrecy is not aimed at concealing sinister motives or hidden agendas; rather, it serves to create a bond among members who share common values and principles.

The rituals and symbols within Freemasonry are symbolic representations of moral and ethical teachings. They are designed to impart lessons on virtue, morality, and personal development. While these rituals are kept private, they are not sinister or mysterious in nature. Instead, they reflect the historical roots of the organization and its commitment to fostering personal growth and social responsibility.

Freemasonry places a strong emphasis on moral and ethical conduct, encouraging its members to lead virtuous lives and contribute positively to society. The fraternity promotes the values of brotherly love, relief, and truth, aiming to create a community of individuals dedicated to self-improvement and the betterment of the world around them.

Another factor contributing to the perception of secrecy is the discretion maintained by Freemasons regarding their membership. Freemasons do not hide their affiliation, but they often refrain from openly discussing the details of their rituals and practices with non-members. This discretion is rooted in the belief that the lessons learned within the fraternity are personal and meaningful to the individual member, and their full understanding requires participation in the rituals. However, more and more, Freemasons are openly sharing their stories with their families and the public trying to lift that veil of secrecy.

It is essential to differentiate between the privacy maintained by Freemasonry and the secrecy associated with secret societies engaged in nefarious activities. Freemasonry is transparent about its charitable work, community service, and contributions to society. Many Masonic lodges actively engage in philanthropy, supporting various causes and charities that align with their values.

Freemasonry is not a secret society or even a society with secrets in the conventional sense. While it maintains certain private rituals and traditions, these are not intended to conceal malevolent intentions. Instead, they serve as a means of fostering unity, moral development, and a sense of fraternity among its members. The values upheld by Freemasonry, such as brotherly love, relief, and truth, underscore its commitment to positive individual and societal transformation. As the veil of mystery surrounding Freemasonry is lifted, it reveals an organization dedicated to enlightenment, benevolence, and the pursuit of virtuous ideals.



MANZANITA STAR CHAPTER #342

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

RHODA JOHNSON – WORTHY MATRON

AMIR SAFAKISH – WORTHY PATRON

Dear Sisters and Brothers

January has been a busy month. We started with hosting the AMI on the 13th. It was well attended. A big thank you to Sister Maria Jo for all her hard work in making it a big success.

January 23rd prior to the meeting, members enjoyed a delicious dinner of Beef Stroganoff. Thank you, Melanie and Steve, for chairing this event. If you would like to do a dinner and or refreshments, there will be a sign-up list at our next meeting.

A report on the AMI was given by Maria Jo. After all the expenses we broke pretty much even. We cleared \$84.70 which we are donating to the Gilroy Morgan Hill Rainbow Girls. She was also able to give away all the items we had collected for a yard sale which never happened. Members took what they wanted, some went to the Rainbow Girls and a member from another chapter filled her vehicle with all the rest. YEA!! No more junk (or treasures) to shuffle around.

A letter was read from Athena Chapter #46 in Hollister requesting to consolidate with us. The Grand Chapter Consolidation Committee member Jan Plested was there to explain procedures and address questions and concerns. By a secret ballot the members voted to move forward. Each chapter will have 3 members to work out details with the Grand Chapter Committee member Jan facilitating. Those 3 members who will represent us is Maria Jo Miller, Shelley Ware and Carol Bish. More as things progress.

We voted out \$200.00 to our local Rainbow Girls to assist them with purchases of goodies to fill baskets they are preparing for the local Fire Stations for Valentines.

We wish everyone a Happy Birthday in January, including the Worthy Matron and Assoc Matron Shelley Ware who share the same B-Day only many years apart. February Birthdays are Millie Schulenburg 17th, Jennifer Clark Ramsey 16th, Marti Leverton Lee 23rd.

The yearly Chicken Feed for South Valley Lodge is on March 14th. Plans are in the works. If you can help, please contact Melanie Chase, Chairperson.

Everyone, have a great month. We look forward to seeing you at the February 27th meeting, dinner at 6:30, Meeting 8 PM, attire red for Valentine month.

Star Love,
Rhoda Johnson - Worthy Matron
Amir Safakish - Worthy Patron



**International Order of Rainbow for Girls
GILROY MORGAN HILL ASSEMBLY #125**



Hello Everyone,

I hope your New Year has started off with a bang!!! The girls have been busy right from the start of the year. Gilroy-Morgan Hill held their installation on January 12th with a Haunted Mansion theme and installed 3 girls officially into office followed by a baked potato bar for refreshments. I was so excited for the girls to take this step forward in their Assembly's growth. Then on January 14th, some girls travelled up to Napa for the Last Official Visit of the Grand Worthy Advisor. At this event our own Worthy Advisor Aurora was announced as Page to the Grand Executive Committee Secretary at Grand Assembly. This is a great honor and especially special for us since Aurora will be helping our own Mrs. G ❤️.

First meeting of the new term was held with our GD Mrs. North running a meeting style practice. I want to thank our Board members for stepping up when I got hit with food poisoning that day and could not be there. Huge thank you to our brand-new Assistant Mother Advisor Gabby Winter for taking my place. I heard you were awesome. The next evening saw the girls hard at work making Valentine's wreaths they sell as an Assembly fundraiser. They are still available if interested, \$15 a wreath. Just shoot me an email. The last weekend of the month has found traveling to various Grand Office receptions in our area to support our sister Assemblies. Saturday found us in Castro Valley for the reception for Grand Love where we were asked to serve as reception Marshal and did a wonderful job. We also attended the Grand Fidelity reception which was right afterwards. Sunday had the entire Assembly traveling to Mountain View for the reception of the Grand Worthy Associate Advisor from San Jose with a picnic at the park beforehand. Like I said busy, busy, busy.

February we will be putting together Valentine baskets for our Firefighters in Morgan Hill. Huge shout out and thank you to Manzanita Star for their donation to help buy items for the baskets. If you would like to donate items let me know. I will attach a list of things we would like to put in the baskets at the end of this article. We are looking forward to joining everyone for the Super Bowl party on the 11th and the weekend after that we are traveling again to Chico for the Grand Worthy Advisor's reception. Of course, we still be holding our regular meetings on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7:30pm and any of our Masonic Adults and spouses are welcome to join us.

Grand Assembly is at the end of March and the girls have soooooo many plans. Everyone is excited. Last year we had two adults register to represent the Assembly. This year we will have 4 girls registered!!!!

Wait. Did you catch that number. Yes. We will be holding initiation on March 11th and adding one new member to our Assembly. More details about that in the next edition.

Thank you everyone for all the support you are giving us. As always, if you know of a girl between 7-11 (Pledge) or 11-20 (Rainbow) who would like to come out and have fun with us please contact me at rainbowcls@sbcglobal.net.

In Rainbow Love & Service
Cindy Schulenburg
Mother Advisor



VALENTINE'S DAY
WREATHS

Handmade wreaths by Gilroy Morgan Hill
Assembly IORG

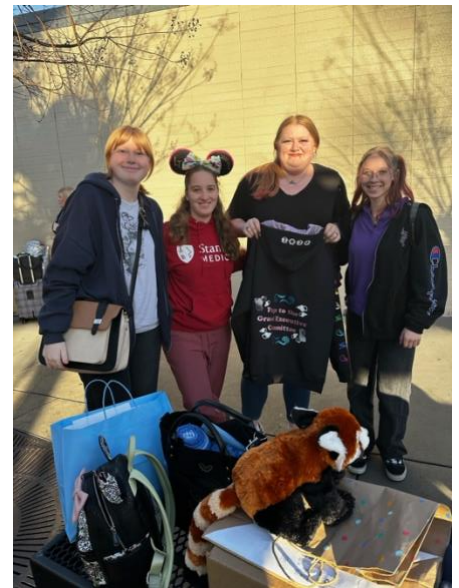
\$15 FOR EACH WREATH

AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP OR
DELIVERY ON FEBRUARY 3

PICKUP AT LEVERTON MASONIC
CENTER FROM 10AM-2PM

DELIVERY FROM 2PM-4PM (\$3
DELIVERY FEE)

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ASSEMBLY'S
GENERAL FUND



South Valley Lodge Super Bowl Party

Where: Leverton Masonic Hall, Morgan Hill

Date: Sunday, February 11, 2024

Time: Doors Open at 12 Noon, Game Starts at 3:00 PM

Potluck – Bring your
favorite Super Bowl dish.

Family Friendly
Event

Bring your own drinks

Games, Prizes, Fun!

