



South Valley Lodge No. 187 Trestleboard



Volume 25, Issue 1

January 2025

View from the East



Worshipful Jeff Gopp, PM
Master: South Valley Lodge No. 187
jeffgopp55@gmail.com

Greetings to everyone and Happy New Year.

I'm looking forward to an eventful year for South Valley Lodge in 2025. Planning for events under the headings of entertaining, charitable, essential, and educational is already underway. We will post the schedules for these upcoming events here in the Trestle Board and on the website, and we'll send out announcements as well.

Our stated meetings on the first Thursday of each month are an essential portion for the Lodge's operations. As you know, we conduct our lodge business during these meetings. In addition, we plan to reintroduce Masonic education during these meetings based on regular publications from the *Fraternel Review*, a publication submitted by the Southern California Research Lodge and the Massachusetts Lodge of Research as well as other sources. I'm personally looking forward to these sessions.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Jan. 1		Happy New Year!
Jan. 2	6:30 pm	Lodge Dinner, Stated Meeting
Jan. 4		Rainbow Installation
Jan. 9	7:00 pm	Hall Board Meeting via zoom
Jan. 11	9:00 am	Eastern Star AMI and Official Visit
Jan. 18-19		Rainbow Official Visit

Events are already beginning at full speed. We hosted an American Red Cross blood drive on Saturday December 28th, 2024, located in the dining hall.

On January 10, 11, and 12, the Manzanita Athena Star Eastern Star chapter will hold an *All Members Instructional* (AMI) meeting at South Valley Lodge which includes members from Star Chapters throughout the State of California.

During the weekend of January 18th and 19th, South Valley Lodge host an Official Visit of the Grand Worthy Advisor and the Supreme Inspector of the IORG for the State of California. The brethren volunteered to serve breakfast for the girls between 8:00 and 10:00 Sunday morning, January 19th.

The Lodge will host a Hiram Award Dinner and social gathering on February 6th for Brother Brad Meyer. Please let us know if you plan to attend.

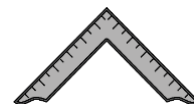
Also, don't forget about our Super Bowl party on February 9.

I received a new Old Farmer's Almanac (started in 1792 by Bro. Ben Franklin and Robert Thomas) as well as a Lakota Way calendar for the New Year. The full moon on January 13th is called a Full Wolf by the Almanac and Tioheyunka Wi (Moon of Frost in the Lodge) by the Lakota.

Things are jumping already, so here we go into the New Year.

Fraternally yours,

Jeff



Secretary's Corner



Brad Meyer

Secretary@SouthValleyLodge187.com

Happy New Year to everyone and welcome to 2025. It's a new year with new officers sitting in the chairs. I want to thank everyone for expressing their confidence in me for the important role of Lodge Secretary. I am truly humbled.

I have a lot to learn about the office and the interactions we need to have with our inspector and the Grand Lodge. I know I will learn something new every day about the business of the lodge and Masonry. I assure you, I will put those lessons to good use serving our new Worshipful Master, Jeff Gopp, the brethren of South Valley Lodge, and the Masons of California.

First order of business for me is to collect the dues for 2025. The easiest way to pay is to go to the Grand Lodge site at www.freemason.org and use their process to pay your dues online. The funds come directly to the lodge, and you can download your own 2025 dues card as well. Please let me know if you have any questions at all about your dues payments. I'm here to help however I can.

You can also pay the old-fashioned way by mailing a check to the lodge for the full amount of \$186.50. I will take care of updating Grand Lodge with your annual payment. If you need a copy of your dues card, just let me know. I can either email or mail it to you, whichever you prefer. Just let me know. Don't forget that the mailing address for the Lodge can be found here in the Trestle Board.

As I continue to learn this new position, I will lean on the experience of the brethren around me to help become a more effective secretary for the lodge. Please let me know if you have any suggestions that can help me better serve the lodge in this new role. I am always open to your guidance and wisdom.

Lastly, a few items of note coming up on our calendar:

- January 2: Stated Meeting
- January 4: Rainbow Installation
- January 10 - 12: Eastern Star Official Visit
- January 18-19: Rainbow State-wide Official Visit
- February 8: Past Masters Association meeting
- February 9: Super Bowl Party
- March 13: Annual Grand Master Visit and Chicken Feed

January Birthdays	January Masonic Birthdays
Steve Cole – Jan. 4	Steve Chase – 25 years
Richard Hogue – Jan. 9	John Winter – 40 years
Thomas Saul – Jan. 16	Merle Vague – 54 years
David Stutes – Jan. 21	
Dan Manuto – Jan. 25	
Laurence Connell – Jan 30	



Lodge Officers 2025

Master Jeff Gopp, PM
Senior Warden Scott Preston, PM
Junior Warden Steve Chase, PM
Secretary Brad Meyer
Treasurer Don Harley
Chaplin Dan Manuto
Senior Deacon Steve Cole, PM
Junior Deacon Eric Kallio
Marshall Nick LeBouef
Senior Steward (open)
Junior Steward (open)
Tyler Tom Tefft

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**Contact Us**  
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PO Box 463
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Email: Secretary@SouthValleyLodge187.com

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MANZANITA ATHENA STAR CHAPTER #46

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Worthy Matron, Shelley Ware - shelly4721@att.net

Worthy Patron, Bob Gentry - gordybg@gmail.com

We are starting the year with a bang. The first All Members Instructional is January 11th at the Leverton Masonic Center in Morgan Hill from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Following at 3:00 pm will be The Official Visit of the Worthy Grand Matron and Worthy Grand Patron for District 13. Dress is casual.

Practice for the Official Visit is January 7th at 7:00 pm. Manzanita Athena Star is in charge of the closing for the OV. Dress is casual.

Our regular scheduled meeting is January 28, 7:30 pm with dinner beforehand. This meeting will be our Renewal of Obligation. Dress is formal.

Star Love,

Shelley Ware, Worthy Matron

Bob Gentry, Worthy Patron





International Order of Rainbow for Girls Gilroy-Morgan Hill Assembly #125



Cindy Schulenberg

Mother Advisor - Rainbowcls@sbcglobal.net

Dear Masonic Family and friends.

2024 is slowly coming to an end as I write this article. Gilroy-Morgan Hill Assembly would like to thank each of you for your love and support during this past year. Words cannot express how much that has meant to us as we have strived to grow and make our Assembly stronger. We look forward to your continued love and support as we move into 2025.

December has been low key as we wanted the girls to enjoy their time with family and friends. We started the month making lasagnas for our Assembly fundraiser and did well for our first time. We even had sales from the community as one of our parents was posting on community blogs and received positive comments back. The girls once again got to help with the South County Firefighters Association Breakfast with Santa. It was so great to see the community come in with their families to enjoy breakfast and of course spend time with Santa. Afterwards some of the girls drove over to Santa Cruz for the reception of Gr Faith.

We held our final meeting of the year with a gift exchange among the girls. They had decided all gifts had to be made by themselves and they got pretty creative.

The Assembly then hosted the Bay Area Pledge Christmas party and watched The Grinch who Stole Christmas, ate lots of pizza, potato chips and cookies. They also drank lots of hot chocolate before having a gift exchange and steal in their pjs, of course. We hope to continue this tradition as it was a lot of fun.

We have one more outing this year. We postponed our earlier trip to Christmas in the Park but plan to go on the 30th to check it out and see our tree. Did you catch a glimpse of it on Fox News when they did their report? One of our sharp-eyed parents did!!

We start 2025 with Installation of Officers on January 4th. Please see the flyer below for details. We hope you join us that evening. This is Aurora's last time in the East, and I am so proud of her and all the girls. We now have three line officers and a floor officer and are moving forward with membership plans for the New Year.

Another event that we would love to see our Masonic family join us at is the Last Official Visit of the Grand Worthy Advisor and Supreme Inspector of California Rainbow on January 19th at 2pm at Sobrato High School in Morgan Hill. Our Area is the host, and we would love to see a strong adult presence attending. For more details, see the invitation below. I do want to thank the Star Chapter and Lodge members for volunteering to make dinner for the Grand Officers (OES) Saturday night and breakfast (Lodge) Sunday morning. It's a very busy weekend and having your support means so much.

As always, we continue to look for new girls to join us in supporting our community and having fun. We have some prospects and look forward to growing bigger and stronger in 2025.

If you know of any girls that might enjoy getting together and seeing what we are all about, please share my information (408-768-6738 or rainbowcls@sbcglobal.net)

Wishing Everyone a Wonderful New Year

Cindy Schulenburg

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AN INVITATION FROM
Gilroy Morgan Hill Assembly #125

*"I've heard it said that people come
into our lives for a reason"*
-Glinda

*You are summoned to attend the Installation of Officers for
Gilroy Morgan Hill*

*Aurora Pinkston.....Worthy Advisor Elect
Grand Outer Observer
Representative to O'K/TX*

*Sarmysha Vaddi.....Installing Officer
PWA San Jose*

Ms. Schulenburg.....Mother Advisor

Ms. North.....Grand Deputy

Mrs. Negal.....Area Grand Deputy

REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW

380 W DUNNE AVE. MORGAN HILL, CA 95037
JANUARY 4, 2025 @7:00PM

FORMAL ATTIRE REQUESTED

THE WIZARD WILL SEE YOU NOW

**You're The One That We Want
to visit Districts 17, 20, 30 & 33
For the Last OY**

January 19, 2025
1pm

Sobrato High School
401 Burnett ave
Morgan Hill, CA
95037

**Sandy- Grand Worthy Advisor
Ella Holtzberger**

Pink Ladies- Grand Officers
Teagan K- Grand Faith AOP
Aurora P- Grand OO OK/TX

Rydell High Cheerleaders- Worthy Advisors
Diablo Valley- Kimmie L.
Concord- Sofia C. PWA
Unity- Cierah C. PWA
Livermore- Priel W.
San Jose- Tabitha P.
Gilroy Morgan Hill- Aurora P. GO
Santa Cruz- Paula O. PWA

**Principal McGee- Supreme Outer
Observer, Supreme Inspector in
CA**

Mrs. Regier
Faculty- Grand Deputies
Mrs. Nagel AGO
Mrs. Wilson District 17
Ms. Liles District 30
Ms. North District 33

Teachers- Mother Advisors
Diablo Valley- Mrs. Gochenouer GEC
Ambassador
Concord- Mrs. Slivinski
Eden- Mrs. Dilliplane
Unity- Mrs. Weaver
Livermore- Mrs. Fry
San Francisco- Ms. Bianchi
Redwood City- Mrs. Juarez
San Jose- Mrs. Peschke
Gilroy Morgan Hill- Ms. Schulenburg
Santa Cruz- Ms. Roth



UNFORGETTABLE: A MASONIC SYMBOL IN BLOOM

THE FORGET-ME-NOT IS A MASONIC SYMBOL OF BROTHERHOOD, SACRIFICE, AND REMEMBRANCE.

*By Narbeh Bagdasarian
Published in the California Freemason Magazine*

Masonry is often described as a system of morality taught through allegory—and certainly there is no shortage of Masonic symbols to decipher. But one that strikes a particular chord with Masons around the world is the forget-me-not.

While not, strictly speaking, a Masonic symbol like the square or plumb, the forget-me-not—often worn as a lapel pin—continues to resonate deeply with members of the fraternity, standing as a testament to Masonic ideals and fraternal solidarity.

But why this little blue flower? The origins can be traced to World War II, during which the Nazi regime suppressed Freemasonry. It's estimated that 80,000 German Masons were killed during that time, and more than 100,000 others throughout German-occupied Europe. Against that backdrop, during which the display of a square and compass was practically a death sentence, the forget-me-not came to embody a silent vow of defiance.

The precise reasons for the flower's adoption are murky, but many historians point to a 1926 meeting of the Grand Lodge of Germany during which participants received a forget-me-not as a reminder of their charitable obligations. (The flower itself has long been associated with remembrance and love.) By 1934, many German Masons wore the flower pin in place of the square and compass, and in 1947, it was officially adopted as a symbol to honor Masons who'd lost their life in the war.

Today, the pin serves as a tangible reminder of the unbreakable bonds that unite Freemasons across generations and borders. More than a mere accessory or piece of flair, the pin is a pledge to live by a shared set of principles.

