TRESTLEBOARD

September

Bruce Gavin

Master

Greetings from the East

Membership growth and retention are the topics we see in every Grand Lodge and concordant body publication. In my travels to other lodges, I see that dwindling membership is pervasive. Some lodges are financially secure but struggling to confer degrees or even find sufficient members to open lodge. The decline in membership for both side liners and prospective officers is real.

This point is further driven home at every Warden's Retreat I have attended. Presentation graphs show membership count increased markedly in the years following WW2, peaked in the 1960s, then started a long decline. The most recent Retreat indicated a very modest slowing of this trend and a possible slight increase in recent membership.

As of this writing, our lodge has 234 members. 182 members reside within CA, the remainder in other states. I only know 95 of these 182 members, the rest I have never met. I also know an additional 12 members who reside outside of CA. Doing the math, I only know 107 out of 234 members, which is less than 46% of our membership.

I am reminded the Blue Lodge is the very foundation of Masonry. Without the Blue Lodge, there would be no Scottish Rite, no Shrine, no Eastern Star chapters, nor any of the other concordant bodies.

Asking around, I am told the Lodge is boring… ritual, ritual, ritual and the paying of bills and there is no "fun." Harding San Juan Lodge, under the tutelage of Wor. Jeff Robertson, P.M. is one of the premier ritual lodges in Northern California, perhaps even the entire State. Equally dedicated are your officers who commit to ritual practice two nights per week for up to seven years. This level of commitment can indeed have an impact on a young family man, his family and his employment. Finding those willing to make this commitment is a constant challenge.

To add "fun" to our Lodge, we have this year done several social events focused on having a good time. The most recent was the Filipino Culture Night held in July to honor the Philippine Independence day celebration. This event was organized by Brothers Natano, Maglalang, Dayanghirang and their ladies. This event was the height of "fun" with loads of food, karaoke (Earl was excellent) and the ladies doing both traditional and party dancing. They engaged the sideliners and even got myself, other brothers and past masters to sing karaoke for the amusement of all. I was disappointed that this wonderful event was not well attended, even with sufficient advertising. It was truly a good time for all.

If you are reading this and have an idea for a fun social event, please contact me or one of the officers. We are always on the lookout for social events to put the "fun" back into the Lodge.

Fraternally,

Bruce Gavin, Master

Doug Jones

Senior Warden

Greetings from the West

As the year 2026 continues to unfold, I would like to turn our attention to Hiram Abiff, the Widow's Son.

Few names are as familiar in our Craft as Hiram Abiff. We encounter his story in the Master Mason Degree, but taking a closer look at his origins helps us better understand his place in our Masonic tradition.

Scripture introduces Hiram as a master craftsman whose skill was called upon during the building of King Solomon's Temple. While the biblical account describes his craftsmanship and role in the Temple's construction, it does not contain the Hiramic legend as we know it today. That account was preserved and expanded through Masonic tradition, transforming an ancient craftsman into a lasting symbol of fidelity, skill, and integrity.

The title "Widow's Son" comes from the biblical record, but within Masonry it has taken on a deeper significance. Hiram represents the responsibility carried by every Master Mason: to approach our work with both skill and character. His example asks us to consider not only what we know, but how we apply that knowledge in our daily lives.

As Masons, we spend a great deal of time reflecting on building, working, and preparing for the future. While the historical Temple of King Solomon was constructed of stone and mortar, the symbolic Temple we build today is constructed through our decisions, our conduct, and our interactions with those around us.

Our Masonic work extends beyond the Lodge room and into our homes, workplaces, and communities. Each day provides an opportunity to demonstrate patience, honesty, integrity, and fidelity to the principles we profess.

The physical Temple of King Solomon was completed long ago, but the work of building character continues with every generation. Hiram Abiff serves as a lasting reminder that the quality of our Craft ultimately depends upon the character of the craftsmen who practice it.

May we each strive to honor his example by laboring faithfully, acting with integrity, and leaving behind a legacy that reflects the timeless principles of our Fraternity.

Doug Jones. Senior Warden

John Scofield, P.M.

Junior Warden

Greetings from the South, John Scofield, P.M.

Well, we are back from our summer break, and all is well. We had a very nice, mellow July and August - whew, thank goodness! However, the weather forecasters are predicting a very wet winter, so let's enjoy these pleasant days while we can.

Now, let's talk about food!

Our September dinner meeting will once again be hosted by the wonderful Ladies of Leisure Hour/Eastern Star. They have planned a delicious menu featuring homemade chili served with all the toppings, including shredded cheese, onions, and maybe even some Fritos! The meal will also include cornbread, a fresh salad, and to finish it all off, pie and ice cream. It sounds absolutely wonderful, and I can't wait. Thank you, Ladies, for your continued support and generosity to our Lodge.

I will also be cooking for our September Fellowship evening on **Wednesday, September 30**. I haven't decided on the menu just yet, so keep an eye on your email for updates.

Please don't forget to make your dinner reservations. As a reminder, **reservations are mandatory**. If you make a reservation and are unable to attend, please cancel before the reservation deadline. Those who do not cancel before the cutoff date will be charged for their dinner, as we must pay for all meals that have been reserved. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

That's all for now, folks. I hope to see you at our upcoming meetings.

John Scofield, P.M., Jr. Warden

John Scofield, P.M.
Hallboard President

Greetings from the Hallboard,

By now, I'm sure you've noticed that our front sign is much more visible. We recently had the trees in front of the building taken care of, as well as several in the back, professionally trimmed. This work was long-term overdue and has greatly improved both the appearance of our property and the visibility of our lodge.

Your Hallboard has also been reviewing several possible improvements to the interior and exterior of the Masonic Center. These include repainting portions of the building trim and interior, replacing some interior doors, and updating door hardware to better serve our members and the many groups that use the facility. These projects are still in the planning and review stages, and we will keep everyone informed as plans move forward.

Respectfully submitted

John Scofield, PM

Hallboard President and "Resident Horticulturist"

2026 HSJ Lodge Officers

Bruce Gavin (Sharon) ……...Master

Douglas W. Jones (Heather)…..……..Senior Warden

John Scofield, P.M (Lady Bug)…….……Junior Warden

Edward E. Rose, P.M. (Elaine) ……Treasurer

Bob Jackson (Terri) ……..……Secretary

Paul W.A., Cary P.M. (Jaime) ……..……...Assistant Secretary

Christopher Globis (Laura)..……..Chaplain

Mike Ramirez (Jordan) ....…….……Senior Deacon

Mark Young (Annette)..... Junior Deacon

Abtin Hassani (Parisa)…..…… Marshal

Stephen Rankin (Rae) …..……..…… Senior Steward

Tom Angello, P.M. (Theresa)……..……....Junior Steward

Cris Bryceson (Joy) …….. Tiler

Tom Tompkins, III, P.M. (Lynn) ……..……..… Head Candidates Coach

Jeffery E. Robertson, PM (Angela) ……..Officers Coach

Harding San Juan Lodge, No. 579 F. & A.M.

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Trestle Board Editor, Bob Jackson

September 2026
Birthdays

Lonzo	Frizzell	1
Christopher	Riffe, P.M.	3
Alfred	Schuller	5
Thomas	Lamb	7
Todd	Sloan	8
William	Dreher	8
William	Brill, IV	8
Jonathan	Leach	8
Jon	Nanbu	9
Michael	Ramirez	9
Carlos	Alfaro	10
Glyndell	Williams	11
Loren	Schilder	11
Robert	Tamblyn	11
Abtin	Hassani	16
John	Anderson	17
Henning	Mortensen	17
Johnny	Henman	18
Steven	Borglund, P.M.	25
Brent	Bartlett	26
Vasiliy	Shchekaturov	30

September 2026
Ladies Birthdays

Janet	Adams	1
Sandra	Hoover	4
Jaclyn	Appleby	5
De'Lynn	Micheletti	15
Kassie	Loehr	17
Colleen	Morrison	18
Linda	Potts	19
Luann	Hawkins	20
Brinda	Whipple	22
Joy	Bryceson	24
Rosmarie	Cadorna	26
Robin	Schwartz	26
Theresa	Angello	30

September 2026
Masonic Anniversaries

Carlos	Alfaro	1
Vasiliy	Shchekaturov	5
Dallas	Phenneger	7
Jonathan	Leach	9
John	Williamson	12
Fanny	Allassane	14
LeAunta	Patterson	16
Jeffrey	Robertson, P.M.	16
James	Jackson	21
George	Sims	21
Steven	Larson, P.M.	24
Henning	Mortensen	25
Russell	Meadows	26
Timothy	Loree	27
John	Anderson	35
Eugene	Weekes	35
Robert	Knuckey	37
Paul	Steinkamp, P.M.	39
David	Elder	41
Bob	Leal	41
Billy	Mayfield	42
Joseph	Davis, P.M.	43
Gregory	Voetsch, P.M.	43
David	Shields, Sr., P.M.	52
Ronald	Dodrill, P.M.	65

BEST BREAKFAST WEST OF RENO!
Bring your family & friends to socialize & eat with us!
Harding San Juan Masonic Lodge
5944 San Juan Ave at Northlea, Citrus Heights
4TH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, 8-10AM
$5 DONATION
Indoor & Outdoor Seating (Weather Permitting)

Back from summer delightful meal prepared by our Eastern Star Ladies. Remember to make your reservations online to

Make sure we have a place for you.

Natoma San Juan Chapter #233
Order of the Eastern Star

Cordially invites you to a Reception Honoring

Sharon Gavin

Grand Representative
of Pennsylvania in California

and

Russ Meadows

Grand Representative
of Florida in California

September 20, 2026, at 11:00 am

San Juan Masonic Center
5944 San Juan Ave., Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Refreshments Following
Dress: Casual

RSVP to Jana Wesche by Sept. 12

Email: jana_nsj233@yahoo.com
Text: 916-342-4151

CALLING ALL BRETHREN!

**If you have an interest in getting to know,
like-minded individuals like yourself…**

We invite you to join us.

Green Dragon Tavern

EST. Friday, March 13, 2020

ILLEGITIMI NON CARBORUNDUM

MEETINGS ARE ON THE SECOND FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH

JOIN THE FELLOWSHIP

Build lasting friendships, share good conversation, and enjoy the company of brothers who value tradition, respect, and camaraderie.

FOR BRETHREN

Who enjoy cigars or pipes, good conversation, camaraderie, and the shared bonds of the fraternity.

INTERESTED IN JOINING?

Reach out to Brother Adam Roberts

(916) 838-2984

Call or Text

The Green Dragon Tavern is an independent fellowship and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sanctioned by the Grand Lodge of California. Membership is by invitation & recommendation of existing members. The fellowship is intended for brethren who enjoy cigars or pipes, good conversation, camaraderie, and the shared bonds of the fraternity.