



The Trestle Board

A Monthly Publication of
Santa Cruz-San Lorenzo Valley Lodge #38
Free and Accepted Masons
P.O. Box 558
Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0558

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FEBRUARY 2012

TIME-DATED MATERIAL

Stated Meeting Dinner

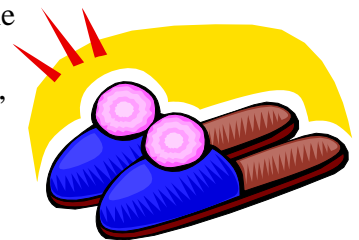
Tuesday, February 7, 2012, 6:30 pm

The stated meeting dinner will be a Valentine's Day special: "It's Amore" beet salad, individual heart-shaped meat loaves, green beans with bacon, hot chocolate, tea and coffee, and red velvet bundt cake. This sounds delicious, so make your reservations with Sondra, sondrazplace@aol.com or call **818-346-9683**. Bring your appetite and someone special to this great dinner. Price will be \$10 per person except for our **Masonic widows who will dine for free**. Dinner starts at 6.30PM.

The History of the Widow's Pin

The history of the widow's pin dates back to the time of Boaz. This is the well-known story of Naomi returning to her own land after the death of her husband, Elimelech and her sons. One daughter-in-law, Ruth, a Moabite, accompanied her mother-in-law back to Bethlehem Judah but both were destitute. Ruth went to

work in the fields to enable her to look after her mother-in-law. However, the law of the land stated that Elimelech's next-of-kin was duty-bound to redeem his possessions and look after his widow and offspring. The next-of-kin refused to do so. Boaz offered to become the redeemer of Elimelech's property, a proposition that the next-of-kin accepted. To seal the bargain, Boaz and the next-of-kin met at the city gates in the presence of the elders. The next-of-kin drew off his shoe and handed it to Boaz as a token of the bargain. Boaz held the shoe up for all to see; he asked them to be witnesses that he had become Naomi's protector, Ruth's husband, and a redeemer of Elimelech's property. Thus today we have the little blue slipper as an emblem of the protective influence of Masons for their wives, widows and daughters.



Santa Cruz Masonic Activities for FEBRUARY 2012

February, 2012

Expand All Collapse All | Day Week Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2 7:00 PM Rainbow Meeting	3 11:30 AM Daughters of the Nile	4
5	6 6:00 PM Paideia Lodge No. 852	7 6:30 PM Stated Meeting Dinner - 50 year PIN for Tod Likens 8:00 PM Lodge Stated Meeting	8 7:30 PM Paideia Lodge No. 852 7:30 PM Temple Board Meeting	9 7:00 PM DeMolay Meeting	10	11 7:00 PM Job's Daughters Meeting
12	13 7:30 PM OES Meeting	14	15	16 7:00 PM Rainbow meeting	17	18 9:00 AM (in Soquel) Scottish Rite Club (monthly breakfast)
19	20 6:00 PM Paideia Lodge No. 852	21 7:30 PM Lodge Activity - First Degree - Beighe & Medina	22 7:00 PM Job's Daughters Meeting	23 7:00 PM DeMolay Meeting	24 11:00 AM Electa Circle	25
26	27 7:30 PM OES Meeting	28 7:00 PM Santa Cruz - San Lorenzo Valley #38 F&AM Lodge SOI 7:30 PM Lodge Activity	29	1 7:00 PM Rainbow Meeting	2 11:30 AM Daughters of the Nile	3

If you would like to rent the Masonic Temple, go online to www.sc-slv38.org and click on "Lodge Calendar" to see if your preferred date is available. Then contact Todd Williams at 831-423-8904 to book the Center.

*If you have not received this newsletter via e-mail,
please send your e-mail address to the Lodge secretary: todd@sc-slv38.org.*

RESERVE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5 FOR MASONIC FAMILY PARTY FOR SUPER BOWL!

Bring your family and friends and snacks. More details in this issue of our *Trestle Board*. Log on to read more!



The Trestle Board

Santa Cruz-San Lorenzo Valley #38 F. & A.M.
828 N. Branciforte Ave., Santa Cruz, California

FEBRUARY 2012
831-423-5988

www.sc-slv38.org

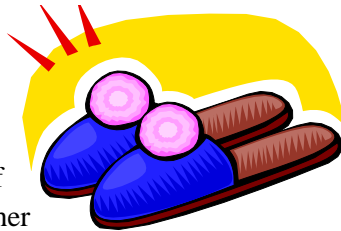
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From the East

Greetings!

Thank you so much to all those who attended the 159th Installation of Officers; I sincerely appreciate all of you being there to support my year as Master of the Lodge in 2012. I am excited to be your Master this year and am honored that you picked me to lead the Lodge.

We have a few events coming up in February. On February 7th we have our February Stated Meeting and Stated Meeting Dinner.

February is the month that we as Masons, show our continued concern and honor for the **widows of Brother Master Masons** who have been entered into the Roll of the Celestial Lodge above, where the Great Architect of the Universe presides. We want to remind you that you have ties to us; we are here when you need us, we care about you, and that you are not alone. We welcome you to a continued association with us, as we pursue our labors of Friendship, Brotherly Love, and Truth. At this Stated Meeting Dinner, a **Masonic Widow's dinner will be free of charge**.

We will be presenting **Tod Liken** his 50-year pin during our Stated Meeting Dinner. Our heartfelt congratulations go to Brother Liken for his many years of service in Masonry.

We also have a *proposed* “**couples Valentine’s Day celebration**” on the 14th of February, and we have tentatively planned for the evening. More information is to follow as plans are finalized.

Just a friendly reminder to all Officers that there will be **no Tuesday night practice or event** scheduled for **Tuesday, February 14th**, as that is Valentine’s Day. Enjoy Valentine’s Day with your loved ones.

We have a new candidate, **Hector Medina**, being initiated and receiving his First Degree of Masonry on February 21st. Congratulations to **Hector Medina** for being elected to receiving the Degrees of Masonry in our Lodge.

Fraternally,



Worshipful Master

The History of Valentine’s Day

Every year, the fourteenth day of the month of February has millions across the world presenting their loved ones with candy, flowers, chocolates and other lovely gifts. In many countries, restaurants and eateries are seen to be filled with couples who are eager to celebrate their relationship and the joy of their togetherness through delicious cuisines. There hardly seems to be a young man or woman who is not keen to make the most of the day.

The reason behind all of this is a kindly cleric named Valentine who died more than a thousand years ago.

It is not exactly known why the 14th of February is known as Valentine’s Day or if the noble Valentine really had any relation to this day.

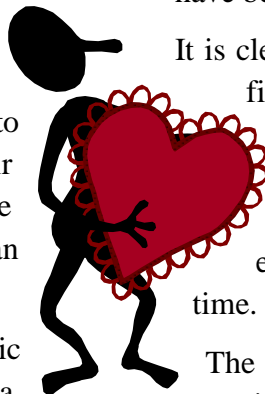
The history of Valentine’s Day is impossible to be obtained from any archive and the veil of centuries gone by has made the origin behind this day more difficult to trace. It is only some legends that are our source for the history of Valentine’s Day.

The modern St. Valentine’s Day celebrations are said to have been derived from both ancient Christian and Roman tradition. As per one legend, the holiday has originated from the ancient Roman festival of *Lupercalis/Lupercalia*, a fertility celebration that used to be observed annually on February 15. But the rise of Christianity in Europe saw many pagan holidays being renamed for and dedicated to the early Christian martyrs. Lupercalia was no exception. In 496 AD, Pope Gelasius turned Lupercalia into a Christian feast day and set its observance a day earlier, on February 14. He proclaimed February 14 to be the feast day in honor of Saint Valentine, a Roman martyr who lived in the 3rd century. It is this St. Valentine whom the modern Valentine’s Day honors.

According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, there were at least three early Christian saints by the name of Valentine. While one was a priest in Rome, another was a bishop in Terni. Nothing is known about the third St. Valentine except that he met his end in Africa. Surprisingly, all three of them were said to have been martyred on the 14th of February.

It is clear that Pope Gelasius intended to honor the first of these three aforementioned men. Most scholars believe that this St. Valentine was a priest who lived around 270 AD in Rome and attracted the disfavor of Roman emperor Claudius II who ruled during this time.

The story of St. Valentine has two different versions - the Protestant and the Catholic one. Both versions agree upon Saint Valentine being a



bishop who held secret marriage ceremonies of soldiers in opposition to Claudius II who had prohibited marriage for young men and was executed by the latter. During the lifetime of Valentine, the golden era of the Roman empire had almost come to an end. Lack of quality administrators led to frequent civil strife. Education declined, taxation increased and trade witnessed a very bad time. The Roman empire faced crisis from all sides, from the Gauls, Slavs, Huns, Turks and Mongolians from Northern Europe and Asia. The empire had grown too large to be shielded from external aggression and internal chaos with existing forces. Naturally, more and more capable men were required to be recruited as soldiers and officers to protect the nation from takeover. When Claudius became the emperor, he felt that married men were more emotionally attached to their families, and thus, will not make good soldiers. He believed that marriage made the men weak. So he issued an edict forbidding marriage to assure quality soldiers.



The ban on marriage was a great shock for the Romans. But they dared not voice their protest against the mighty emperor.

The kindly bishop Valentine also realized the injustice of the decree. He saw the trauma of young lovers who gave up all hopes of being united in marriage. He planned to counter the monarch's orders in secrecy. Whenever lovers thought of marrying, they went to Valentine who met them afterwards in a secret place, and joined them in the sacrament of matrimony. And thus he secretly performed many marriages for young lovers. But such things cannot remain hidden for long. It was only a matter of time before Claudius came to know of this "friend of lovers," and had him arrested.

While awaiting his sentence in prison, Valentine was approached by his jailor, Asterius. It was said that Valentine had some saintly abilities and one of them granted him the power to heal people.



Asterius had a blind daughter and knowing of the miraculous powers of Valentine he requested the latter to restore the sight of his blind daughter. The Catholic legend has it that Valentine did this through the vehicle of his strong faith, a phenomenon refuted by the Protestant version which agrees otherwise with the Catholic one. Whatever the fact, it appears that Valentine in some way did succeed to help Asterius' blind daughter.

When Claudius II met Valentine, he was said to have been impressed by the dignity and conviction of the latter. However, Valentine refused to agree with the emperor regarding the ban on marriage. It is also said that the emperor tried to convert Valentine to the Roman gods but was unsuccessful in his efforts. Valentine refused to recognize Roman Gods and even attempted to convert the emperor, knowing the consequences fully. This angered Claudius II who gave the order of execution of Valentine.

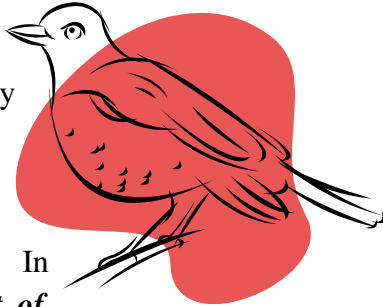
Meanwhile, a deep friendship had been formed between Valentine and Asterius' daughter. It caused great grief to the young girl to hear of his friend's imminent death. It is said that just before his execution, Valentine asked for a pen and paper from his jailor, and signed a farewell message to her "From Your Valentine," a phrase that lived ever after. As per another legend, Valentine fell in love with the daughter of his jailor during his imprisonment. However, this legend is not given much importance by historians. The most plausible story surrounding St. Valentine is one not centered on Eros (passionate love) but on agape (Christian



love): he was martyred for refusing to renounce his religion. Valentine is believed to have been executed on February 14, 270 AD.

Thus the 14th of February became a day for all lovers and Valentine became its Patron Saint. It began to be annually observed by young Romans who offered handwritten greetings of affection, known as Valentines, on this day to the women they admired. With the coming of Christianity, the day came to be known as St. Valentine's Day.

But it was only during the 14th century that St. Valentine's Day became definitively associated with love. UCLA medieval scholar Henry Ansgar Kelly, author of "*Chaucer and the Cult of Saint Valentine*," credits Chaucer as the one who first linked St. Valentine's Day with romance. In medieval France and England it was believed that birds mated on February 14. Hence, Chaucer used the image of birds as the symbol of lovers in poems dedicated to the day. In Chaucer's "*The Parliament of Fowls*," the royal engagement, the mating season of birds, and St. Valentine's Day are related: "*For this was on St. Valentine's Day, When every fowl cometh there to choose his mate.*"



By the Middle Ages, Valentine became as popular as to become one of the most popular saints in England and France. Despite attempts by the Christian church to sanctify the holiday, the association of Valentine's Day with romance and courtship continued through the Middle Ages. The holiday evolved over the centuries. By the 18th century, gift-giving and exchanging hand-made cards on Valentine's Day had become common in England. Hand-made valentine cards made of lace, ribbons, and featuring cupids and hearts began to be created on this day and handed over to the man or woman one loved.

This tradition eventually spread to the American colonies. It was not until the 1840s that Valentine's Day greeting cards began to be commercially produced in the U.S. The first American Valentine's Day greeting cards were created by Esther A. Howland, a Mount Holyoke graduate and native of Worcester, Massachusetts.

Howland, known as the Mother of the Valentine, made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap." It was when Howland



began Valentine's cards in a large scale that the tradition really caught on in the United States.

Today, Valentine's Day is one of the major holidays in the U.S. and has become a booming commercial success. According to the Greeting Card Association, 25% of all cards sent each year are "valentines." The "valentines," known as Valentine's Day cards are often designed with hearts to symbolize love. The Valentine's Day card spread with Christianity, and is now celebrated all over the world. One of the earliest valentines was sent in 1415 AD by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife during his imprisonment in the Tower of London. The card is now preserved in the British Museum.

There may be doubts regarding the actual identity of Valentine, but we know that he really existed because archaeologists have recently unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to a Saint Valentine.

This article was excerpted from:

http://www.theholidayspot.com/valentine/history_of_valentine.htm

Old Master's Wages - A Masonic Story

I met a dear old man today,
Who wore a Masonic pin,
It was old and faded like the man,
It's edges were worn quite thin.

I approached the park bench where he sat,
To give the old brother his due,
I said, "I see you've traveled east,"
He said, "I have, have you?"

I said, "I have, and in my day
Before the all-seeing sun,
I played in the rubble, with Jubala
Jubalo and Jubalum."

He shouted, "Don't laugh at the work my son,
It's good and sweet and true,
And if you've travelled as you said,
You should give these things their due."

The word, the sign the token,
The sweet Masonic prayer,
The vow that all have taken,
Who've climbed the inner stair.

The wages of a Mason,
are never paid in gold,
but the gain comes from contentment,
when you're weak and growing old.

You see, I've carried my obligations,
For almost fifty years,
It has helped me through the hardships
and the failures full of tears.

Now I'm losing my mind and body,
Death is near but I don't despair,
I've lived my life upon the level,
And I'm dying upon the square.

Sometimes the greatest lessons
Are those that are learned anew,
And the old man in the park today
has changed my point of view.

To all Masonic brothers,
The only secret is to care,
May you live your life upon the level,
May you part upon the square.

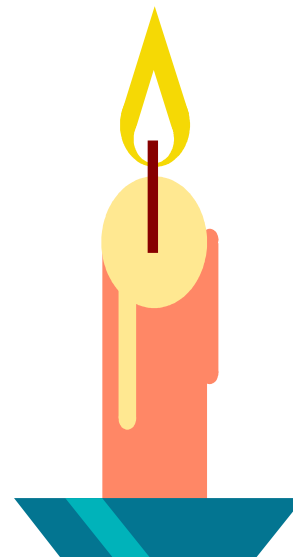
Please pass this along to all Master Masons you know.

Lodge Officers for 2012



Master	Bryan Cupps
Senior Warden	George Turegano, PM
Junior Warden.....	James Helton
Treasurer	Earl Keiser, PM
Secretary	Todd Williams, PM
Senior Deacon.....	Michael Ray
Junior Deacon	Matthew Kannely
Marshal	Bill Rodden, PM
Senior Steward.....	Mark Zevanove
Junior Steward	Open
Chaplain.....	Michael Boyd
Tiler.....	Brian Berman
Organist.....	Open

Masonic Inspector - District 349.....	Robert Morgan, PM
(bobmorgansmail@aol.com).....	831-421-9166



*If you have knowledge,
let others light
their candles at it.*
-Thomas Fuller

GAME ON!

It has officially become a “tradition” now that we are entering our third year having an all-Masonic Family Super Bowl Party.

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, February 5**, when our lodge will once again host a family-friendly



Super Bowl Party. You know the drill - bring a snack to share and your own beverage if you so choose. Sodas and hot dogs will be available for a nominal fee; the proceeds of these sales will be split

between our three **Masonic Youth Groups**.

Brother **Todd Williams, PM**, has volunteered to chair this event. We will start to gather around 12:00 Noon for all the pre-game activities and go until the final whistle of the game. Again, we will have a second screen in the dining room, and games, dominoes, cards and other fun stuff will be available to those who are not “into” football!

We will have freshly steamed hot dogs with all the trimmings and sodas for sale. If you have any questions, contact Todd Williams at todd@wlmsburg.org.

Get your game on! See you Sunday, February 5.

Grant us brotherhood, not only for
this day but for all our years ---
a brotherhood not of words
but of acts and deeds.
— Stephen Vincent Benet

Support Our Masonic Youth Groups

Our future leaders can be found in the youth groups we sponsor. **DeMolay International, Job’s Daughters International, and the International Order of Rainbow for Girls** rely on lodges and adult leaders for support and mentoring. Please consider supporting these organizations which our lodge sponsors by attending their meetings.

OUR MASONIC YOUTH GROUPS APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!



**Santa Cruz
Bethel #216**
Job’s Daughters
Meet 2nd Saturday
and 4th
Wednesday
7:00 pm



**Santa Cruz
DeMolay**
Meet 2nd and 4th
Thursdays
7:00 pm



**Santa Cruz
Assembly #28**
Rainbow for Girls
Meet 1st and 3rd
Thursdays
7:00 pm

Refer to the calendar for Youth Order activities planned for the month.

Life is a flame that is always burning itself out. but it catches fire again every time a child is born.

- George Bernard Shaw

Grand Master's Project 2012

Together, we will *turn the page* for child literacy in California.

The facts are startling.

→ A vast majority of low income families don't have a single book in their homes.

→ California ranks near the bottom in the United States for child literacy.

→ 90% of children who cannot read at grade level by 3rd grade will *never* catch up.

Together the Masons of California and ***Raising a Reader*** will make a profound difference in child literacy for those who need it most: kindergartners in low-performing public schools who are at high risk for educational failure.

We will circulate children's books to homes, engage families in shared reading of those books, and help thousands of children develop reading readiness skills.

Through your support, we will turn the page for child literacy in California.

To learn more, visit freemason.org/Raising a Reader

We should all be concerned about the future because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there.

Charles F. Kettiering



Your Masonic Member Benefits

An important reminder:

You're entitled to the following support services no matter where you reside - whether in California or out of state.

Member 60 years or older and in good standing for five consecutive years, or his wife or widow:

Referrals to senior care providers, financial assistance, and/or care management in your home community, provided by Masonic Senior Outreach, admission to a Masonic Homes of California continuing care retirement community, located in Covina and Union City

Member of any age and degree level:

Help dealing with family issues, such as the impact of divorce, the stresses of a special needs child, and other challenges, provided by Masonic Family Outreach

Contact Masonic Assistance at **888-466-3642** or **Masonicassistance@mhcuc.org** for information and support.

Some other member and widow benefits:

Monthly lodge *Trestle Board*

Inclusion on lodge phone tree and mailings

Bimonthly California FreeMason magazine

Access to the Member Center on freeMason.org (members only)

Masonic funeral or memorial service (members only, at the request of family)

Contact Lodge Secretary **Todd Williams** at **twilliams@BasicItSupport.com** or **831-427-2000** with specific questions.

For general information, contact **Grand Lodge** at **415/292-9180** or **memberservices@freeMason.org**.

Visit Masonichome.org for information about all of these support services.