

Palo Alto Lodge #346

Trestle-Board

VOLUME 2017, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2017

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The Pillar of Wisdom by WM Raj Naidoo

Greetings, I trust all the brethren are enjoying the wonderful summer whether we are having. Well! July is behind us and what a busy month it was? We are now well into the second half of 2017.

We held our annual lodge picnic on July 15th which well attended by the brethren and a few visitors. We had great food, comradery and fellowship on a great and wonderful sunshine day. Thank you to Worshipful Past Master Larry Fama and all the brethren who assisted with the preparations and cleaning up.

Congratulations to Brothers **Akyut Gokce, Sina Tabesh, Ajit Bhalla and Michael Squibb** who have been raised to the 3° of Master Masons during the month of July. These four 3° was attended by many of our brethren and a few visitors. A big thank you from me to all my officers and members of the 3° team who have done outstanding work and to those other brethren who have stepped in at moment's notice to assist.

Also very big Congratulations to **Worshipful Past Master Sinsuat Andang** on his receiving the Cornerstone award. The ceremony was well attended by brethren of our lodge in support of his great achievement. We had a wonderful evening.

We have no upcoming lodge degrees or events planned in the month of August. However there is the Hiram Hackers Masonic Golf Tournament on August 13, 2017 at Moffett Field, if you are interested to play, please contact MW Ken Nagel at 510 -468-9864 or by email: knagel@comcast.net., and our OAM on August 24, 2017 at Friendship Lodge 210 at the San Jose Masonic Center.

We have a couple of events to plan for the upcoming month, namely; the 50 year pin awards on Saturday, September 2nd 2017 beginning at 5:30pm and the Hiram Award on Saturday, September 16th 2017 beginning at 5:30pm. I will get together with the Events planning committee during the month of August and put a program together.

This month we will concentrate on practice in advanced stations of the 3° to be checked out hopefully by end of September beginning of November. All master masons are welcome to join us every Tuesday night on these practice and comradery and fellowship afterwards. I look forward to seeing you all at the Stated Meeting on August 1st, 2017

Fraternally

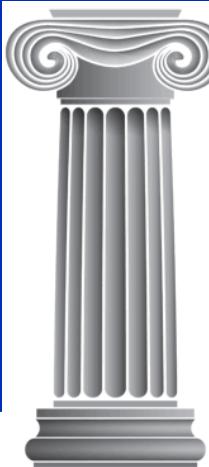
Raj Naidoo

Master





A Masonic trestle board is a design board for the Master Workman (Architect) to draw his plans and designs upon to give the workmen an outline of the work to be performed. In today's terms, we might call it a blueprint.



The Pillar of Wisdom by WM Raj Naidoo

MASTER'S PIECE

In the olden time it was no easy matter for a man to become a Freemason. He had to win the right by hard work, technical skill, and personal worth. Then, as now, he had to prove himself a freeman, of lawful age, legitimate birth, of sound body and good repute to even be eligible at all. Also, he had to bind himself to serve under rigid rules for seven years, his service being at once a test of his character and a training for his work. If he proved incompetent or unworthy, he was sent away.

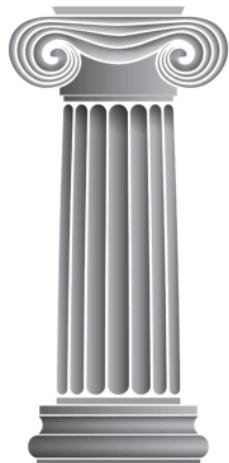
In all operative lodges of the middle-ages, as in the guilds of skilled artisans of the same period, young men entered as Apprentices, vowing absolute obedience, for the lodge was a school of the seven sciences, as well as of the art of building. At first the Apprentice was little more than a servant, doing the most menial work, and if he proved himself trustworthy and proficient his wages were increased; but, the rules were never relaxed, "except at Christmastime," as the Old Charges tell us, when there was a period of freedom duly celebrated with feast and frolic.

The rules by which an Apprentice pledged himself to live, as we find them recorded in the Old Charges, were very strict. He had first to confess his faith in God, vowing to honor the Church, the State, and the Master under whom he served; agreeing not to absent himself from the service of the Order save with the license of the Master. He must be honest and upright, faithful in keeping the secrets of the Craft and the Confidence of his fellows. He must not only be chaste, but must not marry or contract himself to any women during the term of his Apprenticeship. He must be obedient to the Master without argument or murmuring, respectful to all Freemasons, avoiding uncivil speech, free from slander and dispute. He must not frequent any tavern or alehouse, except it be upon an errand of the Master, or with his consent.

The Pillar of Wisdom by WM Raj Naidoo

Such was the severe rule under which an Apprentice learned the art and secrets of the Craft. After seven years of study and discipline, either in the lodge or at the Annual Assembly (where awards were usually made), he presented his "Masterpiece," some bit of stone or metal carefully carved, for the inspection of the Master, saying, "Behold my experience!" By which he meant the sum of his experiments. He had spoiled many a bit of stone. He had spent laborious nights and days, and the whole was in that tiny bit of work. His Masterpiece was carefully examined by the Masters assembled and if it was approved he was made a Master Mason, entitled to take his kit of tools and go out as a workman, a Master and Fellow of his Craft. Not, however, until he had selected a Mark by which his work could be identified, and renewed his vows to the Order in which he was now a Fellow.

The old order was first Apprentice, then Master, then Fellow - Mastership being, in the early time, not a degree conferred, but a reward of skill as a workman and of merit as a man. The reversal of the order today is due, no doubt, to the custom of the German Guilds, where a Fellow Craft was required to serve two additional years as a journeyman before becoming a Master. No such custom was known in England. Indeed, the reverse was true, and it was the Apprentice who prepared his Masterpiece, and if it was accepted, he became a Master. Having won his mastership, he was entitled to become a Fellow - that is, a peer and Fellow of the Craft which hitherto he had only served. Hence, all through the Old Charges, the order is "Masters and Fellows," but there are signs to show that a distinction was made according to ability and skill.

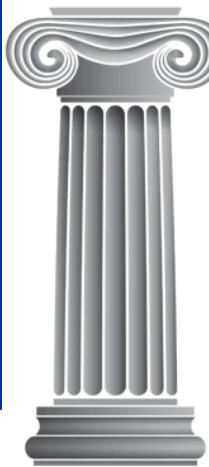


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A Masonic trestle board is a design board for the Master Workman (Architect) to draw his plans and designs upon to give the workmen an outline of the work to be performed. In today's terms, we might call it a blueprint.



Around the Pillar by Senior Warden Michael Stillger

The Forget-Me-Not (Das Vergissmeinnicht)

There are various versions of the Forget-Me-Not as a Masonic emblem. Here is an account from a German Masonic historian. (<http://bessel.org/forgnot.htm>)

Bro. Ernst-G. Geppert, Geppert, who was born in 1918, and has been a Freemason since 1951. Besides numerous papers, he published in 1974 a tremendous piece of scholarship: the first full list of all German lodges since 1737. His letter was addressed to the Master of a newly-founded German Lodge which had selected the blue forget-me-not as Lodge jewel, and explained why in a printed note. Geppert wrote to the Master correcting the mistakes in the note and closed with the dry remark: You might perhaps at some time choose to adjust your version to the factual one. Geppert made the following points:

1. The Grand Lodge zur Sonne (Bayreuth) used to let a pin be made for its yearly meetings and it gave one to each delegate. Those made for the meeting held in Bremen about 1926 represented a forget-me-not, and were manufactured in a factory located in Selb, a small town near Bayreuth. The Brethren from Bayreuth never thought of replacing the Square and Compasses with a forget-me-not.
2. In 1934, the Nazis invented the so-called Winterhilfswerk, which consisted in collecting money on the streets during specific weeks in winter. The money was in fact used for rearmament. Youngsters were requested to participate, and Geppert happened to be one of those who received about one hundred badges, sometimes pins, to be sold at a minimum price. Different ones were chosen each winter and they were worn only during the time of a collection to identify those who had already contributed.
3. By an extraordinary coincidence, the badge used by the Nazis for the collection made in March 1938 happened to be the very forget-me-not pin chosen by the Freemasons in 1926 and it was made by the same factory in Selb. No doubt, comments Geppert, Freemasons who attended the Bremen meeting of 1926 were glad to wear it again twelve years later. However it is out of question that such a pin could have been worn after the March 1938 collection: wearing a mark or a badge which did not originate in the Party was a criminal offence under the Nazi regime.
4. When Grand Master Vogel installed a new Lodge at Selb in 1948, he remembered the story of the pin. Since the factory and the mould still existed, he let a large quantity be made anew and distributed them as a token of friendship whenever he made official visits abroad, especially in the U.S.A., where Geppert accompanied him in 1961.
5. This explains why the blue forget-me-not turned out to be regarded as an official German Masonic emblem after the war. Geppert heard Grand Master Vogel tell the 1938 story while in America, and admits he told it himself. However, writes Geppert, the point made was outwitting the Nazis and their Winterhilfe badge.
6. This also explains why, when American Masons later founded military Lodges in Germany, some of them chose that flower as a Lodge name. Such is the case of Lodge N° 896, Forget me not, in Heilbronn, warranted by the American Canadian Grand Lodge in 1965.

Michael Stillger

Senior Warden



The Corinthian Column by Junior Warden Robert Lott, PM

History of Grand Lodge of New York

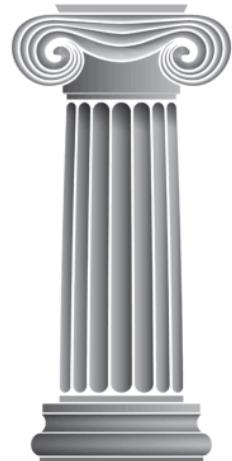
The Grand Lodge is over 230 years old, having been founded December 15, 1782 and has jurisdiction over approximately 60,000 Freemasons, organized in more than 800 Lodges, most of them located within New York State.

It is not known when the first Freemason set foot in the American colony of New York, but the first documented presence dates from the mid-1730s, when Daniel Coxe, Jr. (1673–1739), was appointed by the Duke of Norfolk, the Grand Master of the Premier Grand Lodge of England (known to historians as the "Moderns"), to act as a Provincial Grand Master for the provinces of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. As no authenticated records exist of his tenure as Provincial Grand Master, it seems doubtful that he exercised any authority in Masonic endeavors as he died a few years after his appointment. From 1738 to the 1780s additional Warrants were issued by GLE (Moderns) to Francis Goelet (1738–1753), to George Harrison (1753–1771) and to Sir John Johnson (1771–). As Johnson was a supporter of the British during the American Revolution, he is believed to have taken his warrant with him when he fled to Canada, thus leaving the Moderns Lodges without a Provincial Grand Master.

To further complicate matters, by the 1750s, the Antient Grand Lodge of England (known to historians as the "Ancients"), a rival Masonic Grand Lodge, had also created a Provincial Grand Lodge of New York, which subsequently chartered lodges under its own jurisdiction. Additional lodges were chartered in New York by the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The Ancients retained their charter throughout the Revolution, however, and it was based upon this charter that an independent Grand Lodge of New York was created in 1781, with Robert R. Livingston as Grand Master. The Grand Lodge of New York was officially organized on December 15, 1782, under the Provincial Grand Warrant dated September 5, 1781, from the "Athol" or Antient Grand Lodge of England. The Grand Lodge declared its independence and assumed its modern title "Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York" on June 6, 1787. While the "Athol" Charter descended from the "Ancients", Livingston himself was a member of a "Modern" Lodge. Thus the two rival Grand Lodge traditions, which in England did not unite until 1813, had already merged before that in New York State.

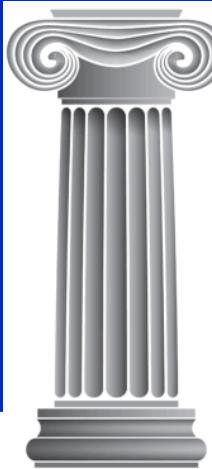
St. John's Lodge, chartered in 1757, is the oldest operating Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of New York.^[5] St. John's Lodge is the custodian of what is now known as the George Washington Inaugural Bible. On April 30, 1789 it was upon this Bible that George Washington took his oath of office as the first President of the United States.

**Fraternally,
Rob Lott,
Junior Warden—Master 2016**





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The Pillar of Wisdom by WM Raj Naidoo

Master's Piece (Continued)

What a rite or ritual, if any, accompanied the making of a Master in the old operative lodges is still a matter of discussion. In an age devoted to ceremonial it is hard to imagine such an important event without its appropriate ceremony, but the details are obscure. But this is plain enough; all the materials out of which the degrees were later developed existed, if not in drama, at least in legend. Elaborate drama would not be necessary in an operative lodge. Even today, much of what is acted out in an American Lodge, is merely recited in an English Lodge. Students seem pretty well agreed that from a very early time there were two ceremonies, or degrees, although, no doubt, in a much less elaborate form than now practiced. As the Order, after the close of the Cathedral-Building period passed into its speculative character, there would naturally be many changes and much that was routine in an operative lodge became ritual in a speculative lodge.

This is not the time to discuss the origin and development of the Third Degree, except to say that those who imagine that it was an invention fabricated by Anderson and others at the time of the revival of Masonry, in 1717, are clearly wrong. Such a degree could have never been imposed upon the Craft, unless it harmonized with some previous ceremony, or, at least, with ideas, traditions and legends familiar and common to the members of the Craft. That such ideas and traditions did exist in the Craft we have ample evidence. Long before 1717 we hear hints increase as the office of Master of the Work lost its practical aspect after the Cathedral-Building period. What was the Master's part? Unfortunately we cannot discuss it in print; but nothing is plainer than, that we do not have to go outside of Masonry itself to find the materials out of which all three degrees, as they now exist, were developed.

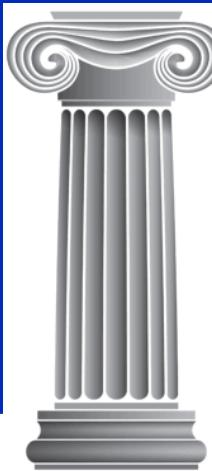
Masonry was not invented; it grew. Today it unfolds its wise and good and beautiful truth in three noble and impressive degrees, and no man can take them to heart and not be ennobled and enriched by their dignity and beauty. The First lays emphasis upon that fundamental righteousness without which a man is not a man, but a medley of warring passions - that purification of heart which is the basis alike of life and religion. The Second lays stress upon the culture of the mind, the training of its faculties in the quest of knowledge, without which man remains a child. The Third seeks to initiate us, symbolically, into the eternal life, making us victors over death before it arrives. The First is the Degree of Youth, the Second the Degree of Manhood, the Third the consolation and conquest of Old Age, when evening shadows fall and the Eternal World and its unknown adventure draw near.

What then, for each of us today, is meant by the Master's Piece? Is it simply a quaint custom handed down from our ancient brethren, in which we learn how an Apprentice was made a Master of his Craft? It is that indeed, but much more. Unless we have eyes to see double meaning everywhere in Masonry, a moral application and a spiritual suggestion, we see little or nothing.





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Around the Pillar by Senior Warden Michael Stillger

Master's Piece (Continued)

But if we have eyes to see it is always a parable, an allegory, a symbol, and the Master's Piece of olden time becomes an emblem of that upon which every man is working all the time and everywhere, whether he is aware of it or not - his character, his personality, by which he will be tested and tried at last. Character, as the word means, is something carved, something wrought out of the raw stuff and hard material of life. All we do, all we think, goes into the making of it. Every passion, every aspiration has to do with it. If we are selfish, it is ugly. If we are hateful, it is hideous. Williams James went so far as to say that just as the stubs remain in the checkbook to register the transaction when the check is removed, so every mental act, every deed becomes a part of our being and character. Such a fact makes a man ponder and consider what he is making out of his life, and what it will look like at the end. Like the Masons of old, apprenticed in the school of life, we work for "a penny a day." We never receive a large sum all at once, but the little reward of daily duties. The scholar, the man of science attains truth, not in a day, but slowly, little by little, fact by fact. In the same way, day by day, act by act, we make our character by which we shall stand judged before the Master of all Good Work. Often enough men make such a bad botch of it that they have to begin all over again. The greatest truth taught in religion is the forgiveness of God, which erases the past and gives us another chance. All of us have spoiled enough material, dulled enough tools and made enough mistakes to teach us that life without charity is cruel and bitter.

Goethe, a great Mason, said that talent may develop in solitude, but character is created in society. It is the fruit of fellowship. Genius may shine aloof and alone, like a star, but goodness is social, and it takes two men and God to make a brother. In the Holy Book which lies open on our Altar we read: "No man liveth unto himself; no man dieth unto himself." We are tied together, seeking that truth which none may learn for another, and none may learn alone. If evil men can drag us down, good men can lift us up. No one of us is strong enough not to need the companionship of good men and the consecration of great ideals. Here lies, perhaps, the deepest meaning and value of Masonry; it is fellowship of men seeking goodness, and to yield ourselves to its influence, to be drawn into its spirit and quest, is to be made better than ourselves. Amid such influence each of us is making his Master's Piece. God is all the time refining, polishing, strokes now tender, now terrible. That is the meaning of pain, sorrow and death. It is the chisel of the Master cutting the rough stone. How hard the mallet strikes, but the stone becomes a pillar, an arch, perhaps an altar emblem. "Him that overcomes, I will make a pillar in the Temple of my God." The masterpiece of life, at once the best service to man and the fairest offering to God, is a pure, faithful, heroic, beautiful Character.

"Oh! The Cedars of Lebanon grow at our door, and the quarry is sunk at our gate; And the ships out of Ophir, with Golden ore, For our summoning mandate wait; And the word of a Master Mason May the house of our soul create! While the day hath light let the light be used, for no man shall the night control! Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or broken the golden bowl, May we build King Solomon's Temple In the true Masonic Soul!"

**Fraternally,
Raj Naidoo
PM 2009—Master 2017**



Events and Announcements

Stated Meeting Dinner – Tuesday, August 1, 2017

Our August 2017 Stated Dinner will feature a menu of Chinese Food.

Please join us for goodies, starting at 6:00 pm and dinner at 6:30 pm. Stated Meeting will begin at 7:30 PM. \$15 for the dinner, payable by cash or check or online (on our website or app)



Hiram Award— Saturday. September 16, 2017

On Saturday, September 16 2017, **Wor. Rod Creason** will be honored by receiving Hiram Award.

Where:
Palo Alto Lodge 346
461 Florence St.
Palo Alto, CA

Hiram Hacker's GM Golf Tournament— Sunday. August 13, 2017

Please join for this year's Hiram Hacker's Grand Master Golf Tournament
At
Moffett Field

50 Year Celebration—Saturday, September 2, 2017

On Saturday, Aug 12 2017, **Wor. Don Groshart** will be honored by receiving 50 Year Celebration Pin

Where:
Palo Alto Lodge 346
461 Florence St.
Palo Alto, CA

Events and Announcements

Happy Birthday Brethren!

- **Jon D. Armentrout**
- **Jon W. Hamilton**
- **Christopher Zurek**
- **Dean R. Beer**
- **Loyal L. Hanson**
- **Patrick G. Bailey**
- **Richard V. Wing Jr.**
- **Robert D. Burnley**

- **Jeffery E. Seales**
- **Andrew G. Vratis**
- **Kevin D. Hall Sr.**

The Worshipful Master
extends you greetings and
invites you to join us at
our Stated Meeting for



Cornerstone Awards:

Last month, on July 28, **Worshipful Past Master. Sinsuat Andang** was honored with the Cornerstone award:



August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Schedule of Events:
		1 Stated Meeting	2 OES	3	4	5	08/01 Stated Meeting 08/02 OES
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	08/13 Hiram's Hackers 08/14 PAMTA
13 Hiram's Hackers	14 PAMTA	15	16 OES	17	18	19	08/16 OES 08/24 OAM 08/26 PA346 Committee 08/26 GW Club
20	21	22	23	24 OAM	25	26 PA Committee	
27	28 GW Club	29	30	31			

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Schedule of Events:
					1	2	09/05 Stated Meeting 09/06 OES
3	4	5 Stated Meeting	6 OES	7	8	9	09/11 PAMTA 09/16 Hiram Awards 09/19 OAM 09/20 OES
10	11 PAMTA	12	13	14	15	16 Hiram Awards	09/25 GW Club 09/20 PA346 Committee
17	18	19 OAM	20 OES	21	22	23	
24	25 GW Club	26	27	28	29	30 PA346 Com	

2017 Officers' Association Meeting Schedule

(Dinner 6:30, School of Instruction 7:30)

Date	Day	Hosting Lodge	Instruction	Inspector
Aug 13th	Sunday	Hiram's Hackers	Grand Master's Golf Tournament @Moffett Field	-
August 24th	Thurs-day	Friendship #210	Objections, Balloting	Campbell, Valdez
September 19th	Tuesday	Golden Rule #479	G.L. Preview, Funerals	Campbell, Hink
October 16th	Monday	Los Altos #712	Candidate Education/Proficiency, Elections, Reception of the Flag	Hink, Valdez
October 13 -15	Fri-Sun	Grand Lodge	Annual Communication	
October 21 or 22		WG-Fraternity #399	Grand Master's Reception (at Scottish Rite)	Valdez
November 14th	Tuesday	MV De Anza #194	GL Results, Installations, OAM Elections, Swan Song	Hink, Campbell, Valdez

2017 Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master	Raj Naidoo, PM	wm@paloalto346.org
Senior Warden	Michael Stillger	sw@paloalto346.org
Junior Warden	Robert Lott, PM	jw@paloalto346.org
Treasurer	Chuck Grech, PM	tr@paloalto346.org
Secretary	Ralph Nikolaus, PM	sec@paloalto346.org
Chaplain	Fred Beckner, PM	ch@paloalto346.org
Senior Deacon	Rod Creason, PM	sd@paloalto346.org
Junior Deacon	John Myers, PM	jd@paloalto346.org
Marshal	Don Groshart, PM	mar@paloalto346.org
Senior Steward	Sinsuat Andang, PM	ss@paloalto346.org
Junior Steward	Tony Teo, PM	js@paloalto346.org
Tyler	Larry Fama, PM	ty@paloalto346.org
Organist		org@paloalto346.org





Palo Alto Lodge #346 F. & A.M.

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<http://www.paloaltolodge346.org/>

The Palo Alto Lodge Trestle-Board :

The only publication from the lodge that reaches all its members. These publications are a framework to instruct, plan, and alert all members to the events and happenings of the lodge.

Vision Statement: We are committed to attracting men of honor, integrity, dedication, and a pleasant bearing, who strive for self-improvement and the opportunity to make a positive difference in the community, while preserving the history and ritual of the institution.

Keep Your Contact Information Current:

Notify the secretary promptly of any change of address. Please report any cases of Sickness and Distress to the Lodge, or the Master. Contact us if there are any changes in receiving the trestle-board, or if you wish to be taken off the mailing list.

Palo Alto Lodge #346

P.O. Box # 346

Palo Alto, CA 94302