



Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge No. 366, F. & A. M.

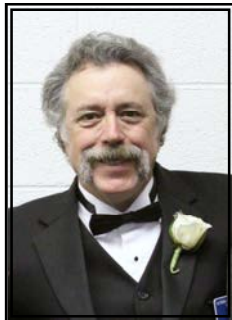
The Las Palmian

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APRIL 2012

Greetings from the East



Recently Lisa and I took a day trip up into the mountains. The fine weather and crystalline air were perfect. We were thrilled to finally get up to the snow – now that we had some – and see it before it melted.

On the trip several things stood out. We saw very few people (compared to the past). There was a wide variety of homes, cabins, and land empty and for sale. Everywhere we stopped we were over charged. A simple hamburger, not even a cheese burger, a la carte, was \$8.75. Most of the families we noticed were grand parents and grandkids, very few college-age or middle-aged people anywhere.

It must be hard to live in the mountains these days. Gas prices alone would force people to live closer to where they work, leaving who? Retirees and government salaried people? A few bold entrepreneurs with small businesses?

As a Mason and certainly as Master of a Lodge, I am well aware, in fact, intensely aware of our motto – “Brotherly love, relief, and truth”. The underlying assumption is that once one becomes a Mason he now is capable of brotherly love, now has extra to give for relief to others, and now suddenly has the power and audacity of Truth. At nearly every street corner in town and now nearly every other time I get out of my vehicle, I feel the pang of someone in need asking for help, for loose change, anything, Although I know it isn't true, I feel them intensely staring at the emblem of the Square and Compass on my truck and I am piqued by the look in their eye, and their unspoken words being formed by my own guilt “You are a Mason? Why aren't you giving me something? It's your DUTY to HELP ME!” I am sure that all Masons can relate to this experience.

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Masonic Widows;
Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge No. 366 would like to announce starting with the April Stated Meeting Dinner, all Masonic Widows will be our guest for Stated Meeting Dinners.

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Here, now, as we come into the blossom of spring and the newness of all things green, I want to explore the above issues and my personal journey with the concepts to one of exasperation and frustration toward responsibility.

Brotherly love is not necessarily simply affection for one's fellow Masons. Indeed one might not "feel" that at all, just as they may not feel love for their own blood brother. And just as one doesn't get to choose their blood-brother, they really don't have much more choice in who their Masonic brothers are. So brotherly love is more of a position statement, one of being accepted into a society, kin to moving to a new country. As a Mason we now have the ability and opportunity to learn the ways and mores, rules and taboos of our new society, to better fit in and the better to enable us to "work without contention" and looking for the path where we "best agree". It goes toward an attitude conducive to cooperativeness and harmony. The benefits of this are most realized by coming to the lodge and lodge events and interacting with the "brethren".

Relief is most frequently translated as giving. Relief means in fact, easing of pain, the lessening of oppression, loosening of bondage. There are several underlying assumptions regarding relief. The first and most obvious is simply that if in fact it is a Masonic duty to provide it, then we must be able to do so. Whether we as an individual recognize it or not, we are completely able to provide relief. In the new age vernacular this is often simplified as you always have something to give. So what is it we always have to give? When we owe 13 people money, are looking at losing our job, home, etc and someone comes up and asks for a "gift", what do we always have? How can we give relief? We always, always can give a word of praise, of encouragement, kindness.

I will never forget as a young man living on my own I was completely down on my luck, no job, no income, savings gone, facing eviction, even my few friends were avoiding me.

In desperate humiliation one evening I plucked up the courage to call my grandfather who was a wealthy man. Finally after a bit of small talk I asked him if he could send me \$600. He was silent for a long moment and then said, "All the High's have done really well – until now." I was devastated. Within a moment I went through the full gamut of embarrassment, rage, anger, pain, and tears, then slowly started to weakly chuckle. "You think I can make it?", I asked. "I know you can. You are a High. Call me again in 6 months." And he hung up.

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Was he cold hearted? A scrooge? Indeed the old coot was! \$600 was chump change to him. He could have sent me the money. But the "relief" he provided me was to prove far better. With my newborn pride and dignity, and the conviction that gramps believed I could do it, I weathered the storm. Although I was evicted, and lived in my car for several months, I got a new job and made better choices. After the 6 months, I called gramps and he offered to give me the down payment for my own house. I smiled and turned it down "I think I can handle it now. I am a High, after all."

I offer this personal story not as a "rags-to-riches" tale (which it is not!) but one of example. The elder High gave me RELIEF, a lessening of my pain, a loosening of my sense of bondage, his words struck like a sword at the tyranny of my root problem, a sense of failure and hopelessness. This is something we can give to others through OUR words, our encouragement, through our votes at the polls and the choices we make daily.

Relief also implies that we may need relief. And this may tie in with Truth. Truth means more than simply telling the truth. It can mean dispelling of illusion. Fears, worries, the cares, concerns, and perceptions of others can dog-pile us and nearly obliterate the truth. At such times we lose our footing and find ourselves on the precipice of making really bad choices – or even already did. At such times we need to stop and seek relief. A simple call to a Masonic brother (who is further down the road) or a close friend will do "Things are really dark. Give me a good word, brother" Then is the time for truth. "...whisper good counsel in his ear, gently admonishing him of his errors and in the most friendly manner endeavor to bring about a reformation".

So, by examining the precepts of our motto, by incorporating them slowly and daily what do we gain? We gain a more harmonious network of friends and brothers, we retain our dignity, and we become more capable in restraining panic and the poor choices that follow it. And in doing so, we provide more value to those around us and in our various endeavors. We do indeed become better men.

Fraternally;

Steve

Worshipful Master



Greetings from the West



We celebrated the wonderful month of March at Las-Palmas Ponderosa Lodge in fashion and style. The ladies looked wonderful in their "envy" green and my wife said that was the best corned beef and cabbage she had ever had! Thank you Brother Vitz! We are truly blessed to be surrounded by so many fine individuals whether it be in Masonry, Eastern Star, the Widows Club or our own family. Thank you to the Great Architect of the Universe for the wonderful times spent with friends and family!

April is here and we have the pleasure of recognizing our over achieving students and fabulous teachers this month. Teachers are the future of tomorrow and have the wonderful task of shaping and inspiring the youth of today. This is not always an easy task. We want to give them the "thanks" and recognition they deserve. It takes a special person to do all that they

accomplish. Exciting and stimulating the minds of tomorrow...

My wife and I had the pleasure of attending the Warden's Retreat once again and had a wonderful time. We learned a great deal about Masonry and got to spend time with fantastic people from all over the state. In the years ahead, our goal is to Educate, Engage and Excel and we look forward to all that Masonic Education has to offer.

Having the pleasure of being the Candidates Coach this year, I get to work with the youth of our organization. Even though our ritual is quite complex, it is just one of many "Stepping Stones" that brings us to *amazing* and *unique experiences* as we journey through this life. "Sacred Geometry" is just one of the many "Ancient Wisdoms of Mankind" that is just recently being "rediscovered." As the Egyptians knew of "Pi" and "Phi" these numbers were incorporated into their very foundations of life including temples, megaliths, monuments, sacred spaces, altars, art, iconography, music, light, cosmology and much, much more! It incorporates the *basic patterns of existence* (no kidding) involving space, time and form. The greatest painters, composers, musicians and architects used "Phi" (the ratio of 1 to 1.618) to create some of the most amazing works of mankind! From the **Parthenon** and **Great Pyramid** to the Vetruvian Man and the Mona Lisa, even nature uses it in to create sunflowers, pinecones, pineapples, mollusk shells, stems and petal ratio of flowers and even more amazing stuff; bone segments, geometry of crystals and even *our own DNA helix*. **Phi** is also known as the "**Golden Mean**" and "**Golden Ratio.**" It is also the **Fibonacci sequence**. If you have not heard of this fantastic number you are not alone. It was only after many years of Masonic research that I was lucky enough to be "enlightened." To not share these examples of what could possibly be "**Gods Number**" would be almost criminal. The TV show called "**Touch**" starring Kiefer Sutherland just premiered March 22 and is based on this "Fibonacci Sequence" and seems quite thrilling. This is *but just one stepping stone* on the road to enlightenment and all this life has to offer us. Enjoy!

Thank You to all the Ladies and Brethren who join us each month in camaraderie and harmony and make Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge the place to join and unite.

Fraternally;

Richard

Senior Warden

Greetings from the South



So this being my first article, I will try my hardest to not make a complete mess of it, but I wanted to share a story of what happened to me the other day.

I was sitting in my Econ 50 class when my teacher pulled out a dollar bill and started to talk about all the different parts of a dollar, including some of the symbols. I couldn't help but raise my hand and make a comment when she started to talk about the seal on the back of the dollar that has the "all seeing eye" on it. As she called on me, I started to talk about some of the conspiracy

theories surrounding our government and freemasonry, and I couldn't help but laugh to myself. Being one of the youngest Master Masons in our lodge, it suddenly hit me again that Masonic symbols are everywhere in our lives. I couldn't help but wonder why that is, and as I thought about it over the last few days, I couldn't help but wonder if it was planned by our founding fathers to help remind us of to always acting right, be good and remember the obligations we have made to the fraternity.

As Junior Warden, I am hoping to make it a project to help to bring the lodge together again under the ideas of brotherly love. Last week everyone got a phone call from the lodge with the new phone system that we had voted to start using. It is my hope that when you get a call from the lodge, you listen to it and think to yourself "can I go to lodge and spend some time with my brothers?" I hope the answer is "yes" and bring your family and friends to join us for dinner, or maybe to a meeting, or perhaps a degree on Thursday nights. Over the next year, I want to meet and get to know everyone in the lodge. If there is anything that the lodge or I can do for you whether it is a ride to lodge, someone to talk to or help with something in your life, please do not hesitate to call the lodge to ask. After all, one of the principle tenants of masonry is relief.

Fraternally;

Nathan

Junior Warden

Happy Easter



Widows Luncheon, February 29, 2012



Saturday, April 28, 2012,
Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge No. 366
will travel to
Beautiful Paradise Park, Santa Cruz, California,
Third Degree
8:00 A.M. Coffee, Rolls and Juice
9:00 A.M. Third Degree
12:00 P.M. Lunch
Come join for a great time in the beautiful redwoods!



April Dinner Menu
Appetizers
Spring Salad with dressing
Rolls
*Glazed Ham**
Mashed Sweet Potatoes
Green Beans
Bread Pudding with spiced cream sauce

**for those who cannot eat Ham, we will provide
Chicken, if ordered by Monday April 16, 2012*

April Birthday's



		<i>Raised Date</i>			<i>Raised Date</i>
Matthew C. Ford	4/2	12/4/2003	Hans C. Holt	4/21	3/31/1965
Bernard W. Mitchell	4/3	4/9/1970	Herbert B. Johnston	4/22	9/12/1985
Daniel K. Koontz	4/5	9/15/1981	Charles A. Madden, Jr.	4/22	9/8/1961
Richard C. Iknoian	4/6	7/19/1977	Harry L. Pretty	4/22	6/12/1958
Charles S. Bersani	4/7	4/18/1972	Harry M. Dyck, Jr.	4/23	3/16/1963
Jeffrey T. Banks	4/8	10/7/1999	Earl R. Jennings	4/23	8/28/1980
John A. Hopper	4/9	5/9/1981	Ervin W. Kinchen, Jr.	4/23	1/2/1975
Earl W. Vanderburgh	4/10	12/2/1967	Neale Durgarian, Jr.	4/25	9/9/1971
Robert O. Scott	4/11	6/9/2005	Thomas E. Crossland	4/27	4/27/1989
Fred W. Lindeman	4/12	9/27/1984	Robert G. Marshall	4/27	11/30/1995
William J. Williams	4/14	1/27/1987	Shane L. Burkhart	4/28	5/25/2006
Leopold Bopp	4/16	5/28/1958	Gary P. Jacobsen	4/29	9/4/2003
James K. Keeton	4/19	4/26/2008	Glynn L. Polacek	4/30	6/23/1956

IN MEMORIAM

William D. Mackrill

Born 01/25/1918– Raised 04/09/1953
 Called from labor
 March 5, 2012
 Golden Veterans Award
 12/17/2006



IN MEMORIAM

Chester M. Guffy

Born 06/25/1921– Raised 03/12/58
 Called from labor
 January 11, 2012
 Golden Veterans Award
 March 2, 2009

IN MEMORIAM

Gary A. Hernandez

Born 06/08/1954 – Raised 04/23/1987
 Called from labor
 February 26, 2012



FRESNO MASONIC WIDOWS CLUB

Wednesday, April 25, 2012, Noon
 Fresno Masonic Center
 Pizza, Salad and Dessert

President; Ethel Day
 Vice-President; Bobbi Carder
 Secretary; Hilda Johnson
 Treasurer; Jane James



Reservations Required
 For Information call (559) 276-2631

The Masonic Widows Club meets for lunch and fellowship on the last Wednesday of each month. All Masonic Widows are welcome to attend. If you have questions or would like to participate please contact;

Bobbi Carter 322-6851
 Ethel Day 276-2631



Secretaries and Treasurers School



Las Palmas Masonic Center was Host for the Secretaries and Treasurers from Canal Farm No. 312, Clovis No. 417, Fresno No. 247, Olive Branch No. 269, Sanger No. 316, Orange Belt No. 303, Visalia-Mineral King No. 128, Selma No. 277, Hanford No. 279, Sierra No. 788 and LPP No. 366

Heart of the Valley has extended our Outdoor Chore Fundraiser into a Spring Clean-Up! Give us a call and we will dispatch a team of Rainbow Girls to your house to tackle basic outdoor chores such as raking leaves, sweeping, weeding, knocking down spider webs, clean the outsides of your windows, etc. Payment is based on performance and we will be offering these services through the Spring. Contact one of our Awesome Advisory Board Members to arrange to have your outdoor chores taken care of!

Heart of the Valley visited a local Senior Residence Facility at the beginning of March. Four girls from the Assembly spent an afternoon at Gentle Hearts Senior Center in Clovis planting flowers and singing for the residents. It was such a special occasion for the residents of the home and Heart of the Valley hopes to visit with them again soon.



Congratulations to Rhiannon Corgan, Heart of the Valley's Ritual Competition winner for her age bracket in our District Ritual Competition! We look forward to having Rhiannon represent our Assembly at Grand Assembly and hope to see her perform on the Grand Floor.

Our April 11th meeting will be our Grand Assembly Parade - recounting the fantastic fun that we experienced at Grand Assembly. And Heart of the Valley will be putting on an Initiation at our April 25th Meeting. We hope that you can join us for our

meetings!

Do you know of a girl between the ages of 8-20 that could benefit from the wonderful teachings of Rainbow and our Pledge group? Let us know! We would love to invite prospective members to our fun and fantastic events!

Heart of the Valley would like to extend a very warm thank you to the members of La Sierra Venus Chapter and all of our wonderful supporters for putting on the Masonic Youth Dinner in March. We had the best time at the dinner and with the Chinese Auction - and we look forward to working with all of you again in the future. Thank you so very much for supporting our Masonic Youth!



Heart of the Valley Assembly meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 pm at the Clovis Masonic Center. We invite all members of our sponsoring bodies to come out and attend our meetings – we value your support and would love the opportunity to meet you!

Heart of the Valley Contact Information: Assistant Mother Advisor: Brenda Sullivan 559-942-0484 demolaysgirl@gmail.com ;Grand Deputy: Dana Regier 559-289-6536 jdjregier92@aol.com

2012 Officers

Worthy Matron.....	Lena Cook
Worthy Parton.....	John Herring
Associate Matron.....	Susan Quinville
Associate Patron.....	Gordon Keeton
Secretary.....	Donna Herring
Treasurer.....	Kurt Docken
Conductress.....	Cathy Lee
Associate Conductress.....	Becky Davis
Chaplain.....	Garrett Rickman
Marshall.....	Jim Wilson
Organist.....	Virgins Bergeron
Adah.....	Jeannette Foote
Ruth.....	Kay Docken
Esther.....	Judy Wallace
Martha.....	Ruth Sterry
Electa.....	Lynn Haggerty
Warder.....	Robert Davis
Sentinel.....	Bill Phelps



On Wednesday night the all Masonic Family Night dinner was held , and all money made will be presented to the three youth groups, Rainbow, Job's daughters, and DeMolay. The evening was well attended and we do so appreciate all who *BOUGHT TICKETS*, all Lodge Brothers, Scottish Rite Brothers, Eastern Star, Daughters of Nile, Family & Friends and all who attended the dinner. A fun auction was held and lots of nice items were purchased to add to the amount given to the group. We thank all who donated items for the auction. Worthy Matron Lena Cook & Worthy Patron John Herring presented the Rob Morris Award to Hilary Brogdon Chartier. This award is for outstanding service and devotion to our order by members. We are proud of her and were so happy to be able to present this award . Also presented The "*ANGELS AMONG US AWARD*" to three people who give of their time and effort to work with the three youth groups: Sister Bernice Dyck, Rasinia-Fresno Chapter O.E.S. for the Rainbow for Girls, Omer Durham of Concordia Chapter O.E.S. for Job's Daughters, and Ben Davis III of Ft. Millerton Chapter O.E.S. for the DeMolay Boys. Again "THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED IN ANY WAY TO MAKE THIS A SUCCESS" We wish a "Special" thanks to Lodge Secretary Jim and his helpers for their assistance. This was a "Team 2012" effort.

April 4th will be the Official Visit of the Deputy Grand Matron, Sister Debbie Sanborn to our chapter, please attend and help us say "Thank you" to our Teacher of the year. Refreshments at 6:30 P.M.

April 18th will be the Chapter's 67th Birthday celebration. Opening will be done by Past Matrons and Past Patrons Fifty and Twenty-five year certificates will be presented. Please come and join us. Refreshments at 6:30 by Estrellita Club.

See you at Chapter;
Lovingly,
Lena Cook
Worthy Matron





Queen, Bonnie Gorden



Daughters of the Nile held their installation of officers on Sunday Mar. 25 at the Las Palmas Lodge at 2:00 pm. Pr. Bonnie Gorden was installed as Queen for the ensuing year. Jeri Rouch as Pr. Royal, Lenore Stork as Pr. Tirzah, and newly elected, Carole Rae Littleworth as Pr. Badoura. There were approximately 130 in attendance and a lovely light dinner was provided which was served by the Job Daughters of Bethel No. 49 following the ceremony. Queen, Bonnie is looking forward to a rewarding and fun filled year. The theme for the year is high heel shoes, pearls and black & white zebra stripes. The main color is shades of pink. She invites you to attend the many functions throughout the year.

In Love of Friendship Pearls,
Bonnie Gorden, Queen



Happy Easter

from the
WIDOWS CLUB



Wednesday, February 29, 2012 Widows Meeting
Las Palmas Masonic Center



Richard Vitz prepared a great appetizer, chicken salad and banana cream pie for their February Monthly Meeting hosted by Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge.

F & A M LAS PALMAS-PONDEROSA
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



APRIL 2012



Public Schools Month

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A REQUEST TO THE FAMILY OF THE ADDRESSEE
Please notify the Lodge if our Brother is hospitalized, in a
Nursing home, change of Address or incapacitated in any way.

From the Secretaries Desk



Starting with the April Stated Meeting the Widows will be our guest for our monthly stated meeting dinners. Please call for reservations today. Nathan A. Williams was installed as our Junior Warden for 2012. We now will be calling our members and friends with recorded messages informing everyone of up coming events. April Stated Meeting Dinner we will be Serving Glazed Ham, for those who cannot eat pork we will offer chicken, reservation must be in by April 16, 2012 for chicken. *See you in Lodge!*

Happy Easter

Join us for Coffee weekday mornings .



April Lodge Calendar of Events

April 5, 2012	6:30 P.M. Maundy Thursday, Scottish Rite
April 10, 2012	6:00 P.M. Hall Association Board Meeting LPP Officers Meeting to follow.
April 12, 2012	6:00 P.M. Beer, Berrocks and Comedy
April 19, 2012	6:00 P.M. Appetizers 6:30 P.M. Dinner 7:00 P.M. Scholarship Awards, Teacher Awards
April 25, 2012	7:30 P.M. Stated Meeting, Public Schools Month 6:30 P.M. Dinner, O.S.I 7:30 P.M. Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge No 366 Selma 2 nd Degree open/obligate
April 28, 2012	8:00 A.M. Paradise Park, coffee, rolls and juice 9:00 A.M. Third Degree 12:00 P.M. Lunch

