



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



# The Las Palmian

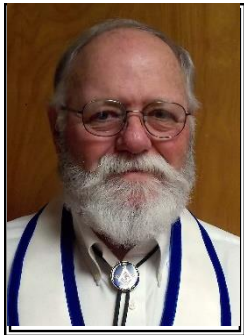
Legacy Chapter No. 555 Order of Easter Star  
Sharon Temple No. 92 Daughters of the Nile

Heart of the Valley Assembly No. 217 International Order of Rainbow for Girls

Volume XXVIII Issue 4

April 2024

## Greetings from the East



We are just about to enter the month of April and all of this pollen can leave as far as I'm concerned. My eyes are floating away! One good thing about this month is that I had the pleasure of presenting the Hiram Award last night to Andrew Miller PM for the year of 2024. He is now the 34th recipient of this award for Las Palmas Lodge. It was a joyous event and the chefs prepared an outstanding dinner for this event.

After the celebration we then opened the lodge for our monthly Stated Meeting and it was good to see Worshipful Chuck Bersani back on the sideline. We are glad you are doing better Chuck! We read a new petition last night and voted upon two new candidates too. Next up will be a third degree for brother Freddie Alcorta on March 29th. Following that brother John Wilson will be giving his third degree proficiency.

Looks as though we are off and running! Our bicycle crew has been knocking on doors at the schools to let them know that now that Covid is finally starting to leave us and we are starting our program once again. This is a worthy and meaningful event for us to put back into the community. Keep up the good work guys.

Please check the monthly calendar for the upcoming events. Masters Night Out, degrees, Stated Meetings, breakfast and practices. Come and get involved.

Fraternally,  
Bill Lyons PM  
Worshipful Master



From the West,

Congratulations to Worshipful Andrew Miller P. M. for receiving this year's Hiram Award! It is well deserved! Worshipful Miller's dedication to Lodge is something to definitely be admired, it most certainly is by me.

Sunday, April 7th we will be having a Lodge Breakfast from 8 to 11. Bring out your family and have breakfast with your brothers and continue to build that fraternal bond.

It's been refreshing to see our Lodge buzzing with activity. We have been steadily conferring degrees. I would like to thank Worshipful Richard Frey P. M. for all the coaching he does with our candidates to prepare them for advancement.

Fraternally,  
Joshua Barkley  
Senior Warden



From the South:

Greetings from the South,

Recognized worldwide, the square and compass symbolizes the foundation of our Masonic fraternity. It is not just merely the operative tools of a mason, embedded in these two symbols lies such a deeper meaning to discover.

The points of the compass symbolize a Mason's moral sense and reason. The two arms of the square point to the wisdom of connecting us to our morality, our faith, and our pursuits towards self-improvement. Looking within ourselves to examine our thoughts, our feelings, and our actions, further reflecting on whether we are living our lives to our full potential. I continue to see the square and compass as a symbol of our earthly life, reminding us to subdue our passion, and live in the moment.

In Freemasonry and another important symbolism to Masons, the point within the circle, between two parallel lines. This emblem usually viewed as an ethical teaching that enjoins us towards moderation, avoiding excess and extremes, to live a life seeking to achieve the center and remain in balance.

In closing, I encourage our officers, especially those in the chairs, to continue seeking advancement in the lodge and in Masonry.

Fraternally yours,  
Joshua Harmon PM  
Junior Warden Maybe One Day

## April Birthday's

Robert	Sloan		1
Matthew	Ford		2
Michael	Bowman	II	3
Daniel	Koontz		5
Richard	Iknoian		6
Charles	Bersani	PM	7
Howard	Pickle		7
Jeffrey	Banks		8
Chad	Schmidt		8
Kenneth	Crum	Jr.	9
Robert	Scott		11
Fred	Lindeman	Sr.	12
W.	Jarboe		13
	La		
Steve	Ferrera		14
Herbert	Johnston		22
Harry	Dyck	Jr.	23
Earl	Jennings		23
Ervin	Kinchen	Jr.	23
David	Helwig		25
Thomas	Crossland		27
Kurt	Martin		27
Shane	Burkhart		28
Walter	Hibbard	D.D.S.	29
Troy	Johnson	Jr.	29
Glynn	Polacek		30





### **From the Archives:**

Many years ago, I was visiting Fresno Lodge when they presented a special walking cane to a Past Master who had recently acquired the title of Senior Past Master. During this non-ritual ceremony, they said that the oldest Past Master, by year of being Master, is given a particular cane to have and hold until he passed away and then his successor would be presented with it. I presume that the cane is a symbol of old age and certainly a Senior Past Master would probably be old.

When I was raised in 1968, I remember looking at our Past Master's pictures in the card room with a list of our deceased Past Masters and determined that Richard Hargrave, our Master in 1954, was our oldest living Past Master. Unfortunately, I never saw Bro Hargrave in Lodge even though he did not pass away until 1978.

My calculations show that Robert Larsen Sr. who was Master in 1965, held that distinction for several years before he died in 2010. Leonard Gottner would have then received that distinction as he was our Master in 1968. Bro Leonard held that title until this February 17<sup>th</sup> when he passed away. Brother Len would have held that title for 14 years and have been a Past Master for 55 years and just over a year away from being a 75 year Mason.

Worshipful Gottner was raised in Libertas Lodge No. 466 in Bakersfield on April 18, 1950. He then moved to the Fresno area where he joined Center Lodge No. 465 and after that moved to Tulare County where he joined Lindsay Lodge No. 416. Upon his return to Fresno, he joined Las Palmas Lodge. His ritual was always perfect and as Master, his 3rd degree lecture occasionally included a recitation of all of the monitorial work.

He worked for Reynolds Aluminum as an office manager and an assistant branch manager. In 1973, his job moved him to the State of Washington where he took dual membership with Des Moines Lodge No. 245 in Des Moines, Washington. He served that Lodge actively and the Washington Grand Lodge as Deputy of the Grand Master (2-year appointment), Grand Chaplain, Grand Orator, Grand Marshall, and Jr. Grand Deacon. He might have been elected Grand Master in Washington, but was denied that honor because he was not a Past Master in Washington.

Brother Gottner was also very active in the Order of the Eastern Star in both Fresno and Des Moines, WA. He has been the Worthy Patron of several Washington Chapters a total of 16 times, including 2012. He served as Worthy Grand Patron of Washington for the year 1993-94.

Brother Gottner attended Las Palmas after serving as Master until moving to the State of Washington. I know of one occasion when he came back to visit us at Las Palmas Lodge. During the pandemic, he joined us on one of our Skype stated meetings.

After the passing of his first wife, he met a lady at an Eastern Star dinner and the two of them got married. Unfortunately, she passed away from a brain tumor within the first year of their marriage.

Brother Len was 95 years old when he passed away.

I am sure that you are curious as to who is our current Senior Past Master. Well, it is me and while I do not want nor need a cane, I do want to be a Senior Past Master for at least 14 years and a Past Master for over 50 years. At the 14-year mark, I will be 94 years old.

Like Bro Gottner who continued to give the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree lecture at his Lodge in Washington until just a couple of years ago, I continue to give the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree lecture at Las Palmas-Ponderosa Lodge.

## THE CANDIDATE POEM by R. W. Bro. Alan Heath

It was his dream to become a Mason, though he wasn't sure quite why.  
So, he made an application, then waited months for a reply.  
No committee came to pay a call to meet him and his wife,  
No invitation to Mason's Hall, nor offer of Advice.

Finally, a postcard in the mail, said "Come Monday night at six,  
And Bring us twenty dollars, if you want to see our tricks."  
He made the solitary journey, and entered by the door,  
But not one hand was offered, as he slowly crossed the floor.  
They fed him beans and hot dogs, and a piece of apple pie,  
Then led him to a little room, with no explanations why.

The work was done with care and skill, no one could argue that.  
But the candidate was forgotten, as they patted themselves on the back.  
He came to the lodge hall two more times, and was raised to the third degree,  
That was the last they saw him. what could the trouble be?  
They scratched their heads and wondered, as again they cried and moaned.  
"Our time has all been wasted! , " "We should have stayed at home."

It seems to me that they've missed the point, but they need to understand.  
It's not just how well you do the work; it's how you treat the man.  
Because you can only be a Mason, when you're a Mason in your heart;  
And along with his jacket seams, they had burst his dream apart.  
So, if you get an application, please, call on that man at once  
Invite him and his family, to tour your hall and share some lunch.  
Answer all his questions, let him share your pride.

A Mason's work, is honest work; that's not a secret to hide.  
And when it's time to present him, with the gift of a degree,  
Remember, genuine friendship is, the true gift of Masonry.  
Pick him up and take him home, isn't he worth the trip?  
No candidate should come alone. please, don't ignore this tip.  
All should rush to greet him, as he enters by your door.

Extend your hand in friendship, that's what a Mason's grip is for.  
And remember your obligation, as you lead him to the gate.  
It's up to you to guide him through, not to hurt or humiliate.  
Now armed with proper instruction, Masonry's door will open wide,  
Thanks to you, his best example, of what a Mason should be inside.

And ... thank him sincerely for coming, invite him back to his new home.  
For a brother will not be a brother, if he feels unwelcome and alone.

Happy April!

# APRIL

FLAMINGTEXT.COM



*We have many brothers who need your support, be it their wives or family members, a call, a note or stop by just to remind them we are there for them in their time of need.*

**LAS PALMAS-PONDEROSA  
LODGE NO. 366 F & A M**

**2992 East Clinton Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93703-2320  
Phone: 559-268-2303**

*E-mail: [lppmasoniclodge@comcast.net](mailto:lppmasoniclodge@comcast.net)*

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



April  
2024

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 159  
FRESNO, CA 93706

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.

From the Desk of the Secretary,

Hello all,

April to me is the month of rebirth, the flowers start blooming and the trees are budding. The sun is out longer and we have more time to do the things we enjoy. It is our hope that lodge fits in there someplace. We have been busy performing degrees and practicing our degree work. It goes to show that the officers are dedicated to our craft. It would be nice to have a larger audience for them to perform to. If you haven't been to lodge lately, you are missing meeting some delightful young men and catching up with old friends.

Hope to see you all soon,

Bryan Kincade PM, Secretary

**April Calendar**

4-4	degree/practice	7:00 PM
4-11	degree/practice	7:00 PM
4-18	Stated meeting	6:30 Dinner 7:30 pm
4-25	degree/ practice	7:00 pm



Credit card payments:

[PayPal at www.lpp366.org](https://www.lpp366.org)

2024 Dues: \$148.00

PayPal Dues: \$153.00

Credit Card: \$153.00