

BLYTHE/NEEDLES

Trestleboard

January 2024



BLYTHE/NEEDLES MASONIC LODGE

From the East: Yet Another Year

Words by **Jeff Gatchell**

Brethren,

My hope is that you had a happy and safe holiday with friends and family! If you're still here, that's good!

Congratulations to this year's officer lineup! I hope we see all of you regularly in Lodge as it does not take a huge amount of time to be involved in the fraternity. Keep your eyes peeled for anyone who expresses an interest in what Masons do. We'd always like to have a few more good men join us. If this message is put on the website prior to Saturday January 6th, that is the day of our

annual installation of officers. The time is 2pm (CA time) and we should wrap up around 5pm. We will have a short practice the night before at 7pm so we have some semblance of what we are all supposed to do on Saturday! Tuxes are, of course required for officers.

This year promises to be a fun year filled with friends and fellowship. Toward the latter part of last year we stepped up our weekday practices, and they will be continued this year, or as long as you can put up with me!

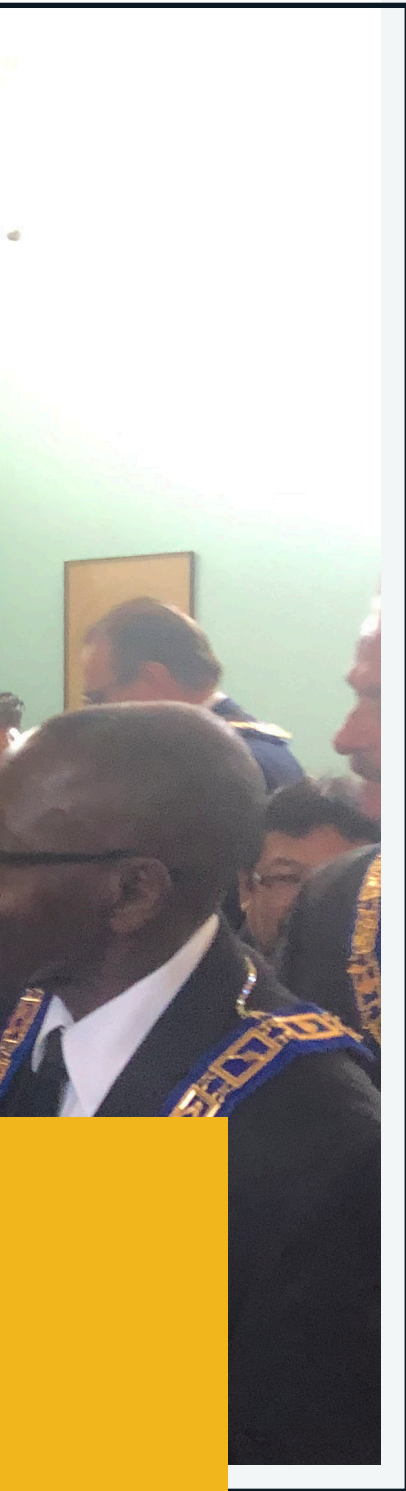
The following is on the calendar on this website. Stated meeting is still the first (cont pg 5)



Every sunrise brings a new opportunity to embrace life's blessings and start afresh.

Yet Another Year





Wednesday of every month at 7pm, California time obviously, preceded by a dinner at the Lodge one hour before. STILL the best bargain around! The second week of the month on Tuesdays and Thursdays, also at 7pm are Candidate's Coach nights. That is a great time to brush up on your position, work on a different chair for the following year, or help your candidate get to where they need to be as far as their proficiency. The 3rd week of each month on Wednesday is Officer's School of Instruction (also at 7pm). This is mandatory for officers, and led by the District Inspector. The last week of the month, again on Tuesday and Thursday (7pm CA time) are regular practices. I mention these because maintaining the minimum level of proficiency does require at least some work. We keep these to an hour, unless someone has a desire to stay longer, which I will gladly do.

I hope more of you will come out and enjoy some Lodge fellowship this year. Last year was challenging but we survived, and I look forward to a FAIR, CLEAR, and BRIGHT 2024!

Fraternally,
Jeffery Gatchell
Jeff Gatchell
Worshipful Master

LODGE DRESS GUIDELINES

Masonic tradition informs us of preferred dress in different rituals, meetings and gathering that we may attend in our masonic service. A times the prescribed articles are to teach us and place us in the same stations as previous masons have done from the acient time up to present day. Other standards of dress may progress as time moves forward. An instance is that it is quite socially acceptable to wear a hat indoors. I have even seen this social norm ignored in churches on Sunday!

Find below requested dress for different common scenarios:

Stated Meetings: Pants, coat & tie or theme of the month

Special Events: TBD by the Master

Degrees: Tuxedo or theme of degree

Hiram Award: Tuxedo

Golden Veteran Award: Tuxedo

Inspector's Official Visit: Tuxedo

Summer Wear: Pants, coat & tie or approved lodge shirt.

As we seek to set outselfs apart from other individuals and society at large, let us hold dear the standards of professional dress and tradition that matches the special and sacred occasions in which we are called to participate.

With Brotherly Love,

Stuart Ryan

Stuart Ryan, Inspector

Lodge Gratitude: 2024 Unity and Purpose

**I invite all to join in the camaraderie
of a purposeful New Year,**

Brothers,

Happy new year brothers. Wishing you a great 2024. May your year be blessed with greatness, happiness, prosperity and may great health be with you. I have enjoyed serving as your junior warden and senior warden this year. A special thank you to all the brothers that I have served with what wonderful, courageous, and determined group of men with the same purpose in mind to save our lodge from closing. I have no credible lecture for you this evening. We hope for the beginning of a new year with a new vision that can carry the cause forward and do those things that we need to do with a purposefully, with a gate in our step. you can catch me at the senior deacon's place in the lodge serving with the same brethren who are keeping and you're helping to keep the doors open. Come by and

see us sometime. We'll be glad to have you there. Thanks for all that you do. Thankyou for helping us keep this ship afloat blessings to everybody.

With Brotherly Love,

Michael Presley

Mike Presley,



Navigating the Waters of a New Year

Joining the Adventure of Service

Words by **Sutton Miller**

Greetings Brothers,

As January kicks in, it's like we're opening a brand-new chapter in our Masonic story. This month, we're gearing up for a fresh start, diving into the new year with enthusiasm and excitement for what's ahead.

This new Masonic year is our chance to unwrap the gifts of wisdom, camaraderie, and growth that Freemasonry has to offer. It's like having a treasure trove waiting to be explored—full of valuable lessons and experiences that enrich our journey.

Just like creative architects, we're here to sketch and build on the strong foundations of brotherhood and unity. Let's take this opportunity to strengthen our connections and deepen our

understanding of what it means to be part of this incredible Masonic family.

Think of this year as an open road, a chance for us to embark on an adventure. Let's explore, learn, and share experiences, each moment adding its own unique color to the mosaic of our Masonic lives.

As we navigate through this new year, let's remember that our unity is our guiding star, lighting up our path. Together, let's sail through this journey, bolstered by our unity and guided by the principles that make us Masons.

Fraternally,

Sutton Miller

Sutton Miller

Interim Junior Warden



“A journey worth telling the tale is rarely easy”

Local Masonic Officers

Grand Master
G. Sean Metroka

Grand Lecturer
Rick Lawlor
(209) 365-3697
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Div. Asst. Grand Lecturer
Vick Ropac PM
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Inspector 834th Masonic District
Stuart J. Ryan (Stu) PM, 32 deg
(760) 272-5757
PO Box 557
Blythe, CA 92225

Blythe-Needles Lodge 473
Worshipful Master
Jeff Gatchell PM
(760) 547-7427
gatche@aol.com
Stated Meeting: First Wednesday
Monthly
Dark: June, July, Sept.

Coachella Lodge 476
Worshipful Master
Mert Gayler PM, 33 deg
(760) 221-4812
mgayler@aol.com
Stated Meeting: First Thursday
Monthly

Officer Coach for Blythe-Needles
Mike Presley PM
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mspresley55@hotmail.com

Officer Coach for Coachella
Clint Atherton PM, 32 deg
(741) 392-2571
clintatherton@me.com

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January Events

Date/Time	Host/Location	Attendees	Topic
Jan 6th 2PM Installation	Blythe/Needles 473 100 E. Murphy St. Blythe Ca.	All Mason & Guest Welcome Line Officers required	Installation Of Officers
Jan 9th 7PM	Blythe/Needles 473 100 E. Murphy St.	All Mason Welcome	Candidates Coach Night
Jan 11th 7PM	Blythe/Needles 473 100 E. Murphy St.	All Mason Welcome	Candidates Coach Night
Jan 17th 7PM OSI	Blythe/Needles 473 100 E. Murphy St. Blythe Ca	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required	First Section First Degree
Jan 18th 7PM	Coachella Lodge 476 51100 Jackson St. Coachella Ca	All Mason Welcome Line Officers required	First Section First Degree
Jan 20th 8AM	Ontario Lodge 301 1025 N Vine Ave Ontario Ca	Inspectors and Coaches	Second Half of First Degree