

**OLIVE BRANCH LODGE NO. 269 F. & A.M.**

Allan D. Miller, P.M., Secretary

497 E. Sandra Ave.

Tulare, CA 93274-1522

Phone: (559) 688-0938

E-mail: [admiller37@sbcglobal.net](mailto:admiller37@sbcglobal.net)

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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**Check out the Lodge's web page:**



**NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 113  
TULARE, CA 93274**

**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. Thank you!



# **OLIVE BRANCH LODGE**

## **No. 269, F. & A.M.**

*Charter Granted – October 11, 1883*

135 W. Tulare Ave., Tulare, CA 93274  
*(Mailing address: 497 E. Sandra, Tulare, CA 93274-1522)*

## **Trestleboard**

### **October ~ 2010**

*Stated Meetings*  
*First Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M.*

**“We take good men and make them better”**

# Olive Branch Lodge No. 269

*Free and Accepted Masons*

## 2010 Officers

**Worshipful Master ----- Robert Myers, P.M.** (none) **684-8380**  
1747 E. Sonora Ave., Tulare, CA 93274-6034 email: [myersrem@att.net](mailto:myersrem@att.net)

**Senior Warden ----- Virgil Shoemaker, P.M.** (Donna) **686-4046**  
5430 Avenue 236, Tulare, CA 93274-9721 email: [shoeham@aol.com](mailto:shoeham@aol.com) cell 731-4838

**Junior Warden ----- Steve Present, P.M.** (Karen) **688-4107**  
317 Mitchell Ave., Tulare, CA 93274-1392 email: [kppresent@comcast.net](mailto:kppresent@comcast.net)

**Treasurer ----- Herb Renstrom (Pauline) 686-6290**  
949 E Lyndale Ave., Tulare, CA 93274-2963 email: [Tulare-B29@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Tulare-B29@sbcglobal.net)

**Secretary ----- Allan D. Miller, P.M.** (none) **688-0938**  
497 E. Sandra, Tulare, CA 93274-1522 email: [admiller37@sbcglobal.net](mailto:admiller37@sbcglobal.net)

**Chaplain ----- Michael Kelley (Linda) 732-0883**  
PO Box 2581, Visalia, CA 93279-2581 email: [mkgofst@pacbell.net](mailto:mkgofst@pacbell.net)

**Senior Deacon ----- Open**

**Junior Deacon ----- Robert Sutton (Cathie) 686-8846**  
2391 Dover Canyon Ct, Tulare, CA 93274-1636 email: [robertgsutton@hotmail.com](mailto:robertgsutton@hotmail.com)

**Marshall ----- Tommy Luce (Sandra) 687-9674**  
13841 Avenue 192, Tulare, CA 93274-9501 email: [Luceends1992@aol.com](mailto:Luceends1992@aol.com)

**Senior Steward ----- Andre Khal (Carla) 685-0569**  
4283 N. Enterprise St., Tulare, CA 93274-9155 email: [Khal2554@aol.com](mailto:Khal2554@aol.com)

**Junior Steward ----- Robert Moffett (Johna) 686-0216**  
1720 Paradise Ave., Tulare, CA 93274-8410 email: [poppopm72@aol.com](mailto:poppopm72@aol.com)

**Tiler ----- William Gouveia, P.M.** (none) **636-3403**  
1649 S. Demaree St., Visalia, CA 93277-4017 email: [ch-rn52@clearwire.net](mailto:ch-rn52@clearwire.net)

---

**Officers Coach ----- Virgil Shoemaker, P.M.** (Donna) **686-4046**  
5430 Avenue 236, Tulare, CA 93274-9721 email: [shoeham@aol.com](mailto:shoeham@aol.com)

**Inspector 618<sup>th</sup> District --- Bill Fulmer, P.M.** (Barbara) **734-6546**  
3002 S University St., Visalia, CA 93277-7171 email: [bill@fulmer.org](mailto:bill@fulmer.org)



## From The East

Brethren:

Congratulations to our two new Brothers Robert Hale Pinkerton and Gavin Keith Iacono on receiving their First Degree last month. Also thanks to the Officers and the Brothers from Visalia who helped us put on the degrees. Good job done by all.

We are now working on doing the Second Degree for these Brothers. We have a long lost Brother Gerald David Walls who got his First Degree back on 5/17/1988 who now wants' to continue his journey in Masonry. We also read another application at our stated meeting on 9/7/10.

This is a busy month for the Lodge; with the Fair running 9/15 thru the 19<sup>th</sup> doing Child I.D. each day followed by the monthly Officers Association meeting in Exeter on 9/21/10 then Grand Lodge starting on 9/24 thru the 26<sup>th</sup> in San Francisco.

Check the September Masonic calendar for Fair times for Child I.D. to help work in the booth.

Sincerely and Fraternally  
Robert E. Myers, PM - Worshipful Master

# YORK RITE

## TULARE CHAPTER NO.71 – ROYAL ARCH MASONS 2010 OFFICERS

*Meets Second Wednesday of month 7:30 p.m. – Dark during July and August*

**High Priest ----- Robert E. Myers** (559) 684-8380  
1747 E. Sonora Ave., Tulare, CA 93274-6034 wife: none  
Email: [myersrem@att.net](mailto:myersrem@att.net)

**King ----- Venie Puntanilla, PHP** (559) 784-8183  
696 S. Indiana St., Porterville, CA 93257-7819 wife: Pat  
Email: [mapuntanilla@yahoo.com](mailto:mapuntanilla@yahoo.com)

**Scribe ----- Open**

**Treasurer ----- Virgil R. Shoemaker** (559) 686-4046  
5430 Avenue 236, Tulare, CA 93274-9721 wife: Donna  
Email: [shoeham@aol.com](mailto:shoeham@aol.com)

**Secretary ----- Allan D. Miller, PHP** (559) 688-0938  
497 E. Sandra Ave., Tulare, CA 93274-1522 wife: none  
Email: [admiller37@sbcglobal.net](mailto:admiller37@sbcglobal.net)

**Chaplain ----- George W. Ferguson** (559) 733-0883  
31538 Road 132 B, Visalia, CA 93292-9416 wife: Pauline  
Email: [bfer26@hotmail.com](mailto:bfer26@hotmail.com)

**Captain of the Host ----- Arthur L. Bowron, PHP** (559) 686-7195  
1782 W. Bane Ave., Tulare, CA 93274-1704 wife: Louisa  
Email: [artandlouisa@aol.com](mailto:artandlouisa@aol.com)

**Principal Sojourner ----- David E. Higdon, PHP** (559) 686-0564  
1055 E. Sycamore Ave., Tulare, CA 93274-4448 wife: Cheryl  
Email: [dehigdon317@cs.com](mailto:dehigdon317@cs.com)

**Royal Arch Captain ----- Tommy F. Luce** (559) 687-9674  
13841 Avenue 192, Tulare, CA 93274-9501 wife: Sandra  
Email: [Luceends1992@aol.com](mailto:Luceends1992@aol.com)

**Master First Veil ----- William Gouveia** (559) 636-3403  
1649 S. Demaree St., Visalia, CA 93277-4017 wife: none  
Email: [ch-rn52@clearwire.net](mailto:ch-rn52@clearwire.net)

**Master Second Veil ----- Hiram D. Rice, PHP** (559) 738-9019  
2438 W. Vassar Ave., Visalia, CA 93277-4349 wife: Laverna  
Email: [hiramd@theworks.com](mailto:hiramd@theworks.com)

**Master Third Veil ----- Richard A. Parks, PHP** (559) 798-0007  
31329 Tower Rd., Visalia, CA 93292-9301 wife: none  
Email: [raspider@clearwire.net](mailto:raspider@clearwire.net)

**Sentinel ----- Open**

**Inspector ----- David E. Higdon, PHP** (559) 686-0564  
1055 E. Sycamore Ave., Tulare, CA 93274-4448 wife: Cheryl  
Email: [artandlouisa@aol.com](mailto:artandlouisa@aol.com)



**TULARE CHAPTER NO. 71  
ROYAL ARCH MASONS  
High Priest's Message**

Companions

Septembers Stated Conclave was one to remember. The pot luck was great, fried chicken and tri-tip. Also attending dinner was Chester and Carol Jackson, and Janeen Roberts along with her mother, and Aunt Bee.

We had the Grand High Priest Teddy G. Hammack and 4 other Grand Officers in attendance. They were:

- |                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Grand High Priest              | Teddy G. Hammack   |
| Grand Chaplain North           | Tommy L. Wells     |
| Grand Royal Arch Captain       | Steven R. Goad     |
| Grand Master of the First Veil | Robert L. Ludy Jr. |
| Grand Marshal North            | Leland G. Routt    |

They all pitched in so that we were able to fill all the stations, and we really had a fun time. And I believe a good time was had all!!!

Thanks again to all of you who helped us with the waffle breakfast, you were very much appreciated. The breakfast was a great success for the first one – we served about 50.

Robert E. Myers, High Priest

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**Tulare County Scottish Rite Club – TCSRC**

Brethren:

The “FALL PARTY” at the Olive Garden Restaurant in Visalia has **been change from September 26, 2010 to September 12, 2010** due to Grand Lodge dates an the Tulare County Fair.

There will be a Board meeting at Nielson’s Restaurant in Tulare on October 15, 2010, a Friday, at 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy a safe summer vacation.

Venie R. Puntanilla. President

**York Rite**  
**Visalia Council No.43 – Cryptic Masons**  
**2010 Officers**

**Meeting dates 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of Jan., Mar., May, Sept, & Nov.**

**Illustrious Master ----- Venie R. Puntanilla** [Pat]

696 S Indiana St. Porterville, CA 93257-7819

Home: (559) 784-8183

Email: [mapuntanilla@yahoo.com](mailto:mapuntanilla@yahoo.com)

**Deputy Master ----- Ralph Medeiros** [Susan]

45543 Butternut Lane, Squaw Valley, CA 93675-9765

Home: (559) 338-2925 Cell: (559) 313-1001

Email: [rpm34@earthlink.net](mailto:rpm34@earthlink.net)

**Principal Conductor Of The Work -- Jimmy Barrera** [Francisca]

682 Sunset Ave., Lemoore, CA 93245-1790

Home: (559) 362-4313 Work: (559) 924-9193

Email: [none](#)

**Treasurer ----- Dick Parks** [none]

31329 Tower Rd., Visalia, CA 93292-9301

Home: (559) 7980007

Email: [raspider@clearwire.net](mailto:raspider@clearwire.net)

**Recorder ----- Allan D. Miller, IPM** [none]

497 E Sandra, Tulare, CA 93274-1522

Home: (559) 688-0938

Email: [admiller37@sbcglobal.net](mailto:admiller37@sbcglobal.net)

**Chaplain ----- George "Bill" Ferguson** [Pauline]

31538 Road 132 B, Visalia, CA 93292-9416

Home: (559) 733-0883 Cell: (559) 260-9925

Email: [bfer26@hotmail.com](mailto:bfer26@hotmail.com)

**Captain Of The Guard --- Peter Cunningham** [Janet]

1978 W Berkshire Ln, Hanford, CA 93230-9158

Home: (559) 584-0550

Email: [peter347@comcast.net](mailto:peter347@comcast.net)

**Conductor Of The Council --- Roland Dillon** [Betty]

P.O. Box 443, Armona, CA 93202-0443

Home: (559) 584-8187

Email: [none](#)

**Steward --- Stephen Healy** [none]

11408 Grant St, Armona, CA 93202-9618

Home: (559) 582-6905 Work: (559) 997-8905

Email: [none](#)

**Sentinel --- Robert Myers, IPM** [none]

1747 E Sonora Ave., Tulare, CA 93274-6034

Home: (559) 684-8380

Email: [myersrem@att.net](mailto:myersrem@att.net)

**ADR (Assistant Director of Ritual, Department 3, Cryptic Arch 8, 9 and 10)**

**David Higdon, IPM** [Cheryl]

1055 E Sycamore, Tulare, CA 93274-4448

Home: (559) 686-0564 cell: 308-6806

Email: [Dehigdon317@cs.com](mailto:Dehigdon317@cs.com)

**Inspector – Steven Goad, IPM** [Sharon]

101 Kathy Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555-6317

Home: (760) 939-9704 Cell: (760) 608-1585

Email: [steve.goad@navy.mil](mailto:steve.goad@navy.mil)



**Visalia Council No. 43  
Cryptic Masons  
Illustrious Master's Message**

Companions:

As you read this message for our October Trestleboard, our September stated assembly may still be in progress. Thus, no report yet on what has transpired.

The Colorado River Fall Festival that will take place in Laughlin, Nevada on October 17 - 20, 2010 is just around the corner now. This is a reminder to those who are planning to go, as well as the candidates who want to climb aboard. Welcome, brethren!!!

We will hold our Elections for our incoming set of officers in our November Assembly. I encourage more members to attend and participate, take more active roles, and move up the ladder of elective and appointive positions to assume more responsibility for the betterment of our Fraternity.

So long Brethren and GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Quotation to live by: "Some folks are wise, But most are otherwise."

Venie R. Puntanilla, Illustrious Master

**Visalia Council – Committees for 2010**

**Auditing Committee**

Roland Dillon

Stephen Healy

**Standing Committee**

IM – Venie Puntanilla

DM – Ralph Medeiros

PCW – Jimmy Barrera

**Membership Committee**

Richard Parks

Jimmy Barrera

George "Bill" Ferguson

Venie Puntanilla

Ralph Medeiros

**YORK RITE**  
**Tulare Commandery No.66 - Knights**  
**Templar**  
**2010 Officers**

*Meets First Wednesday of month 7:30 p.m. – Dark during July and August*

**Commander ----- Tommy F. Luce** (Sandra) (559) 687-9674  
13841 Avenue 192, Tulare, CA 93274-9501 email:[Luceends1992@aol.com](mailto:Luceends1992@aol.com)

**Generalissimo ----- Venie Puntanilla, PC** (Pat) (559) 784-8183  
696 S Indiana St.Porterville, CA 93257-7819 email:[mapuntanilla@yahoo.com](mailto:mapuntanilla@yahoo.com)

**Captain General ----- Richard Wolfe, PC** (Katherine) (559) 798-1984  
31136 Mountain View St., Visalia, CA 93292-9309 email: [rlkdwolfe@aol.com](mailto:rlkdwolfe@aol.com)

**Senior Warden ----- George “Bill” Ferguson** (Pauline) (559) 733-0883  
31538 Road 132 B, Visalia, CA 93292-9416 email: [bfer26@hotmail.com](mailto:bfer26@hotmail.com)

**Junior Warden ----- Arthur L. Bowron, PC** (Louisa) (559) 686-7195  
1782 W. Bane Ave., Tulare, CA 93274-1704 email: [artandlouisa@aol.com](mailto:artandlouisa@aol.com)

**Treasurer ----- Virgil R. Shoemaker** (Donna) (559) 686-4046  
5430 Avenue 236, Tulare, CA 93274-9721 email:[shoeham@aol.com](mailto:shoeham@aol.com)

**Recorder ----- Allan D. Miller, PC** (none) (559) 688-0938  
497 E. Sandra Ave., Tulare, CA 93274-1522 email:[admiller37@sbcglobal.net](mailto:admiller37@sbcglobal.net)

**Prelate ----- Austin E. Miller** (Loretta) (559) 627-2876  
31506 Road 132 B, Visalia, CA 93292-9382 email: [ChifeAEMiller@aol.com](mailto:ChifeAEMiller@aol.com)

**Sword Bearer ----- William M. Gouveia** (none) (559) 636-3403  
1649 S. Demaree St, Visalia, CA 93277-4017 email: [ch-rn52@clearwire.net](mailto:ch-rn52@clearwire.net)

**Standard Bearer -----Hiram D. Rice, PC** (Laverna) (559) 738-9019  
2438 W. Vassar Ave. Visalia, CA 93277-4349 email:[hiramd@theworks.com](mailto:hiramd@theworks.com)

**Warder -----David E. Higdon, PC** (Cheryl) (559) 686-0564  
1055 E. Sycamore Ave. Tulare, CA 93274-4448 email:[dehigdon317@cs.com](mailto:dehigdon317@cs.com)

**Sentinel -----Robert E. Myers, PC** (none) (559) 684-8380  
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**\*Inspector -----Steven Goad, PC** (Sharon) cell (760) 608-1585  
101 Kathy Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555-6317 email: [steve.goad@navy.mil](mailto:steve.goad@navy.mil)

**Officers Coach -----Richard Wolfe, PC** (Katherine) (559) 798-1984  
31136 Mountain View St., Visalia, CA 93292-9309 email: [rlkdwolfe@aol.com](mailto:rlkdwolfe@aol.com)



## **TULARE COMMANDERY NO. 66**

### **KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**

### **Commander's Message**

Sir Knights,

Greetings to each of you! Our next Conclave is Wednesday, October 6, 2010. There will be a Potluck at 6:30 before the scheduled meeting. Hope everyone can come out and enjoy the visiting and fellowship during the dinner.

Fred Ervast, ADR Dept. III was present at our last meeting and some of his suggested guidelines were discussed for the new term.

Hey, Guys, get your checkbooks out. Soon you will be getting your dues notices. Remember Tulare Commandery No. 66 voted for the dues increase to \$60.00.

I sure appreciate Venie Puntanilla presiding over our Conclave and all of you that have attended the meetings.

Blue Lodge and Eastern Star activities are starting up here in Salmon, Idaho.

Recently the newly appointed Sherriff was out here to read the VIN No. on a bug I bought for parts. We were visiting over a cup of coffee and I mentioned how being a Mason really opened up door for us here in Salmon in 1995. He immediately said he, too was a Mason and belonged to all the bodies in Boise. I am not the first to try to get him to our meetings.

This summer we have been attending the United Methodist Church. The minister was the recipient of the Commandery trip to the Holy Lands a few years ago and that summer during our annual York Rite meeting he gave a power point presentation. He sure enjoyed it.

The last Sunday in August we attended the all Masonic Picnic at Challis Hot Springs. A Shrine group from Boise was in attendance with a report from the Shrine's Hospital in Salt Lake and Oregon. The Idaho WGM was there also. A good time was had by all and lots of good food.

Don't forget our Conclave Wednesday, October 6, 2010 with the Pot Luck at 6:30 PM.

Wishing God's blessings on everyone.

Fraternally,

Tommy F. Luce, Eminent Commander

**York Rite**  
**SEQUOIA COUNCIL NO. 228**  
**ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES – (AMD)**  
**2010 Officers**

*Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of Quarter – March – June – September - December*

**Sovereign Master ----- Robert E. Myers** (none) 684-8380  
1747 E. Sonora Ave., Tulare, CA 93274-6034 email: [myersrem@att.net](mailto:myersrem@att.net)

**Senior Warden ----- Richard Parks** (none) 798-0007  
31329 Tower Rd, Visalia, CA 93292-9301 email: [raspider@clearwire.net](mailto:raspider@clearwire.net)

**Junior Warden ----- William Gouveia** (none) 636-3403  
1649 S. Demaree St., Visalia, CA 93277-4017 email: [none](mailto:none)

**Secretary -----Allan D. Miller, PSM** (none) 688-0938  
497 E Sandra, Tulare, CA 93274-1522 email: [admiller37@sbcglobal.net](mailto:admiller37@sbcglobal.net)

**Senior Deacon ----- Venie Puntanilla, PSM** (Pat) 784-8183  
696 S. Indiana St., Porterville, CA 93257-7819  
email: [mapuntanilla@yahoo.com](mailto:mapuntanilla@yahoo.com)

**Junior Deacon ----- Open**

**Chaplain ----- Tommy Luce, PSM** (Sandra) 687-9674  
13841 Avenue 192, Tulare, CA 93274-9501 email: [lucends1992@aol.com](mailto:lucends1992@aol.com)

**Tyler -----Open**

**NOTE – MEETING DATES FOR 2010**

~~Wednesday – March 31<sup>st</sup> – 6:30 p.m. – Nielsen’s Restaurant – Tulare –  
Meeting at Tulare Lodge after dinner~~

~~Sunday – July 11<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 p.m. – BBQ pot luck at Allan Miller’s house –  
497 E Sandra, Tulare, Ca – meeting at Allan’s if needed~~

Wednesday – September 22<sup>nd</sup> – 6:30 p.m. – Ryan’s Restaurant & Bakery  
3103 S Mooney Blvd. Visalia, Ca – Meeting at Tulare Lodge after dinner

Wednesday – December 22<sup>nd</sup> – 6:30 p.m. – Apple Annie’s  
1165 N Blackstone St., Tulare, Ca – Meeting at Tulare Lodge after dinner –  
(*Election & Installation*)



**AMD**  
**Sequoia Council No. 228**  
**Sovereign Master's Message**

Companions

Our next schedule meeting is Wednesday September 22, 2010 starting with a dinner at Ryan's Restaurant & Bakery, 3103 S Mooney Blvd., Visalia at 6:30 pm with the stated meeting at the Tulare Lodge in Tulare after dinner.

We'll see you there.

Robert E. Myers, Sovereign Master

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**Visalia Rainbow Assembly #55**

Please mark your calendars for the Pumpkin Pie sale in November. The girls will start taking orders in October. So let us help you with you Pumpkin Pies for your dinner or a nice gift for the holidays for that special neighbor.

**Fresh 10 inch pies for \$8.00 each. Let us help you at Thanksgiving.**

Kelly Martin; Mother Advisor / Visalia Assembly # (559) 595-7975

Dick Parks, Advisor

# Lodge No.269 – October –Birthdays

- 7 Earl R. Smith
- 21 Clifton L. Cleek
- 22 Georgan Davis
- 24 Ronald P. Neve



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## **Sick Call: ~ nothing to report.**

If you know of a Brother who is sick please let me know so I can put him on this list.

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## **Pot-Luck dinners and dates for 2010**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day of week</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Time</u>
October 6, 2010	Wednesday	Commandery	6:30 pm
November 2, 2010	Tuesday	Blue Lodge	6:00 pm
December 8, 2010	Wednesday	Royal Arch	6:30 pm

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From the desk of the Secretary,

Please check your dues card for all groups:

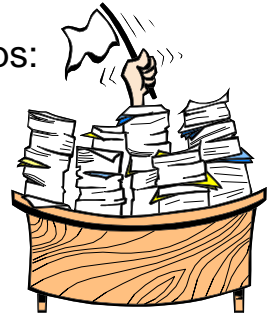
**Olive Branch Lodge No. 269**

**Tulare Chapter No. 71**

**Visalia Council No. 43**

**Tulare Commandery No. 66**

**Sequoia Council No. 228**



Make sure they are all for **YEAR 2010**, if not you are delinquent in your dues. If you know of any brother who might be struggling to pay his dues, or is having health or financial problems, please call the Secretary/Recorder at (559) 688-0938.



## Lodge Supports Local Boy Scout Troop #267

The Lodge supports our local Boy Scout Troop #267. The Boy Scout Troop #267 will be having a **pancake breakfast** at the Lodge on Sunday - October 17, 2010 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm - \$6.00 if you get your tickets early - \$7.00 at the door.

You can call Andre Khal (559) 685-0569 for tickets and information.

Come own out and make Andre work (he will be making pancakes for you) and support their fundraiser. You can't get a better breakfast anywhere else for the price.



### Notice LIFE MEMBERSHIP FRESNO SCOTTISH RITE

Wayne H. Towne, 33° has just notified the Secretary of all bodies that he will purchase a life Membership in the Fresno Scottish Rite bodies for any Mason joining the Scottish Rite in the November Class who is 28 years of age or younger.

## TULARE TEMPLE BOARD NEWS

### *The Lodge Building is available for rent*

Contact Allan Miller at 686-0938 or Andre Khal at 685-0569 if you are interested in renting the building for an event so that a price quote can be provided and a Rental Agreement made available. Deposit and Certificate of Insurance is required.



We have two local groups not renting our Lodge each month. They are The Noon Rotary (each Friday at noon) and the Tulare County Tea Party (the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 6:00 pm.)



## **TULARE TEMPLE BOARD NEWS**

This section is devoted to the news and events involving your Temple Board and the eight men who work to keep the building at 135 W. Tulare Avenue looking good and in working condition.

There are now two community organizations that are meeting regularly at the Lodge building.

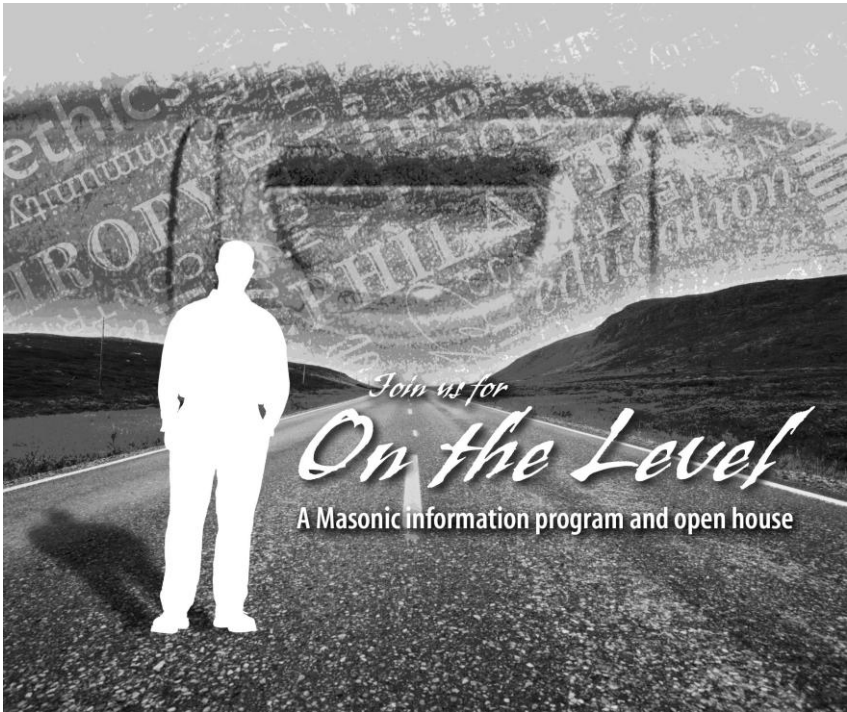
The Tulare Noon Rotary meet every Friday at noon and have been very happy with the building location, parking and facilities. The Rotarians have even installed at their expensed an overhead screen, ceiling projector and communication cable that allows for computer interface. The Rotarians use this audio visual equipment as part of their weekly meetings. Visit their website at <http://www.rotary5230.org/tulare/pages/main.html>

The Central Valley Tea Party chapter in the Visalia/Tulare area now use our building on the first and third Thursdays. These meetings are well attended and in fact recently they used every chair available downstairs in the building for the large number of people who were there. The Central Valley Tea Party has some interesting speakers and you should consider attending their meetings. Visit their website at: <http://www.centralvalleyteaparty.com/page/visaliatulare-1>

In both cases these organizations provide an opportunity for the public to see our building and have an opportunity to ask who and what we are about. This type of good community publicity is necessary if we are to attract good men to become members of Olive Branch Lodge.

By Steve Present – Sec/Treasurer Masonic Temple Company

**October 12, 2010 at 6:30 pm at the Lodge**



This Masonic information program will benefit our lodge in several important ways:

- Raise awareness in the community
- Attract potential new members
- Promote Member involvement

It allows us to extend an invitation to a potential new member of our lodge. This event is open to men and their families who would like to know more about Masonry or who are interested in membership.

**BE SURE TO RECOMMEND  
A GOOD MAN YOU KNOW!**

# **Olive Branch Lodge No.269 – Committees for 2010**

## **Master's Advisory Board**

Robert Myers, P.M. - WM  
Virgil Shoemaker, P.M.  
Allan D. Miller, P.M.  
Stephen Present, P.M.

## **Activities**

Stephen Present, P.M.  
Andre Khal  
Robert Sutton  
Robert Moffett

## **Auditing**

Stephen Present, P.M.  
Robert Moffett

## **Lodge Ambassador**

Allan D Miller, P.M.

## **Charity**

Robert Myers, P.M., WM  
Virgil Shoemaker, P.M., SW  
Stephen Present, P.M., JW

## **Investments**

Herb Renstrom  
Allan D. Miller, P.M.  
Virgil Shoemaker, P.M.

## **Member Retention**

Robert Myers, P.M., WM  
Chester Jackson, P.M.  
Virgil Shoemaker, P.M.  
Stephen Present, P.M.  
Tommy Luce

## **Public Schools**

Allan D. Miller, P.M.  
Robert Myers, P.M., WM  
Steve Present, P.M.

## **Tulare Temple Board Members**

Michael Kelley – 2010  
Stephen Present, P.M., Secretary/Treasurer – 2010  
Herb Renstrom – 2010, 2011  
Robert Sutton – 2010, 2011  
Tommy Luce – President – 2010, 2011, 2012  
Allan D. Miller, P.M. – 2010, 2011, 2012  
Robert Myers, P.M., Vice-President (Ex-officio member) – 2010  
Virgil Shoemaker, P.M. (Ex-officio member) – 2010

## **Temple Rental – Trestleboard Contact:**

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## LEMOORE DEMOLAY CHAPTER

The summer quickly passed and all the young men are now working hard in school, at football and band practices as well as other civic endeavors. It is with great pride that I can report that the Mayor of Lemoore, John Murray, presented the Lemoore DeMolay Chapter with an Proclamation in response to their outstanding civic and patriotic activities this year. Our next stated meeting is at the Lemoore Masonic Lodge at 7:00 p.m. on Sept. 13,2010.

Worshipful Master D. W. Venturella and the Hanford Masonic Lodge will be hosting Cornerstone Ceremony at Joseph Simas Elementary School on 1875 N. Fitzgerald St. in Hanford. at 9:00 a.m. on September 14. Most Worshipful Kenneth G. Nagel, Grand Master will be presiding.

Our stated meeting on September 27th will be a Fun Night. Details to be discussed and finalized at the stated meeting.

On October 2, the Grand Masters class will be held in Oakland Scottish Rite building. The October 11th Stated meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Lemoore lodge. The October 25th meeting will be the Fun event. Planning is in work for a Halloween Lock-in party at the Masonic lodge. Details on the October events still in the planning stage.

The Lemoore Chapter International Order of DeMolay meets every 2nd and 4th Monday of the Month at the Lemoore Masonic lodge at 647 West Bush St. Lemoore, CA. New members are always welcome. Just ask any member for a application.

James Sperlich  
Advisory Chairman

## **Freemasonry: Education - The Unspeakable Masonic Word**

**When we speak of "Masonic education," we are needlessly redundant.** Freemasonry is education, simultaneously moral instruction, spiritual enlightenment and intellectual growth so that a man may come to know - and improve - himself. But this isn't supposed to be a solitary activity; Freemasonry also is a brotherhood. The Master Mason Lecture explains the symbolism of the Beehive: "He who will not endeavor to add to the common stock of knowledge may be deemed a drone in the hive of nature, a useless member of society, and unworthy of the care and protection of Masons." Together the brethren seek "that which was lost." What was lost? Truth. It is that search after Truth that makes Freemasonry philosophical, and where there is a love of wisdom, education is the act of courtship.

**Because Freemasonry's teachings intentionally address the fundamental and perpetual curiosities of man, it can accurately be said that it is education without limit in both appeal and scope.** Truly any wholesome field of study or discipline intersects somewhere along Freemasonry's path of learning and much of Masonic teaching coincides with the Humanities. Masonry reveals itself through ritual. These centuries-old ceremonies are a framework, or more accurately, a map that each Freemason may follow in his search for Truth. To summarize just one aspect of this process, as an Apprentice, the newly initiated Mason is taught to subdue his passions while letting the Four Cardinal Virtues guide him toward candid self-awareness. From this ceremony one finds commonality with Plato and Aquinas. The former saw these virtues as a recipe for a perfect society; the latter adapted the virtues for the betterment of an individual's attitudes, values and behavior. Next, as a more experienced Mason called a Fellowcraft, he is shown the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences: Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Geometry, Music and Astronomy guide the Masonic student as they had the thinkers who gave Western civilization its Renaissance, Reformation and Enlightenment, with all the culture contained therein. A proper understanding of the Arts and Sciences empowers Masonic man to make his mind the rational master of his primal Five Senses of hearing, seeing, feeling, smelling and tasting, and so this progress builds upon the Platonic-Thomist foundation. In the Third Degree of Freemasonry, the Master Mason is sufficiently aware of his place in the universe so as to fear no danger, not even death itself. Ultimately, upon exiting the Holy of Holies for the final time, the Master Mason goes gamely "into that good night" knowing that there is no sting of death and no victory of the grave, but only eternal life.

**We've dubbed Education "The Unspeakable Masonic Word" because it seems like no one ever talks about it.** The various research lodges, study

groups and the like are treated like red light districts where only the furtive venture in search of the forbidden. So at first you're pretty much on your own. To get started, think about what you most desire to know about Freemasonry, and then go find the answers. Easy? No, but it shouldn't be. Depending on the subject, a researcher can spend months looking for a long out-of-print book; even years can pass before inadvertently coming across a needed factoid in an unexpected source. Naturally the internet delivers limitless information, but - even as with books - one must exercise discriminating choice. Again, let the ritual be your map. Choose an unfamiliar word, an odd phrase, a seemingly antiquated idea. Then define it. Identify its Masonic significance and apply that meaning to a broader context of how it could benefit others; and then translate that idea into your own words so that you take possession and internalize it. Once it is yours, it is there as a tool for use in your growth, and it's there for good. Repeat the process, as needed, for life.

**That education is interwoven in Freemasonry is a reality that predates modern Masonry itself.** In the *Old Charges* - the dozens of manuscripts penned over the course of more than three centuries prior to the start in 1717 of the Masonic Order we know today - are found clear procedures on how new members of the building trade were to be schooled in their craft over long spans of time. In the *Halliwel Manuscript*, believed written in the 14th century and the earliest of these documents, are found the "Fifteen Articles for the Master Mason," including:

3. He must take apprentices for seven years, his craft to learn.
11. He must be both fair and free and teach by his might.
12. He shall not disparage his fellow's work.
13. He must teach his apprentice.

Nor is there anything extraneous about the grave consequence awaiting the unskilled, untested, and unlucky operative builder in the ancient world. The pre-Biblical Babylonian ruler Hammurabi set down a legal code that included:

*If a builder has built a house for a man and has not made his work sound, so that the house he has made falls down and causes the death of the owner of the house, that builder shall be put to death. If it causes the death of the son of the owner of the house, they shall kill the son of that builder.*

**Clearly the importance of education in the building arts is indisputable.** (Remember that the funny-looking cap you wore at graduation is called a mortarboard.) Today Freemasonry's instruction is all presented in allegory and symbolism, but the education is no less crucial to the Speculative Mason's life. Tragically few seem to understand or want to understand, and this power goes neglected in the quotidian realities of contemporary

Masonry. Why? Because it is hard work! In mastering his Craft, Masonic Man spends his life relentlessly scrutinizing himself, the condition of his fellow man and of the world, and the role of the Great Architect of the Universe in it all. It is not by accident that the hard labor of constructing in stone is the metaphor through which Masonry's instruction is imparted. Nor is it by chance that the seeker of the degrees of Freemasonry is repeatedly tested for his willingness to proceed further. While the teachings of Freemasonry are universal - "Every human being has a claim upon your kind offices." - it was never intended for every human being to enter its temples, and yet its doors have been flung open for many years allowing practically any man to enter. Consequently, the libraries that once were busy beehives have been converted to other, more simple purposes, their books locked away in storage, forgotten. (Indeed the word "temple" itself, as in a place for conTEMPLation, has been abandoned for the monotonous "Masonic center.") Simultaneously, the discussions that once compelled Masons to reconsider their opinions, to re-examine their very lives, and to improve their world have been replaced by charity walk-a-thons and other activities that, while helpful, should be entrusted to our neighbors in the Lions, Kiwanis and Elks organizations. While organizing and staging a charity fundraiser is a big job, it is child's play compared to the vital challenge of metabolizing Masonic thought, and achieving that state of being where the heart of Jerusalem meets the mind of Athens.

**In the fundamental duty of educating oneself and one's fellow Masons, we today are not negligent.** We are uninformed, and the craziest thing about it is that the ritual tells us what to do. Remember the advice imparted to you upon your first knocks on the Inner Door: "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." One's search is a personal endeavor, but there are friends to help you along the way. When enough of us start speaking aloud about Masonic education we can restore to its rightful place the paramount purpose of Freemasonry: to labor together in replenishing the "common stock of knowledge" in our pursuit of Truth.

*Source: Knights of the North Masonic Dictionary*  
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