

# The Trestleboard

FEBRUARY 2021 | ISSUE no 2 VOL 169



## ONWARD INTO THE YEAR

Messages from the officers on civility and positivity.

Also, a message from the new SJ Shrine Club President, Bro. Matthew Harris

PLUS - info on our upcoming virtual stated meeting and a message from the Grand Lodge Outreach Program

COVER: A screenshot from one of our January Fellowship Zoom meetings. Please join us!

# From the East

Worshipful Sonny Gotos, Jr.

BRETHREN & FRIENDS,

I hope this month's edition of the Trestleboard finds your family happy, healthy, and doing well.

I recently had the opportunity to help out a lodge widow with her new printer. It was one of those wireless ones and she felt out of her element trying to connect the thing to her computer. As the resident IT help desk manager for Morning Star, I'm the go-to guy for these things.

So, one morning I drove over and helped her set the printer up. It took longer than expected to figure out the wireless set up, but I didn't mind because that afforded me the time to chat with our brother's widow about how things were going and also reminisce about her departed husband.

I'm happy to report that all is well with her. Moreover, I feel incredibly blessed to have had the opportunity to help her in some way and to keep the memory of her husband alive.

He was one of the sideliners who was part of a small, but vocal, group of jokesters. When I was first introduced to the Craft, I very distinctly recall their group in the north (northeast?) side of the lodge room hamming it up at every stated meeting and every degree. You'd hear a belly laugh every once in a while from them, as if they were the pair of old guys from the Muppets, which would prompt us to laugh, too.

The experience of talking to this lodge widow about her husband, our honorable brother, made me think of the concept of immortality through memory. As I share my memory of him with all of you, vague and anonymous as it is, I can't help but feel that our brother is still here with us - still having a positive impact - and that is a wonderful thing.

Keep making memories, my brethren! In due time, our present difficulties will pass and I hope that when you look back upon this period, it will be filled with positive memories.

Sincerely & Fraternaly Yours,

Bro. Sonny Gotos, Jr.

Worshipful Master



# From the West

Brother Daniel M. Tao

SALUTATIONS BRETHREN AND FAMILY,

February has always been a transition month, and for the East Asian cultures, February 3rd is always the transition for the beginning of Spring. Lunar new years is considered the Spring Festival in this light. The traditional festivals are reflective of the agricultural roots of the cultures; they are organized around the seasonal equinox and the solstices, much like the feast days in Masonry. And this year in Morning Star Lodge #19, it will definitely be a transition year. In Chinese geomantic practices, this year of 2021 is the year of the Metal Ox will be “part 2” for 2020, it will be the continuation and the conclusion of the Covid Pandemic, as well as the ramifications of all of the events of 2020. I will personally be looking forward towards 2022.

My goal as Senior Warden for 2021 is to be ready to have a successful 2022 for Morning Star. My main focus is to prepare, for whoever is going to be in the Oriental Chair in 2022, for the 100th year anniversary of the Masonic Temple. Our Most Excellent Secretary, Brother Moore, has already got us on the Grand Master’s calendar. As it is the Temple’s Centennial, it will be a Masonic Family event, and we will be seeking input to decide what kind of event to host for the Centennial from all of the tenants of the Temple. I’ll be forming a steering committee, and if you are interested in helping out, or if you have an idea of how to celebrate and showcase the Stockton Masonic Temple’s history, culture, and pride, then please, don’t hesitate in contacting our Brother Secretary, or Worshipful Baker, or me and reach out.

The Masonic Temple is a source of pride and is unique to Stockton, as well as our Lodge’s relationship with our Temple. Let’s work together to show our brethren, and our community what it means to us.

Stay well my family.

Fraternally,

Daniel Tao, Sr. Warden





## FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

Greetings Friends and Brothers,

I know that it seems as if it has been a tumultuous and frightening time in the news. Fear is running rampant with increasing issues with the Corona Virus and the danger that it represents. While there is a vaccine here ready to help us there seems to be issues getting needles into arms. Finally, the events in Washington are disconcerting at best.

As Masons, Americans, and even human beings we all have an opinion, and I would be willing to bet that each person's opinion is different from the other. However, as Masons we have also learned to respect the other's opinion and stand with him in brotherhood. With the events going on in the world I would like to think that we are adhering to that lofty standard.

Unfortunately, I have seen quite the opposite coming from a lot of our brothers (not just Morning Star) and the anonymity of the keyboard seemingly provides them a cover to detract from the Masonic principles that we have all taken an obligation to uphold. I would urge each and every one of us to think before we speak and read what we write before we press the fateful send button. Once the word is said or published there is no taking it back, and what may have been an otherwise great

relationship is tarnished forever. Please be mindful of what you say.

On a lighter note, I would like to wish our Sweethearts a Happy Valentine's Day! Please know that you are highly thought of and present in our minds always. You are an essential part of Morning Star and you are always welcome to our events and gatherings. Once this pandemic lifts it is my hope that we will be able to reunite once again deliver those long overdue roses and show our appreciation to you.

On a less than lighter note, but more on a secretarial side of things. Pay Your Dues. Dues for 2021 are now due and payable. If you have yet to pay your dues, you are no longer in good standing. This will deprive you of the right to vote, advance in degrees, hold office, and even have membership in other lodges or concordant bodies. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact me at (209) 601-1448 or [Roger.ramlaw007@gmail.com](mailto:Roger.ramlaw007@gmail.com).

Keep your eye out for Lodge events (even if we cannot meet) as we would like to keep everyone involved in the Friendliest Lodge in the State.

See Y'all in Lodge!!!

Fraternally,



## SCOTTISH RITE NEWS

Good day my Brothers,

By the time you read this, the Valley of Stockton will have installed it's 2021 corps of officers. Since we decided to hold officers in place another year, I get to serve Stockton again as Venerable Master. I really would like to crow about how well the SR Installation went, but as I write this, going well is still a dream.

The Master Craftsman program has undergone a few changes to make it more user friendly. Here is your chance to dig into Masonic teachings in a very painless manner. If you would like to join this virtual study group, please give our General Secretary Greg Niskanen a buzz. [stkngs@stocktonscottishrite.org](mailto:stkngs@stocktonscottishrite.org)

Fraternally,  
John L. Baker, 33°  
Venerable Master



## SHRINE NEWS

Greetings Friends and Brothers,

Hey, it's a new guy! It's me, Matthew Harris, we finally replaced Roger Moore. For 2021 I will be taking on the role of President of the San Joaquin Shrine Club and will continue as the Ben Ali Shrine ambassador to Morning Star, our awesome lodge.

For the last two year we have gotten to read about Rogers love of the Rams, and for this year you will get to hear about my beloved Oakland A's. We have 76 days until April first, opening day 2021. I cannot wait.

I would like to thank all of those that attended San Joaquin Shrine Club's first ever virtual installation of officers 1/9/21. We had around 40 participants and an amazing time.

Ben Ali Shrine also had a wonderful installation of officers virtually over Facebook live. Congratulations to all the newly installed officers.

If you missed the Ben Ali virtual Cold Sands don't worry! We'll have another! Give me a call and I'll help you take the jump to help children and have some of the best friendship and fellowships!

This month San Joaquin Shrine Club will have its monthly board meeting via Zoom Wednesday 1/20 7pm.

I look forward to putting this pandemic behind and gathering again with all you! Stay safe, be health, wear a mask, show compassion, and give back when you can.

Fraternally,  
Matthew Harris  
President, San Joaquin Shrine Club

# MORNING STAR LODGE #19

February 2021							Mar 2021 ▶
◀ Jan 2021	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1		2 <b>Groundhog Day</b> Temple Board Via Zoom @ 7 pm (Annual Meeting) DeMolay Dark	3	4 MS #19 Stated Via Zoom @ 7 pm	5 Stonecutters Club Dark	6
7	8		9 Jobs #83 Via Zoom	10	11 MS #19 Dark Zoom Social @ 7 pm	12 Stonecutters Club Dark	13
14 <b>Valentine's Day</b>	15		16 School of Inst. Via Zoom @ 7 pm DeMolay Dark	17 Amaranth Dark	18 MS #19 Dark Zoom Social @ 7 pm	19 Stonecutters Club Dark	20
21	22		23 Jobs #83 Via Zoom <b>Scottish Rite Stated</b> Via Zoom @ 7 pm	24	25 MS #19 Dark Zoom Social @ 7 pm	26 Stonecutters Club Dark	27
28							



## BETHEL 83 NEWS

Hello all!

The Bethel would like to congratulate everyone that has taken a new office in their respective organization. Hopefully this new term will be prosperous for each Masonic Body.

In January, the Bethel Daughters voted and approved their term calendar and budget for the year. With our Bethel calendar in place, we are ready to go! We have a fun event scheduled for Feb. 13. California Job's Daughters is hosting a Sketch it up night on Feb. 19 for all of the Bethels in our association. These events will be held virtually. Our February meetings will continue to be over zoom. They will be held on February 9th and 23rd at 7pm. If you would like to attend one of our Bethel meetings, please email the Bethel Guardian and she will send you the information.

If you know of any girls between the ages of 7 and 19 that would be interested in joining in on any of the Bethel's fun activities please let us know. If you would like more information on any Bethel activities or about Job's Daughters, please contact the Bethel Guardian or the Associate Bethel Guardian. Job's Daughters Love,

Ashley Eberhard	Jim Sanborn
Bethel Guardian	Associate Bethel Guardian
(209)483-6793	(209) 570-7363
Bethel83stockton@gmail.com	
jamesmacysanborn@gmail.com	

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Vahl Clemensen, PM	-	Feb. 1 1937
Cornelio M. Perez, PM	-	Feb. 2 1958
Marrino Berbano, PM	-	Feb. 4 1936
Tomas J. Gomez	-	Feb. 4, 1996
Duane E. Rohrer	-	Feb. 4 1930
Dennis L. Felton	-	Feb. 7 1948
Anjanay Kumar	-	Feb. 7 1994
Donald R. Formby	-	Feb. 7 1931
John W. McGaughey	-	Feb. 9 1944
Lloyd W. Seibel, PM	-	Feb. 10 1930
Robert P.W. Bussman, PM	-	Feb. 12 1952
Gene Acevedo	-	Feb. 13 1975
Melvin Panizza PM	-	Feb. 13 1951
Mark Manlove	-	Feb. 14 1941
Jose David Osorio	-	Feb. 14 1984
Michael K. Hopson	-	Feb. 16 1966
David W. Nunez	-	Feb. 16 1990
Josafat I. Alvarez	-	Feb. 18 1998
Keith Belt	-	Feb. 22 1943
Stewart H. Barber	-	Feb. 22 1957
Greg S. Wheatley	-	Feb. 22 1967
Westford R. Latimer	-	Feb. 26 1935
Alfredo C. Servida	-	Feb. 27 1962

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BRETHERN!

# NOTICE OF FEBRUARY STATED

BRETHREN! PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT MORNING STAR, NO. 19 WILL HOLD IT'S REGULARLY SCHEDULED STATED MEETING ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. ON THE ZOOM PLATFORM.

THE MEETING WILL BE TILED SO BE SURE TO BE IN A QUIET, PRIVATE LOCATION. EACH MEMBER ATTENDING WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE AND HAVE HIS VOICE HEARD IF THEY SO CHOOSE.

TO ACCESS THE ZOOM ACCOUNT:

BY COMPUTER OR PHONE:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88000458672?pwd=UU5DMTBVbktBbVQzN2xEZWg2dnRoUT09>

By phone: 1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 880 0045 8672

Passcode: 544934

YOU CAN ATTEND BY COMPUTER OR MOBILE PHONE. IF YOU ATTEND BY MOBILE PHONE YOU WILL STILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE.

DON'T HAVE A COMPUTER?

PLEASE, CALL A BROTHER WHO HAPPENS TO BE A FRIEND FOR HELP!



## Beyond Obligation | The Courage to Ask for Help

Last year, after a lifetime of independence, Frank Siaca found himself without a home.

For almost a decade he had been living happily in Panama, an expat from California, attending local lodges and making ends meet thanks to the comparatively low cost of living. Then medical concerns forced a change of plans: He had to return to the U.S. to get the care he needed. Stateside, he didn't have the resources to live on his own.

It kicked off several difficult years, as Frank drifted from one family member's home to another. He stayed for awhile with his daughter, but eventually left to give her and her husband space during their ongoing divorce. He moved in with an aunt until her health issues made it impossible to stay. Finally, he went to live with his son's family in Virginia. His grandson had to sleep on the living room floor so that Frank could have a bed, and the arrangement tormented Frank. After a few months, he left. "I couldn't keep staying there," he says, "letting that kid sleep on the floor." He left his belongings in Virginia and returned to California. He checked into the cheapest extended-stay motel he could find. His plan, once he ran out of money, was to go to a homeless shelter affiliated with the VA.

Frank, who is a veteran, struggles with PTSD and depression. The preceding years had worn on him. "My whole world fell apart," he says. "There I was, 74 years old, and I was homeless. I was depressed. I was basically living in fear and chewing on it."

Despite his commitment to Masonry, he'd resisted asking for help from the fraternity. "I've been an independent guy all my life," he says. "I'd never lived like this. Never. It was embarrassing." But now, his daughter insisted. He called Masonic Outreach Services (MOS). It changed the trajectory of his life.

MOS connected Frank with a care manager, and came up with a financial plan. Within a month, they had moved him out of the motel and into an adult retirement community. They coordinated support with his lodges, Newport Mesa Lodge No. 604 and El Segundo Lodge No. 421. The lodges provided financial aid, helped move Frank's belongings across the country, and donated household items like furniture and bedding so he could be comfortable in his new apartment. At Newport Mesa Lodge, a candidate being voted on for initiation drove home the same night to retrieve his own TV for Frank. The two men had never met.

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"This is who we are. This is why we're Masons," says Gary Shumate, who was master of Newport Mesa Lodge at the time. "To see the brotherhood come together like that, it touches you to the core."

Shortly after Frank moved into his apartment, Gary stopped by to drop off the lodge donations and help set up the place. When Frank thanked him, Gary said simply, "We love you, buddy. If it was us, you'd do the same thing."

"Both of the lodges have been exceptional," Frank says, "exceptional." Gradually, he is coming out of the fear and anxiety that hung over him the past few years. He'd spent so much time worrying, he says, that for a long time he had a hard time believing things could be okay. He'd had a hard time believing that MOS could really help him. Now, he urges others to turn to them for support. When he discovered that his neighbor was a Mason, and struggling, Frank suggested he call MOS.

"I trust Masonic Outreach," he told him.

*To learn how your lodge can partner with the Masonic Homes, call (888) 466-3642 or visit [masonichome.org](http://masonichome.org).*





FEBRUARY 2021

Morning Star Lodge No. 19,  
F&AM P. O. Box 956  
Stockton, CA. 95201-0956

Return Service Requested

Request to the family of the member whose name appears below: Please notify the above address if our member is in the hospital or nursing home or is deceased.

NON-PROFIT ORGN.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
STOCKTON, CALIF.  
PERMIT NO. 38

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## FEBRUARY STATED MEETING MENU

Make your own meal

or

Phone in and Pick Up

Chinese Food! To celebrate the upcoming Lunar New Year!

Donation of \$10 would be appreciated

A reservation made is a reservation paid (no shows will be billed)

PLEASE CALL JOHN OR KAREN BAKER @465-3711 FOR YOUR

RESERVATIONS BY

February 2nd (Tuesday)

