

# Golden Chain Newsletter

September 2023

Madison Lodge #23

Meets 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM; potluck dinner at 5:30

## Greetings, Brethren of Madison Lodge!

We are approaching the awful time of year called "Dues Season" again, and as in the past two years we will be participating in the Grand Lodge's dues invoicing program. You will receive an invoice from the Grand Lodge and you may either pay by credit card or send the invoice with a check to the Lodge on Auburn Street where we meet. Even better, bring your dues check to lodge on the first Tuesday of the month and stay for the stated meeting! Dinner is whatever you'd like to bring and starts at 5:30 PM. Lodge begins at 6:30 PM and we often finish within an hour.

Dues for 2023 are computed in the same manner as in the past two years: lodge dues of \$60.00 plus 2024 per-capita of \$62.50 (if I remember correctly) for a total of \$122.50. Dues have not gone up since 2015, but per-capita has.

We have a Degree of Master Mason to confer, and the officers are nearly ready after a long hiatus due to covid. We also may be assisting Forbestown Lodge #50 in Forbestown (near Brownsville) with conferral of an Entered Apprentice degree later in the summer or early fall. That lodge is another Gold Rush lodge chartered in 1854, the year following the one when Madison (and Penrhyn Gold Hill) was chartered, and the same year that Illinoistown #51 (became Illinoistown-Clay #51 later) was

chartered.

Illinoistown-Clay #51 consolidated with Madison in 2022. Forbestown #50 has a long and rich history of lodges in Sierra and Plumas Counties which contributed to its heritage through consolidations and mergers.

I want to extend the thanks of three lodges to Bro. Jon Waller for accepting the job of Trestleboard editor with the September edition. As explained in the next paragraph, we lost our editor in May and have been scrambling to keep the Trestleboard coming through for the three lodges: Harmony #164, Madison #23 and Penrhyn Gold Hill #32, all Gold Rush lodges. Harmony is being joined by Feather River Lodge #234 tentatively on October 1 which more than doubles its membership. You will find articles elsewhere in this Trestleboard about the pending consolidation.

Finally, keep Saturday, September 23 at 2:00 PM on your calendar for the memorial service for Bro. Howard Miller. He passed away unexpectedly in May of this year and was a member of both Madison Lodge and Harmony Lodge, and an officer in both plus was a hall board member at both lodges. He produced the Trestleboards each month and kept watch over the Grass Valley building. He was a 50 year member.

Fraternally,

Tom Krummell, Secretary

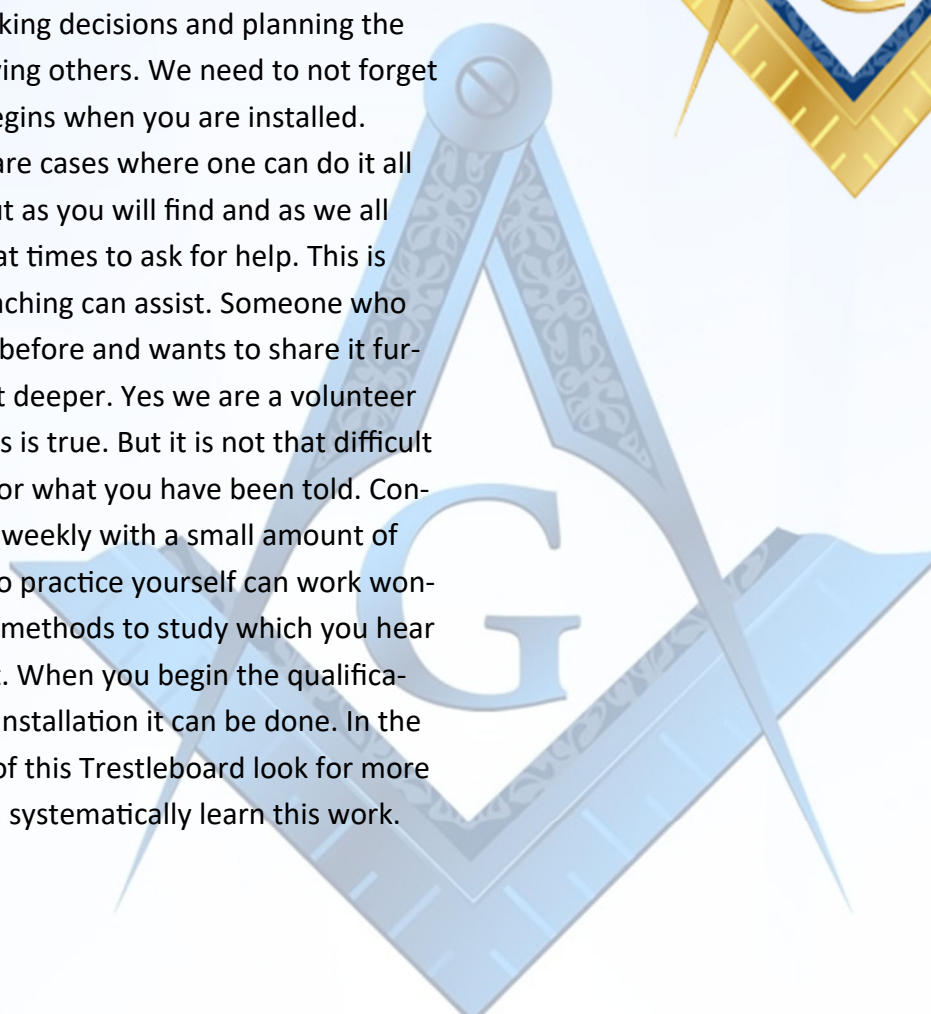
### **Good Coaching, Good Ritual, Strong Lodges**

We have all heard it before: yes I know what is needed for qualification but I don't have the time to study and memorize all the work. This is especially true for the advancement to any chair above Junior Deacon. We hear it in the ritual at the end of each degree when it is said: suitable assistance will be provided. This works and we perform our proficiencies before the lodge and the master. But what about the next steps: the lectures, the opening of lodge and the work at the altar? We are expected to learn it all to qualify and it is then up to the Inspector. It is a lot to learn and can be overwhelming. This is especially challenging to the younger mason who has a young family and works full time. Still this work is there for a purpose: it makes us again better men but it also makes us leaders. It builds confidence in speaking, making decisions and planning the work and involving others. We need to not forget that this task begins when you are installed. There are the rare cases where one can do it all on their own but as you will find and as we all know we need at times to ask for help. This is where good coaching can assist. Someone who has been there before and wants to share it further and learn it deeper. Yes we are a volunteer organization this is true. But it is not that difficult as it may seem or what you have been told. Consistent practice weekly with a small amount of time each day to practice yourself can work wonders. There are methods to study which you hear very little about. When you begin the qualification process at installation it can be done. In the future months of this Trestleboard look for more on how you can systematically learn this work.

Remember, the work by memorizing is the greatest way to understanding this profound knowledge and can be done. Please don't hesitate to contact me by email or phone to begin. This step is among the first step to take. Engage.

Faternally,

Gregg Novotny





**Penrhyn Gold Hill Lodge #32 F&AM**  
Invites you to attend  
A BBQ Reception Honoring

**Corey Leighty**  
2023 Junior Grand Steward  
Grand Lodge of California

**Saturday, September 16, 2023**  
4:30 p.m. Social Hour  
5:30 p.m. Dinner  
6:30 p.m. Presentations and Remarks

Coleman Residence  
10575 Star Thistle Lane  
Auburn, CA 95603

BBQ Dinner with all the fixin's (Chicken, TriTip, Pulled Pork) - \$10 per person  
RSVP Requested by September 1, 2023: <https://forms.gle/ARdrgVQxCGsnDyys8> or QRCode:  
Please carpool if possible. Questions? Call/text Kevin 916-549-3425



**"Greeting from the East Brothers.**

With September here that means it is time for Corey Leighty's reception is here. If you have not submitted an RSVP please do so. We want to make sure we make enough food for all who plan on attending. We are also going to have a volunteer committee sign up sheet with tasks that need to be handled before, during, and after the event.

Feeling a little distracted from the craft?  
Want to re-engaged at a comfortable pace.  
Join us at the first Thursday of the month at the lodge for ritual practice. We will go over anything you are interested in. The last two were great, we re-read the cypher as a group

so those learning could gain the knowledge and those in the know could dust off the cobwebs. Feel free to come down at 7:00 pm. This may be what you need to get you past that hurdle you have been working on for qualifications for next years elected offices.

As always meet on the level.

Kevin Coleman  
Worshipful Master

### From the West...

Brethren,

Good tidings! As of the publishing of our August trestle board, many things have happened in our communities. I have seen the kids return to school, the traffic increase in my neighborhood, and the price of gasoline rise and fall and rise again. I attribute all of this to our brothers arriving at a point in the middle somewhere of whatever journey we are on. Now begins the time for us to enjoy the harvest of the seeds we have sewn.

As many of you are aware we are diligently continuing our preparations for various things going on in our lodge during the ongoing year around work of being involved in our communities, strengthening the bonds of friendship, and spreading the cement of brotherly love.

Our next stated meeting will be on **14 September 2023**, with a dinner being served at 6:30 p.m., we will also have a meeting of aspiring lodge officers to be held at the lodge date to be determined during the month, please watch for this via text and or email. We also have an event to be held at the Worshipful Masters residence, so please be on the lookout for separate communication regarding this as well.

Looking ahead: The 174th Annual Communication is coming up next month, so please attend our stated meetings to be informed about potential legislation that may be presented for the fraternity to vote on, which affects all our lodges.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Fraternally,

Jarrod Washington, Senior Warden PGH#32

### September Birthdays

Frederick Flint-Montero, PM 9/19

Corey Leighty, PM 9/11

Storm Mayr 9/15

Daniel Meister 9/16

Leland Norville 9/6

John Smith 9/28

Earl Wildhaber 9/23

**Happy Birthday, Brothers!**

### Third Degree Anniversaries

Dick Dal Pino 9/7

Robert Hansen 9/18

David Just 9/18

**Happy Anniversary Brothers!**

**Greetings Brethren and friends!**

This month, I begin my article with statements of gratitude.

First to our dear brother Mike Galan who has served Harmony #164 as Secretary for the last nine years – thank you for your faithful service Brother!!! Mike has decided to resign as our secretary, primarily because his health is making the job increasingly more difficult for him. Thankfully, Mike still plans to participate in lodge meetings and activities. Mike is a Golden Veteran (50+ year Master Mason) and received the Hiram Award from Harmony Lodge in 2021

Secondly, I welcome the newest member of Harmony Lodge – Allen Schafer. Al was elected to affiliate with our Lodge at the August stated meeting and has agreed to serve as our interim Secretary until the end of this term. Thank you, Brother Al!!!

Al Schafer is now a member of all four lodges in District 234. He is a Golden Veteran and received the Hiram Award from Mountain Range Lodge #18 in 2021. Al is also a Senior DeMolay, a Scottish Rite Mason and a member of the Ben Ali Shrine Clown Unit.

We are in the final stages of the consolidation process with Feather River Lodge. Both lodges received enough votes in favor of the consolidation. At the August stated meeting of both lodges, motions to advance the effective date of consolidation to October 1, 2023 were unanimously approved. This change was proposed to simplify the annual dues process and election of officers for the con-

solidated lodge. The next and final step is to gain the approval of the Grand Master and we anticipate receiving his decision following the September 26 Grand Lodge Executive Committee meeting.

As you might expect, my travel schedule has continued to be very full and preparation for this year's

Annual Communication seems to consume every waking hour in our house. Nevertheless, we still make time for "local Masonry" as this is where we most want to be.

September is a non-stated meeting month in our lodge. We traditionally host a lunch to recognize firefighters and EMS workers during this month. With the transition of our lodge secretary, we may not be able to pull the event off this month. Additionally, we are more focused on moving the front porch project forward before the weather turns.

As you know, Howard Miller, the President of our Hall Board passed away in May. During our last meeting, we elected replacement directors for our Hall Board and I'm pleased to report that they have met and are finalizing the demolition and construction plans for our front porch project. The members of our Hall Board are Tom Krummell, Robert Henning, Sam White, and Steve Bodick together with ex-officio directors Gregg Novotny and myself. Steve Bodick has been elected to serve a President, Tom Krummell as Treasurer, and Gregg Novotny as Secretary.

If you need assistance or have questions about our Lodge, please feel free to call, text or email me.

With warm fraternal regards,

Sean Metroka

**Harmony in light of darkness.**

In today's increasingly divided world, the pursuit of harmony and understanding has become more crucial than ever. Freemasonry, an ancient fraternity with a rich history, offers valuable teachings and practices that can help bridge divides and foster unity among individuals and communities. Remember our principles and values can serve as a guiding light to promote harmony in a world where division often seems inevitable, but how do we influence those who are not members?

At our core, Masons are taught moral and ethical development, brotherly love, and charity. It is our duty to exemplify how we value the importance of unity and mutual respect among members. It was said to me early in my journey that our teachings will reshape the way I act outside of lodge. I will learn to have a new sense of respect and appreciation for my country and fellow man. This acceptance of others from all walks of life, regardless of race, religion, or socioeconomic background is exactly what society is calling for today. We encourage members to embrace differences and celebrate the divinity in all of God's creation.

Much like learning to ride a bike, we needed our parents to help us balance, help us if we fall, and cheer us on until we rode without training wheels. The practice of being a better man is a lifelong journey.

In my experience I have heard comments uttered about newly raised Masons being held to a higher standard than newly initiated men. Why is this? Each degree teaches a new set of skills and theories that must be practiced. Offic-

ers too must re-learn how to apply and exemplify their learnings with each new appointment. This, important reminder of how we are always practicing until we cannot get it wrong, must be carried outside of the lodge. Curiosity I feel is the best reaction when faced with discord. For what purpose, is a much better communication tool than even constructive criticism.

On any journey of mastery, it is imperative to have a space for trial and error, for open dialogue, support, and camaraderie among members. Unfortunately, everyone is at a different pace in their journey and all because one man sees another's actions differently, does not mean he is any less of a Mason a man practicing his craft, a human trying to survive and thrive.

We preach shared experiences and values of Freemasonry being able to create a strong bond among members, transcending societal divisions. We must remember to truly have open communication and respect for different opinions, for different methods or execution. If all artists painted the same picture, or all musicians wrote the same lyrics, how entertaining would the world be?

One must remember the three precious jewels. Having an attentive ear not just for what is heard, but what is said as a result of your experience and the mindset of the others involved. We can all use a little help now and again but sometimes the tone or context of how it's said is not [from the heart] contained within the faithful breasts. Masons must act as

stewards for our teachings, at all times. These teachings function as a mediator in addressing societal disputes. They have been interpreted for over 300 years by many different types of men, and here we are today being called to redefine what Harmony means to us, as men and masons, stewards for our craft and as community members. I therefore suggest this new generation of Mason work together to summarize their obligations into a simple rule. A simple slogan or phrase that can be easily recalled during stress or disagreement.

In a world where divisions seem to grow deeper by the day, Freemasonry offers a timeless message of harmony, unity, and compassion. Through its core principles of brotherly love, tolerance of truth and charity beyond its monetary value, Freemasonry provides valuable lessons that can help mend the fractures in society and promote a more understanding and harmonious world. By embracing these teachings, we can work together to build a future where unity and mutual respect prevail, transcending the barriers that divide us.

Frank J. Udvarhely

### **To the Brethren of Feather River Lodge**

Greetings, Brethren,

Welcome to Harmony Lodge! As you are probably aware by now, the consolidation of Feather River Lodge #234 with Harmony Lodge #164 has been approved by members of both lodges. We are planning on a consolidation date of October 1, 2023 rather than January 1, 2024 for many reasons, particularly simplification of dues and accounting for the merged lodges.

Dues for 2024 at Harmony are calculated in the same manner as they were for Feather River Lodge: local dues plus Grand Lodge per-capita. Local dues for Harmony Lodge are \$50.00 plus per-capita which, if I remember correctly, is \$62.50 for a total of \$112.50.

Harmony Lodge is participating in the Grand Lodge's dues administration program whereby you will receive an invoice for next year's dues directly from the Grand Lodge in San Francisco. You may pay the dues by credit card through the Grand Lodge or pay dues directly to Harmony Lodge. Information about payments will be included in the invoice from Grand Lodge.

Harmony Lodge is one of two lunar lodges, and meets four times per year on or after the first full moon of the months of November, February, May and August. Harmony Lodge meets in the Masonic facility at 221 Main Street in Sierra City; "Main Street" is Highway 49, and the Masonic facility is white with a bright blue roof visible from the street in both

## Harmony Lodge #164

Meets at 1:00 PM, 1st Thursday following the first full moon of Feb, May, Aug, Nov.

directions. Before the stated meetings, which begin at 1:00 PM in the afternoon we normally have lunch at the Red Moose which is 1 block to the south of the Masonic facility beginning at 11:30 AM.

The actual meeting dates will be in each month's issue of the Golden Chain Newsletter, which is a jointly-published Trestleboard for Harmony Lodge #164 in Sierra City, Madison Lodge #23 in Grass Valley, and Penrhyn Gold Hill Lodge #32 in Penryn. These lodges all date back to the Gold Rush with Madison and Penrhyn chartered in 1853 and Harmony in 1864. After consolidation occurs with Feather River Lodge and Harmony, each of the three lodges will have total memberships under 100. The editor welcomes input from members of each lodge, and there is a possibility that two more Gold Rush-era lodges in Nevada and Butte Counties may join our publication. If you prefer receiving the Newsletter by email please let me know; my email is: tomcat5@tomsvw.com

In the event of inclement weather in the fall and winter months Harmony Lodge meets in the Grass Valley Masonic Temple where Madison Lodge #23 meets; the address is 126 S Auburn Street, and there is ample parking in the lot adjacent to the Temple and in two city parking lots a half block on either side of the Temple. There are no parking meters! If inclement weather is encountered, the Master will email a notice to the members advising them of the change in location.

We will keep you informed of what is taking place each month with the consolidation.

We will also keep you informed of upcoming elections in November and installation plans, and hall board plans.

Again, welcome, Brethren. We look forward to seeing you at functions in our future.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Tom Krummell, PM

Treasurer



Keep our firefighters and first responders in your thoughts and prayers this summer.