

# Temecula Catalina Island Lodge #524

April 2024



## Trestleboard

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### Master's Message

Hello Brethren and Friends of the Lodge,

March has passed by quicker than it seemed to even be here and now we are diving into the 2nd quarter of the year. We had a busy month filled with practices for upcoming degrees, an educational and very informative night led by our Immediate PM and Officer's coach, W.°. B.°. Tim Taggett, Jr. and our Senior Steward Bro. Rezk traveled and labored at other Lodges within our district to support their efforts.

We have a lot more practices in the coming months for all three degrees, which is great for the health of the Lodge. It will give more chances for our officers to continue to hone their skills and qualify for their next chairs.

On Monday April 22nd our Chaplain Bro. Lampe will be hosting us at his place, Rancho de Los Piratas in the highlands of Homeland for our second annual TemCat Masonic BBQ. I will post details about it in the band app for those Brothers wishing to attend with their families again.

This month's Esoteric Ending is Bro. CJ Edmond's EA paper going over his journey thus far and trying to do something we all do... better ourselves. I hope you will read and enjoy it.

A friendly reminder Monday April 1st is our Stated Meeting for the month.

Dinner starts 6:00 PM - Gavel at 7:00 PM

Dinner will be prepared by W.°. B.°. Carl Black and W.°. B.°. Tim Taggett, Jr.

Fraternally Yours,

Daniel Gaulin

Worshipful Master

## Upcoming Events

4/1/2024	Stated Meeting @ 7 PM
4/6/2024	Park Cleanup @ 8 AM
4/8/2024	Bro. Edmond's 2nd Degree
4/15/2024	1st Degree Practice
4/17/2024	OSI @ Menifee
4/22/2024	BBQ at Bro. Lampe's House
4/29/2024	1st Degree Practice

**II MASONIC HOMES POKER RUN II**

**CALIFORNIA**  
**Widows Sons**



JOIN US AS WE RIDE FOR A GREAT CAUSE. ALL MONEY GOES TO THE HOMES.



Stop at any of the 50+ locations for entry. More details will be emailed after signup.

\*\*\* **APRIL 13th - 11:00 am** \*\*\*



Masonic Homes of California

<https://anchorandark.ws/pokerrun>



1650 E Old Badillo St, Covina, CA 91724

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## Esoteric Ending

# Thousand Mile Journey

**Bro. CJ Edmond (EA Paper)**

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. A Chinese proverb I heard as a child taught me to take things one step at a time. As a newly entered apprentice, a brother told me that my journey was not a race but a marathon. This taught me as a man to enjoy the journey and take things one step at a time, and when the time comes, I will get to my destination. Stamina holds the key on this path. Entering my journey of masonry, I was placed on the northeast corner, and having now learned the significance of the first step I've chosen to start on, I've found comfort in finding the footprints of those who've walked ahead of me.

I've expressed to some before that I first heard of masonry from my father. He was, like most fathers to a son, a larger-than-life character that was the embodiment of cool, the personification of the values all men could hope to obtain. In short, he was an awesome guy. At least this was my view of him growing up. My dad was a long-haul truck driver, and he rarely thought anything was impressive, at least until he met his first Mason. My dad was known for embellishing a story or two, but I found awe in the way he described these men, who would greet each other at the truck stop after seeing each other's rings; even once, describing a man's gas being free of charge simply because he was a Mason. "Those are some Bad dudes", my dad said. Again, Bad meaning cool, and them being the only thing impressive about his 18-hour days.

It was again when I saw a very little talked about movie called National Treasure, you probably haven't heard of it, but they made numerous mentions of this secret society that was leaving clues hiding this treasure that apparently only Nicolas Cage in his wonder could locate. It wasn't until after an embarrassing ironing board incident took place, in which I tested an iron's hotness by hovering it over my left arm and dropping it, would I again hear about the Masons. This was in part to a kid at school the next day asking if that perfect triangle with what looked to be space

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missing for an all-seeing eye, was a secret sign that I had joined the freemasons. Naturally, I said yes, but I can't tell you about it.

The day I was entered, I told my dad. For the first time in my life, my dad thought I was cool. My dad thought I was a man he wanted to be like. My dad valued what I stood for. What I did not realize was that my dad wanted to join some time back, but due to choices he had made in life he felt he was no longer eligible. He was proud that I followed a better path than he had, and he was excited for the man I have become and the man I will be. He was proud that our family name could be associated with men of strong character, integrity, and moral fiber.

Though my journey has only just begun, this spiritual building is still very much under construction. I have already begun to utilize my working tools. And life as well as my brothers have unknowingly been re-enforcing the need for this utilization. The 24 in gauge, was initially the most challenging portion I wanted to implement. Being a military man, I have very little say over my time and my schedule is at the mercy of the missions I support. Nonetheless, I aimed to make this a priority, because the way I managed my time in the past left me purposeless and without control. I found that on average I would sleep 10-14 hours, only to find most of my available time wasted. I wrote out a plan to only sleep for 6-8 hours instead and utilize more of that gained time to meditate, pray and gain closeness with God. I also utilized more of my time at work to study and improve myself at work so that I could be more eligible for promotion and become a stronger asset to my unit. Lastly, I chose to start going back to church with my family, and when unable we would grow spiritually together.

My wife being diagnosed with cancer also threw me for a loop, and the importance of balancing work, life, and doctor appointments forced my hand in better time management as well. I have learned that making these minor changes in my time has allowed me the space to become a better father, worker, husband, and friend. I still sleep in on rare occasions, but again, marathon not race. I'm going to get there, but I'm happy with the progress I've made so far.

I found after evaluating my time, it felt necessary to look into the parts of myself that I felt needed adjustment. Again, with so many life stressors at once I found my waistline increasing almost as fast as my consumption of alcohol and nicotine. If that wasn't enough, I found myself

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falling victim to gossip at work and saw myself backsliding away from the person I wanted to become. So, I took the common gavel, and armed it with strength I didn't know I still had and began diligently chipping away at the aforementioned rough parts. Still not smooth but looking more like what is desired every day. I no longer smoke or vape as I've moved to the patch. I limit my drinking to 2 drinks, no longer participate in work gossip, and have lost over 40 lbs and aim for 40 more by the summer. Again, building under construction.

An analogy was explained to me, as if I were given over 28 thousand dollars. And I lost a few dollars of it, I was asked if I would just throw the rest aside or would I make use of what I had left. This was described as the average lifetime, if represented by a dollar a day. One day of not achieving my goal didn't have to ruin the rest. I could still make good choices and make the next days count. To risk adding another idiom, for a while I was willing to throw the baby out with the bathwater. Choosing to use these tools in the way I have so far, I've begun the process of reclaiming my time and my character.

I've gotten closer with some of my brothers, and I've traded in my running shoes for some well-padded ones meant to go the distance. These thousand miles don't seem as daunting knowing at every checkpoint I have a brother cheering me on. My son has started to look at me, and associates' masonry not with rings or conspiracy, but as a man of certain character and that makes me happy. In a constant search for light, I'm seeing the path growing brighter in my future. My corner stone smoothing, aiming to become square, plumb, and level for a foundation that'll last a lifetime. And some.

## CEC UPDATE REPORT

The CEC needs another member to join in planning their future events. Please contact one of them if interested.

Edgar Tuna - 951 595 9116 or [tunaedgar@gmail.com](mailto:tunaedgar@gmail.com)

James Jackson - 760 682 5091 or [jamie4uk@aol.com](mailto:jamie4uk@aol.com)

Fabian Montgomery - 951 775 0362 or [videsigner@verizon.net](mailto:videsigner@verizon.net)

Tim Taggett, PM - 760-500-7292 or [tim@temeculamasons.org](mailto:tim@temeculamasons.org)

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## Primary Communication

Hey, join our 'Temecula Catalina Island Lodge No. 524' group on BAND - The app for groups and communities!

<https://band.us/n/a0a860L5ZcK4r>



Masonic Homes  
of California

**WE'RE HERE TO HELP**

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### RELIEF FOR CALIFORNIA MASONS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- Information and referrals
- Senior communities in Covina and Union City
- Statewide Masonic Outreach Services for members of all ages and their families
- Transitions short-term care for neurological and post-surgical rehabilitation (Union City)
- The Masonic Center for Youth and Families in San Francisco and Covina—with telehealth services now available everywhere
- **NEW!** Shared housing for seniors in Covina

CONTACT US TODAY TO ACCESS YOUR  
MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES:

[masonichome.org](http://masonichome.org)  
(888) 466-3642

[mcyaf.org](http://mcyaf.org)  
(877) 488-6293 (San Francisco)  
(626) 251-2300 (Covina)

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### Masonic Value Network:

Care Resources +  
Prescription Discounts

[masonichome.org/ValueNetwork](http://masonichome.org/ValueNetwork)

