

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 F&AM

TRESTLE BOARD

APRIL A.L. 2012

MASONIC SPOTLIGHT: W.: JOSEPH P. ROBLES

On January 31st, Mr. Jeff Stuart attended our first family night of 2012 and presented the Lodge with a Past Masters Jewel belonging to W.: Joseph Robles. The Jewel is available for Brothers to view in the glass case, upstairs lobby of the Lodge. Below is a history of W.: Robles and his family:

The Robles are an old and important family in the history of the Tampa Bay area. W.: Joseph Robles was an immigrant from Malaga in the Andalusia region of Spain, who came to the United States in 1832. He lived with the Michael Garrison family and worked on their farm in return for food and shelter while he learned to speak English. W.: Robles married Mary Ann Garrison on December 12, 1841, at Fort Fanning, Florida. He and his new family made Florida their permanent home in 1850 after obtaining a Federal land patent in what is now Hernando County.

W.: Robles was a man of about 5 foot 2 inches, small build and blue eyes. He fought during the Seminole War (1835-1842) and helped to defend a Tampa salt works plant from Yankee soldiers during the Civil War. It is said that he made a statement at the beginning of the Civil War that he did not agree with fighting against the country he had pledged to support,



This exquisite Past Master's medal was returned to Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 over 125 years after it was presented to W.: Joseph P. Robles.

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Degrees on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays
Stated Communications on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
Masonic Instruction every Thursday
Eastern Star meets on 1st and 3rd Saturdays
DeMolay meets every Monday

FROM THE EAST



Brethren,

I am happy to report that our monthly program of honoring Brothers Raised in previous years has been very successful and inspiring, thanks to the vision of W. Robbins Denham, the direction of Bro. Ken Skillman, and efforts of Bro. Billy Schmidt. My personal thanks to these Brothers for all their hard work, dedication and the joy they pour into the hearts of our Brothers. If you haven't been at Lodge to witness it, please plan to come to the last Stated Communication of each month to support these Brothers.

As we approach the second quarter, we look forward to spring and all the new opportunities it brings. I recently attended the Remembrance and Renewal Ceremony at the Tampa Scottish Rite, and was struck by the importance of the responsibility we as Brothers have taken upon ourselves. I'll share a small part of the ceremony with you:

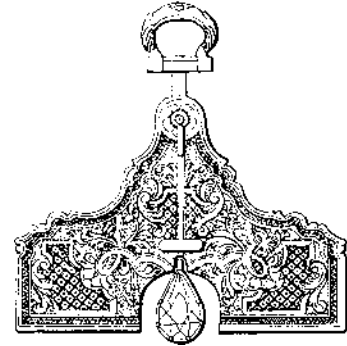
"With whom do you stand my Brethren? Are there faces lacking from this group which you knew in the past year? Have you laid a friend and Brother to rest? On this occasion, let us celebrate the lives and commemorate the deaths of our Brethren who have passed, so that we may ever keep them with us while we live... This fraternal chain, called the Mystic Circle, is forged of links which pass into eternity. It becomes our duty, therefore, to honor our Brethren past as we renew our fraternal ties to our Brethren present."

Let's all take time to renew a fraternal tie with a friend, a Brother, and your Lodge. Thank those around you — family and Brothers — who support your endeavors and reconcile relationships that may not be as strong as they once were. Finally, strive to be a better man and set an example for others to follow. I hope to see you in Lodge soon.

Fraternally,

Joseph Gonzalez
Worshipful Master

FROM THE WEST



My Brothers,

Greetings from the West. We are now in the 2nd quarter of 2012 and the Lodge has enjoyed the harmony and brotherhood that all Brothers should expect from their Lodge. It has been a pleasure to have so many Brothers attending our several degrees and Stated Communications thus far this year.

At the Stated Communication held on February 21st, we honored Brothers that were raised in the month of February from past years, balloted on petitions for the three symbolic degrees and also to reinstate Brothers of our Lodge. At this meeting, two resolutions were also brought before the Craft, which were voted upon and adopted pending final vote on March 27th. The first of these resolutions was to approve an increase in our dues to \$180.00 per year, and the second was to approve the use of our facility by High Twelve Lodge No. 317. The vote to approve these resolutions will have already taken place by the time this *Trestle Board* reaches your mailbox.

On March 15th we had a Finance and Property Committee meeting where we discussed moving forward with actions necessary to bring our new roof up to standard and obtain a proper warranty. I hope to be able to report further on this in the next issue of the *Trestle Board*. Also discussed was the repair of the skylight, the financial position of the Lodge and the investment strategy used by our financial managers. This strategy will be taken under review and recommendations made to update it as necessary in the best interest of the Lodge. Our committee is working hard to ensure that our building is properly maintained and that future generations will have the opportunity to feel the same pride and joy that we feel in having the finest Lodge in the land.

On April 18th, there will be a fund raiser benefitting the Cardiac Research Institute/Masonic Medical Research

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FROM THE SOUTH



Greetings, Brothers,

Thanks for the prayers, kind words and support offered to my wife and me when her brother Chris passed. I greatly appreciate all the Brothers who filled in for me in my absence, and special thanks to Brother Billy Schmidt for cooking. Our cable tow can tighten at times due to events outside of our control, and it's comforting to know that our Brothers will have our backs and step up when needed.

The quarterly reports will be turned in prior to the craft receiving this *Trestle Board*, and the Brothers of Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 have been very active. Please use the Lodge website (www.hillsborough25.org) under "my attendance" to submit any activities you participate in throughout the Masonic community so that our Lodge gets credit. Congratulations to Brother Sampson who completed the Master Mason 1, 2 & 3 exams. These exams are available on the Grand Lodge website (www.gflmason.org), and I encourage all of the Brothers to take these exams during the second quarter.

"Above all things let us never forget that mankind constitutes one great brotherhood, all born to encounter suffering and sorrow, and therefore bound to sympathize with each other."
— Albert Pike

Keep up the good works Brothers!

Fraternally,

David Liniger

Junior Warden

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



Brethren,

On April 3rd, we will conduct a Master Mason degree for brother Travis Van Buren. Since he is active military, that will also be a night that Hillsborough Lodge will honor all military, active, retired, reserve, etc. Wear your uniform, and if that uniform no longer fits, then wear your ribbons or medals, but let's all turn out to say thanks to those who are serving or have served in our military.
















April 17th will be an Entered Apprentice Degree for Messrs. Robert Joseph Davis, Jr., Chad M. Elliott, and Rodney Wayne Kohler. The first meeting in May will be a Fellow Craft Degree for Brother Jesse James Knafla and any others who are ready.

If you have not paid your 2012 dues, they are due. You can go on line and pay them through the web site at www.hillsborough25.org and make your payment through PayPal. It is secure and the money will be credited to the lodge. Please, when you pay your dues, don't forget to include the \$7.30 to the Masonic Home of Florida.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas C. Newton

Thomas C. Newton, PM, PDI

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	3  "Military Degree" for Bro. Travis Alan Van Buren Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	4 GRAND COMMUNICATION LEGISLATIVE REVIEW John Darling Lodge No. 154 • 7 p.m. 4601 N. Habana Ave. Tampa, FL	5  Masonic Education Ritual Practice 6:30 p.m.	6	7  Chapter 11 1 p.m.
8	9  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	10  Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	11	12  Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.	13	14
15 MASONIC HOME BOARD MEETING 11 a.m. 3201 1st Street NE St. Pete, FL	16  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	17  Robert Joseph Davis, Jr, Chad M. Elliott & Rodney Wayne Kohler Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	18 APPLEBEE'S MMRL FUND RAISER (bring flyer from web- site for 10% donation) 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Any Hillsborough or Pinellas Co. Applebee's	19  Masonic Education Ritual Practice 6:30 p.m.	20	21  Chapter 11 1 p.m.
22	23  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	24  Special Ceremony to Honor Our Brothers Raised in the Month of April Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	25	26  Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.	27 MASTERS & WARDENS MEETING Fellowship Lodge No. 265 • 7 p.m. 306 N. Lincoln Ave. Tampa, FL	28 MASTERS & WARDENS DDGM ROAST Zendah Grotto 6 p.m. 4402 W. Ohio Ave. Tampa, FL
29	30  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.					

NEWS FROM
THE KITCHEN

Our Junior Warden, Brother David Liniger, continues to prepare delicious meals week after week. If any Brother has special dietary needs, meal suggestions, or would like to volunteer to prepare a meal, please contact Bro. Liniger.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



Pictured from left to right: Bro. Ken Skillman, R·W·: Woody Newcomb, Bro. Kermit Hines, Bro. Cliff Allen, Bro. Drew Baldwin, W·: Robert Lambert, W·: Junior Torres, W·: Terry Mascolino, Bro. Billy Schmidt, R·W·: Thomas M. Edwards II, R·W·: Stephen Jacobson, Bro. Michael Goldman, Bro. Steve Silvers, R·H·: Houston White, W·: Joseph Gonzalez, Bro. Michael St. James, Bro. David Lineger and Bro. Brian Shrader.

“Masonic Spotlight” continued from page 1

but he had to follow the State in which he resided. While standing guard, W·: Robles is credited with spotting a Yankee gun ship coming into what is now the corner of Bayshore and Gandy Boulevard. He was successful in capturing several Union soldiers and returned them to Fort Brooke as POWs.

W·: Robles (pictured at right) was the Master of our Lodge in 1875 and 1880. He made significant contributions to this area during his lifetime, which earned him the honor of having his name commemorated on Robles Park in Tampa Heights and Robles Elementary School, located at 4405 Eest Sligh Avenue. At age 84, he was described as “a hale and hearty old man with hardly a gray hair to his head.” W·: Joseph Robles passed to the celestial Lodge above in 1907 at the age of 89. 

Sources: www.tampapix.com; “A Cornerstone of the Community” by R·W·: C. Donald Prosser



“From the West” continued from page 2

Laboratory. Brothers, this is your Grand Master’s designated charity and the Flagship charity for Masons in the State of Florida. It’s the “Apple-bee’s Dining to Donate” program. Apple-bee’s has agreed to donate 10% of all sales to individuals who bring the flyer to their restaurant that day. Please consider dining out with your family that night in order to benefit the Grand Master’s Charity.

I hope you will all find the time to attend a communication in the near future. It is always a pleasure to share the Fellowship and Brotherly Love that Masonry is all about. Not only with the Brothers that attend regularly, but with those who we do not have the opportunity to see often enough.

Fraternally,

Steven Silvers

Senior Warden

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 ■ TRESTLE BOARD

ORDER OF DEMOLAY

Paul Revere Chapter



Meets at Hillsborough Lodge every Monday at 7 p.m.

DeMolay History – The Beginning

It has been said that a day can be changed or a great moment launched by a single phone call.

Such a call came in January of 1919. As Frank Land answered the telephone he recognized the voice of Sam Freet, newly installed Senior Warden of Ivanhoe Lodge. “Frank, I have a favor to ask. One of our members, Elmer E. Lower, who had been initiated as a Fellow Craft, died a year ago. Could you find a part-time job for the oldest boy, Louis? He is one of the finest young men I have ever seen.”

“Sam, you called at just the right time. I would be glad to talk to this boy. Send Louis to me; say after school tomorrow if you can arrange it. I shall look forward to meeting him.”

The next afternoon Louis arrived promptly for his interview. Shaking hands with this youth brought a response to Land that seemed to blend them into a common experience that would unite them for years to come. Louis radiated an honesty of character, a natural aptitude for leadership, and the grace of movement of the athlete. Frank thought, “If I had a son, I would want him to be just like this lad.”

They talked for a while about school. Louis told him of his aspirations for a place on the track team, of his position as a pitcher on a baseball team, and in response to a question said, “I am a fairly good student. Even with the hard time we are having, I want to finish high school and then help with the education of the others.”

Frank responded, “It is a good goal. You will meet the challenge. Now, tell me about your father. I knew him but only from very casual meetings.” Louis hesitated as though reluctant to look into the past but finally said, “My father was the finest father a boy ever had.”

That evening, as Nell Land cleared the dinner dishes, she said, “Frankie, something happened today. You look like you have found a long, lost friend.”

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 ■ TRESTLE BOARD

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR



Meets at Hillsborough Lodge 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 1 p.m.

From the Desk of the Worthy Matron, Tampa Chapter #11:

We are making plans for our Friends Day at the Chapter on April 7th. This is when a group from each Chapter in our district comes to be a friend and takes our respective stations for the day. It’s a nice way to see our sisters that we have not seen in awhile or meet new ones. We return the favor by going to one the their Chapters also.

Another event that we are looking forward to is the 107th Annual Grand Chapter Session which will be held in St. Augustine, Florida the week of April 17-19. Some of our officers will be in attendance. Sincerely,

Sally Leon, Worthy Matron • 813-393-7490



Brother Ralph Leslie Metcalf, raised 55 years ago, passed to the Celestial Lodge Above on April 14, 2011.

Rest in Peace, our Brothers in the Celestial Lodge Above...

If you hear of a brother who has passed to that Celestial Lodge above, please inform the Lodge Secretary so he can send out the Widows’ Certificate.





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2012 LODGE OFFICERS

- W.: Joseph Gonzalez Worshipful Master
- Steven Silvers Senior Warden
- David Liniger Junior Warden
- R.:W.: Stephen Jacobson Treasurer
- R.:H.: Tom Newton Secretary
- Joshua Sussman Senior Deacon
- Cliff Allen Junior Deacon
- Ken Skillman Senior Steward
- Billy Schmidt Junior Steward
- Michael St. James Marshall
- Kermit Hines Chaplain
- Drew Baldwin Tyler
- R.:W.: C. Don Prosser Historian
- W.: William Powell Organist Emeritus
- Len Whalen Chaplain Emeritus
- W.: Thomas Johnson Treasurer Emeritus



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President

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Remember Your Masonic Charities in the New Year...



**The Good Work Never Stops,
 So Please Give Generously!**