

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 F&AM

TRESTLE BOARD

DECEMBER A.L. 2012

MASONIC SPOTLIGHT: ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

December 27th is Saint John the Evangelist day, which marks the 2nd feast day in the year celebrating the Holy Saints John. The feast day also marks the winter solstice, which is directly opposite Saint John the Baptist's day at the summer solstice in June making a notable completion in the cycle of the solar year. But why John the Evangelist and why does he represent the counter balance of John the Baptist, the opposite pillar of the point within the circle? For those who forget, the point within the circle is the symbol that all Masons are said to endeavor to emulate in their physical and spiritual being. The two dualistic figures as one, the Holy Saints John, balance each other in the Masonic year, but also in other areas too.

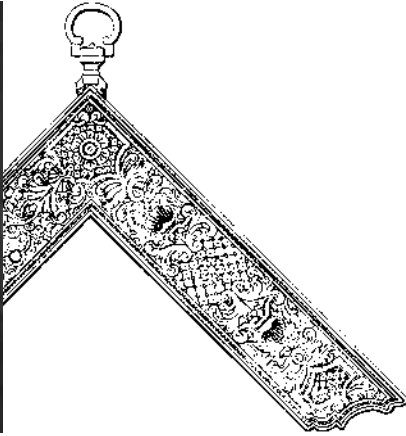
One unique aspect found is in the application of the Alchemical symbols of fire and water. Alchemy has long been thought of as an early component of Freemasonry and using the alchemical symbols here may help the representations of the Saint John's look more familiar. Saint John the Baptist, represented as the inverted pyramid, the Alchemical sign for water, representing the spiritual and emotional love. St. John the Evangelist, represented as the pyramid pointing up symbolizing fire that is the drive and will of action. When placed together, they symbolize the perfect balance of darkness and light, life and death, passion and constraint, will and emotion, winter and summer. Together

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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,

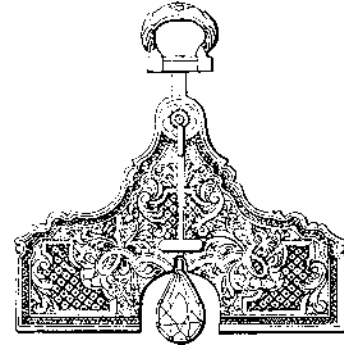
As I compose my *Trestle Board* article, it begins to set in that this will be my final submission. I have so much to be thankful for, more especially the honor of presiding as the Worshipful Master of such a wonderful and historic Lodge. I thank you all for the dedication, time and support extended to the Officers and me this year. The respect, admiration and trust you've shown is humbling, and I only hope that the same courtesy has been returned to you on every occasion.

Reflecting on the work of this year, I am confident the Lodge is on the path to a healthy and prosperous future. The Officers have done an exemplary job representing the Lodge around the District and administering the business of Masonry. I thank them for their individual efforts and remain indebted to each of them for the success of the Lodge. Communication is essential to our work, and to this end, I urge you to continue participating in Lodge meetings and events, discussing ideas and issues with the Officers, and strengthening those Brotherly ties which bind us together. I charge you to be ever mindful of the responsibility you have in preserving our ancient and honorable fraternity. Keep strength and courage in your heart and never waiver from exposing anyone who does not maintain the best interest of the Lodge or the fraternity. Every man, whether Mason or profane, must be judged by his actions and deeds, and these alone shall define him.

Many of you know that I've spent quite a bit of time learning the Fellow Craft lecture, and I suppose it is only fitting that I leave you with this interpretation: *By order in architecture is meant a system of all the members, proportions and ornaments of columns and pilasters; or, it is a regular arrangement of the projecting parts of a building, which, united with that of a column, form a beautiful, perfect and complete whole.* Each of us represents a column or pilaster of the Lodge. We must endeavor to achieve those perfect attributes of a column which project wisdom, strength and

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FROM THE WEST



My Brothers,

As I sit down to write this *Trestle Board* article, I reflect upon the events over the past year. It has indeed been another great year at Hillsborough Lodge No. 25. We have stayed busy throughout this year making improvements to our historic building as well as building our Brotherhood through the many events and activities including the initiation, passing and raising new Brothers.

It has been an honor to serve the Lodge and our Fraternity this year as your Senior Warden, as President of the Masters & Wardens Association of Hillsborough County and the craft at large through my efforts as Zone Chairman of the Grand Masters Charity, the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL). Masonry holds a special place in my heart and I consider it a privilege to serve my Brothers and the fraternity. There are many opportunities to serve your fraternity and I hope you will each consider where you fit in and become active as we move forward into 2013.

By the time this edition hits your mailbox, we will have celebrated Thanksgiving and be preparing for the festivities of the holiday season. I would like to wish each and every Brother a happy holiday season and a very happy and healthy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all at a Lodge Meeting in the near future.

Fraternally,

Steven Silvers

Senior Warden

FROM THE SOUTH



My Brothers,

As the year ends and election night approaches, I find myself reflecting on the end of my meal cooking days at Lodge but, more especially, on all the assistance I received. Nothing in our Lodge is a solo effort, everything we accomplish is the product of many Brothers pitching in. The investigations committee, degree work teams, building projects, finance, and food preparation are all accomplished by Brothers helping each other for the betterment of our Lodge.

I would like to thank the following Brothers whose service I all too often take for granted: W.: Mclaughlin for making tea and coffee every Tuesday, Brother Schmidt who picks up all the groceries on a moment's notice when I forget, Brother Jerry for helping serve and keeping me company in the kitchen, Brother Skillman for editing my sketchy *Trestle Board* submissions, Brother Silvers for fixing kitchen problems in a timely manner to keep everything moving, W.: Joseph A. Gonzalez for his dedication to the Craft and superior leadership — you are the most impressive Mason I know. Special thanks to my Brother Clifford Allen for everything. You are my favorite Mason and have helped me in more ways than you will ever know. To the countless others and Past Masters who have helped me get where I am in the fraternity, I offer my sincerest thanks for your past and future service. Thanks to the Craft for entrusting me as J.W. for 2012, it has been a blast and my distinct honor to serve Hillsborough 25. Have a safe and Happy New Years Brothers.

"The greatest gift of life is friendship and I have received it."
— Hubert H. Humphrey (38th VP of US)
Cataract Lodge No. 2 A.F.& A.M.
Minneapolis, MN

Fraternally,

Dave Finiger

Junior Warden

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



Brothers,

As we approach the end of the year, it is important that we remember those less fortunate than ourselves. Those who have served in the military and those who have served this fraternity for so many years. Remember those who are in the Masonic Home as well.

This year has been very busy as usual in the secretary's office. 2013 dues notices have been sent out and many have already sent in their dues for 2013. Remember that you can send a check to the lodge and make sure that your return address is correct. I encourage you to include your telephone number and an email address with your dues so that we can keep our records up to date. You can also pay your dues via Pay Pal on line at the lodge web site which is Hillsborough25.org. You can use your credit card and then pay your dues off at your convenience.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Craft for allowing me to serve you as your Secretary.

Have a happy and prosperous holiday season, and I hope to see you in Lodge soon.








Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas C. Newton

Thomas C. Newton, PM, PDI

DECEMBER

A.L. 6012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						 Chapter 11 1 p.m.
2	 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 EA Joel Horacio BAEZ, Michael Marques DOWD, Derek Daniel HOPKINS & John Robert MAYE Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	5 District 22 SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION John Darling Lodge No. 154 • 7 p.m. 4601 N. Habana Ave. Tampa, FL	 Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.	7	8 HAPPY HANUKKAH!
9	 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	 Stated Communication ELECTION OF 2013 OFFICERS Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	12	 Masonic Education Ritual Practice 6:30 p.m.	14	 Chapter 11 1 p.m.
16 MASONIC HOME BOARD MEETING 11 a.m. 3201 1st Street NE St. Pete, FL	 Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	18 NO LODGE MEETING	19	 Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.	21	22
23 30	24 31 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	25 NO LODGE MEETING MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26	27 St. John the Evangelist Day	28 MASTERS & WARDENS MEETING Fellowship Lodge No. 265 • 7 p.m. 306 N. Lincoln Ave. Tampa, FL	29

NOTICE OF SPECIAL DECEMBER MEETING

Please mark your calendars!

**December 11th
Election of 2013 Officers**

NOVEMBER 2012						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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and show your support!*

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**Morgan Stanley
Smith Barney**

MASONIC CHARITY

An excerpt from *Morals and Dogma* by Albert Pike

For we never know the importance of the act we do. The daughter of the Pharaoh little thought what she was doing for the human race, and the vast unimaginable consequences that depended on her charitable act, when she drew the little child of a Hebrew woman from among the rushes that grew along the bank of the Nile, and determined to rear it as if it were her own. How often has an act of charity, costing the doer little, given the world a great painter, a great musician, a great inventor! How often has such an act on what small and apparently unimportant circumstances have turned and hinged the fates of the worlds great conquerors. There is no law that limits the returns that shall be reaped from a single good deed. The widows mite may not only be as acceptable to God, but may produce as great results as the rich mans costly offering. The poorest boy, helped by benevolence, may come to lead armies, control senates, to decide on

peace or war, to dictate to cabinets, and his magnificent thoughts and noble words may be law many years hereafter to millions of men yet unborn, but the opportunity to effect a great good deed does not often occur to anyone. It is worse than folly for one to lie idle and inert, and expect the accident to befall him, by which his influences shall live forever. He can expect that to happen, only in consequence of one or many, or all of a long series of acts. He can expect to benefit the world only as men attain other results by continuance, by persistence, by a steady and uniform habit of laboring for the enlightenment of the world to the extent of his means and capacity. For it is in all instances, by steady labor, by giving enough of our application to our work and having enough time for doing it, by regular pains taking and the plying of constant duties, and not by any process of ledgermain, that we secure the strength and the staple of real excellence. 



Above: On behalf of the Craft of Hillsborough Lodge No. 25, W.: Joseph A. Gonzalez, assisted by several Brothers who served in the Marines, presents our annual toy drive collection to five representatives of the United States Marine Corps. Special thanks to Bro. Chris Di Stefano, W.: Harry Cumber and Bro. Chris Hutchinson for their efforts to organize the drive and to all the Brethren who contributed for their support of this worthy cause.

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 ■ TRESTLE BOARD

ORDER OF DEMOLAY

Paul Revere Chapter



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

For more information, please contact:

Brother Bill Cobb
Personal Representative to
the Executive Office of DeMolay
813-835-1793

"From the East" continued from page 2

beauty. It is when each of us is arranged in a regular manner, and in due proportion to the place which constitutes our Lodge, that we achieve a perfect and complete whole.

Happy Holidays to you and your family. I'm looking forward to a prosperous New Year and attending Lodge as a proud Past Master. May the Light of Truth shine favorably upon you and this Lodge until time shall be no more.

Fraternally,

Joseph Gonzalez
Worshipful Master

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.



HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 ■ TRESTLE BOARD

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR



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

**Tampa Chapter No. 11 would like to wish everyone
Happy Holidays!**


For our Members: Saturday, December 1st 1:00 p.m. is the Chapter's Official Inspection with Sister Floye Hyslop, Grand Conductress. Hopefully, a lot of our members will come to support our Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron. It is a wonderful time to get together — to see some old friends and meet some new ones too! As always, there is a lovely program planned, with delicious refreshments to follow.

For our Members: If you would like to attend a meeting, but need a ride, please call the Secretary — rides can be arranged. And don't forget, we have a working elevator.

For more information about Tampa Chapter No. 11 or the Order of the Eastern Star, please contact:
Sandra Johnson, PM, Secretary
P.O. Box 9046 • Tampa, FL 33674-9046 • (813) 500-3460

"Masonic Spotlight" continued from page 1

both represent the interlocked star of Solomon, or the Square and Compass.

Saint John the Evangelist was known throughout history for many things, most notably as the only disciple of Jesus to not forsake him in the hour of His Passion at the foot of the cross. He was the first to reach the tomb and was first to arrive at the lake of Tiberius after the resurrection. He is also attributed as the writer of the Epistles of John, and the book of Revelation. His feast day is said to have first been mentioned in the Sacramentary of Pope Adrian I, near 772 A.D. St. John the Evangelist is called the Apostle of Charity, which may be in part, to his connection in Freemasonry. Perhaps it was his unwavering resolve, purity, and love of the divine that has led to this distinction by Masons. Looked at together, saint John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist serve to represent the balance in Masonry between zeal for the fraternity and learned equilibrium. The Saints John, stand in perfect parallel harmony representing that balance. 

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2012 LODGE OFFICERS

- W.: Joseph GonzalezWorshipful Master
- Steven SilversSenior Warden
- David LinigerJunior Warden
- R.:W.: Stephen Jacobson. Treasurer
- R.:H.: Tom Newton Secretary
- Joshua SussmanSenior Deacon
- Cliff AllenJunior Deacon
- Ken SkillmanSenior Steward
- Billy SchmidtJunior Steward
- Michael St. James.Marshall
- Kermit HinesChaplain
- Drew Baldwin.Tyler
- R.:W.: C. Don Prosser Historian
- W.: William Powell Organist Emeritus
- Len WhalenChaplain Emeritus
- W.: Thomas JohnsonTreasurer Emeritus



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Remember Your Masonic Charities in the New Year...



The Good Work Never Stops, So Please Give Generously!