

HILLSBOROUGH LODGE NO. 25 F&AM

# TRESTLE BOARD

JANUARY A.L. 2013

## MASONIC SPOTLIGHT: W.: JOSEPH A. GONZALEZ

Worshipful Joseph A. Gonzalez, Past Master 2012 of Hillsborough Lodge No. 25, was initiated as an Entered Apprentice Mason on March 3, 2008, Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft on May 20, 2008 and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on June 3, 2008. His top line signer was R.:W.: John D. Hooker who recalls first meeting Joe when R.:W.: Hooker was President of the North Tampa Youth Baseball Park, and a young 8-year-old Gonzalez came out to play baseball dressed in a spiffy red and white baseball uniform. He was outstanding as a young man and could run as fast as spooked deer. R.:W.: Hooker was impressed with how neat, polite and proper the young Gonzalez was and has followed his career as he attended Jesuit High School where he was an excellent student and later at Florida State University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing in 1998.

Upon graduation from college, W.: Gonzalez returned to his birthplace in Tampa and began his business career as part owner of Columbia Jobbing Company, a family business established in 1941. He is also the owner of DJG Concepts d/b/a Joey's Fun Foods since 2004, an internet business with an emphasis on concession supplies and equipment, and owner of Lucid Logo, LLC, a marketing, website design and photography company.



*W.: Joseph A. Gonzalez has had an exemplary Masonic career thus far. His commitment to the principles of Masonry and participation in the Lodge stand as shining examples for the entire Craft.*

*Continued on page 6*

**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



My Brothers,

In June of 2008, I petitioned and was accepted as a Brother into our historic Lodge. After being Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in October of the same year, I truly began my Masonic journey. In the time that has passed between then and now, I have strived to learn and practice the many virtues inculcated in the three Masonic degrees and to serve our Lodge and Freemasonry.

There have been several Brothers at our Lodge who have inspired and guided my path from the beginning. My catechism instructor, Jorge Santamaria, was the first to guide and inspire my diligent study and desire to advance within the Lodge and to become an officer. Thank you Jorge for providing the light, which guided my steps and pointed me to the path which led to duty. For this I will always be grateful. Two others, instrumental in my Masonic education, as well as always being there to provide the advise and direction I sought were R.:W.: Stephen Jacobson, my mentor and W.: Joseph Gonzalez. Brothers, I am eternally grateful for your sound advise and encouragement throughout these past years.

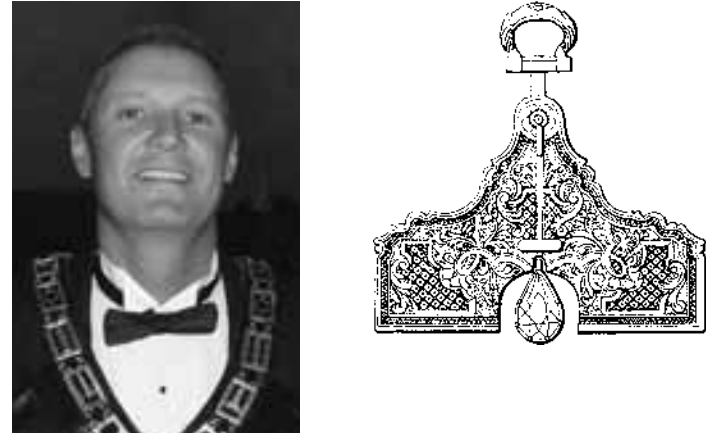
I am humbled by the faith and confidence that the Brothers of our Lodge have placed in me with my election as Worshipful Master of Hillsborough Lodge. Serving our Lodge and Freemasonry is my passion and I will faithfully carry out those duties throughout the coming year. Thank you Brothers for your confidence and support.

Installation of officers will be held at the Lodge on Saturday, January 5th, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. I invite all Brothers and their families to join us on this very special day. After a great deal of thought and consideration, I have appointed the following Brothers to be installed as officers for 2013:

- Senior Deacon: Bro. Kenneth Skillman
- Junior Deacon: Bro. Billy Schmidt
- Senior Steward: Bro. Andrew Baldwin
- Junior Steward: Bro. Michael St. James

*Continued on page 6*

## FROM THE WEST



My Brothers,

My Brothers, thank you for entrusting me to serve Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 as Senior Warden for 2013. It is truly an honor to serve our Lodge, and I look forward to a productive year.

Congratulations to our Worshipful Master, Steven J. Silvers, and all the elected and appointed officers, I'm excited about working with you all. Worshipful Gonzalez did an outstanding job leading the craft in 2012, and I am supremely confident that Worshipful Silvers will continue the good works.

I welcome all Brothers to attend the finance and building meetings, and encourage all to email me with any ideas or comments at: davidliniger@gmail.com. Thank you to all the Brothers who came on election night; I always enjoy seeing you and would love to see you attend more Lodge meetings in 2013.

The first finance meeting will be January 24th at 6:30 p.m., hope to see you there and bring a friend.

Peace Brothers.

Fraternally,

*David S. Liniger*

Senior Warden

## FROM THE SOUTH



Brothers All,

I would like to thank the Craft for having the confidence to elect me as your Junior Warden for 2013. It has been a real pleasure to work with the Brethren of Hillsborough No. 25 for the past 2 years, and I zealously look forward to nourishing and quenching the Craft of Hillsborough No. 25 during the upcoming year.

There are three things that are very important to me: first, is God; second, my loving family; and third, the Brethren of Hillsborough No. 25. If it were not for God, nothing would be possible; through God all things great or small are can be accomplished, and we must keep him at the center of our lives. It is the support of the family that gives us the drive to accomplish great tasks and the companionship and the joys that accompany a healthy home. Finally, the friendship and brotherly love of the Craft to help one another in times of need, or just to have a brother to lean on, is a blessing that we all should be willing to give as well as receive. We all need the support of God, family and our band of Brothers.

Fraternally,

*Clifford M. Allen*

Junior Warden

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



Brothers,

I want to take this opportunity to thank the craft for allowing me to continue as the secretary of this Lodge. This is a responsibility that I not only enjoy, but know that it must be done with caution and compassion. I have enjoyed working with all the brethren over the past three years, and assisting those who need it as well. The office of secretary is there for the brethren, and Worshipful Terry McLaughlin and I will continue to provide the best service possible to the craft. Our newly elected Worshipful Master and the rest of the elected and appointed officers are there to serve you and the Lodge, and your input is always welcomed. Come to Lodge and support the officers and the Lodge as a whole. We would love to see you there for dinner at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday, and then stay for the meeting. Bring a brother with you, or bring a friend whom you feel would be a good mason, and Terry or I will give them the tour of the building and answer most of their questions. We can also get them a petition to join this great fraternity.

If you haven't paid your dues for 2013, send a check or go to the web site at [www.hillsborough25.org](http://www.hillsborough25.org) and pay them thru Pay Pal. Better yet, come to the lodge, acquaint yourself with the brothers and the Masonic work, and you can pay your dues by check or cash while there. Don't forget that the Masonic Home is your home and the additional \$7.30 goes to keep that home as one of the finest, if not the best, health care facilities in the State of Florida.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Thomas C. Newton*

Thomas C. Newton, PM, PDI
















## NOTICE OF SPECIAL JANUARY MEETING

Please mark your calendars!

**January 5th  
Installation of 2013 Officers**

JANUARY 2013						
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		

*Come down to the Lodge,  
and show your support!*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 <b>District 22 SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION</b> John Darling Lodge No. 154 • 7 p.m. 4601 N. Habana Ave. Tampa, FL	3  Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.	4	5  Stated Communication <b>INSTALLATION of 2013 OFFICERS</b> Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.
6	7  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	8  Stated Communication  Balloting on New Petitions & Approval of the 2013 Budget  Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	9	10  Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.	11	12
13	14  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	15  Called Communication  Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	16	17  Masonic Education Ritual Practice 6:30 p.m.	18	19  Chapter 11 1 p.m.
20 <b>MASONIC HOME BOARD MEETING</b> 11 a.m. 3201 1st Street NE St. Pete, FL	21  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	22  Stated Communication  Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	23	24  Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.	25 <b>MASTERS &amp; WARDENS MEETING</b> Fellowship Lodge No. 265 • 7 p.m. 306 N. Lincoln Ave. Tampa, FL	26
27	28  Paul Revere Chapter 7 p.m.	29  Called Communication  Dinner 6:30 p.m. • Meeting 7:15 p.m.	30	31  Masonic Education 6:30 p.m.		

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# MASONIC EDUCATION

## Lifting the Veil, Esoteric Masonic Thought on Initiation

by Bro. Bruce Nevin

An initiation is a beginning. Every initiation has an outward aspect carried out by particular people, with you, at a certain time and place. At the same time, there is always an interior aspect taking place within you. The inner initiation is the true significance of the outer events, and is their purpose or aim.

The outward ritual is almost always imperfect. One person may fumble some words or even omit whole paragraphs. Floor work may stumble, ritual actions may be malformed, jogged out of place, or forgotten. And even if the officers perform flawlessly, your perception of the ritual as the initiate is incomplete. The very meanings of the words are not immediately available to you, much less the symbolism.

Later, as you witness from the sidelines the ritual being performed with new initiates, the significance of different aspects opens to you more and more. Each such witnessing furthers your inward initiation. The more you involve yourself as a participant, the more light is opened to you; or more truly, the more you open to the light.

The purpose of initiation is to change people — to make good men better, as we say. Ritual works within you because your subconscious mind is always amenable to suggestion. It is your subconscious mind that builds and daily reconstitutes what you are as a person. Your subconscious mind may take absolutely anything that you experience or do or say or think as a suggestion, on the basis of which it changes the way you are constituted as a person. Feelings make thoughts, thoughts for words, words lead to actions, actions form into habits, and habits congeal as character. And there you are.

*To be continued...*

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.



*"Masonic Spotlight" continued from page 1*


Joe recently passed the very difficult U.S. Customs and Border Protection Brokers License examination.

On January 23, 1999, W.: Gonzalez married his long time friend from the seventh grade, Desiree, and together they are the proud parents of Joseph Nicholas, age 11, and Catalina Noelle, age 8. Joe's hobbies include, cycling, running and general fitness, cooking, soccer, firearms and target proficiency and enjoying time with his family and Masonic Brothers.

W.: Gonzalez is proud to have been commissioned a Kentucky Colonel in 2009, and his Masonic career and affiliations include serving Hillsborough Lodge as Senior Steward, Junior Deacon, Senior Deacon, Senior Warden and Worshipful Master. He was recently elected Treasurer of the Lodge for the year 2013. He holds a Silver Card, a Blue Card and is learned in and delivers the Fellow Craft Lecture. He has served on Traveling Committees for R.:W.: Woody Newcomb as Chairman of the Grand Masters Charity in 2010 and as Chairman of the Masonic Youth Coin Sales for R.:W.: Stephen Jacobson in 2011. Joe is a member of the Scottish Rite, Valley of Tampa and a 32° Master of the Royal Secret. He entered the Consistory Line as Guardian of the Temple in 2009 and was elected Minister of State, Consistory Line for 2013. In 2011 he became a Noble of the Egypt Temple Shrine.

Joe credits W.: Terry McLaughlin for teaching and perfecting his catechism skills, and R.:W.: Newcomb, for mentoring him in Masonic knowledge and the Masonic Digest.

When asked to reflect on his term as Worshipful Master, W.: Gonzalez responded, "I have thought often about being the Master of our historic Lodge, and while sitting inside the Past Masters room, I have reflected on the extraordinary challenges our previous Masters faced. I wondered throughout my year as Worshipful Master if I had performed my duties with the same level of courage and conviction that these Past Masters had. As I approached the end of my term, I realized that the success of this year would be determined in years to come. My experience as Master of this great Lodge is one that I will always cherish, never regret, and look forward to sharing with my son someday, if he becomes a Mason."

The Brothers of Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 extend a warm and sincere thank you to W.: Joseph A. Gonzalez for leading them through another successful Masonic year in 2012. 

# 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*

Chaplain: Bro. Joshua Sussman  
Marshall: Bro. Christopher Hutchinson  
Tyler: Bro. Jonathan Meadows  
Musician: W.: William "Shorty" Powell

The first Stated Communication for 2013 will be held on Tuesday, January 8th. Business for that evenings meeting will include receiving and balloting on new petitions, approval of the 2013 Budget, Masonic Education and regular proceedings customary to our practices. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. and our meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Hillsborough Lodge No. 25 has historically been a beacon of Light for Masonry in Florida. This success comes from a diligent work ethic by it's officers and members. No one man can do this work alone. It is only by an adherence to the principals of our Fraternity and a solid work ethic, that will keep our Lodge in the forefront of Masonry. I ask every Brother to make their best effort to attend Lodge meetings and events for the betterment of our Lodge and our Fraternity.

I would like to wish each of my Brothers a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. I look forward to seeing you in Lodge soon.

Fraternally,

*Steven J. Silvers*

Worshipful Master

# 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 a Happy, Healthy and Successful New Year!**

For our Members: Our next Chapter meeting will be January 19, 2013. Hope to see you there!

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**  
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## 2013 LODGE OFFICERS

W.: Steven J. Silvers. . . . . Worshipful Master  
David S. Liniger . . . . . Senior Warden  
Clifford M. Allen . . . . . Junior Warden  
W.: Joseph A. Gonzalez. . . . . Treasurer  
R.:H.: Thomas C. Newton . . . . . Secretary  
Kenneth R. Skillman . . . . . Senior Deacon  
Billy Schmidt . . . . . Junior Deacon  
Drew Baldwin. . . . . Senior Steward  
Michael St. James. . . . . Junior Steward  
Christopher Hutchinson. . . . . Marshall  
Joshua Sussman . . . . . Chaplain  
Jonathan Meadows . . . . . Tyler  
R.:W.: C. Donald Prosser . . . . . Historian  
W.: William "Shorty" Powell. . . . . Organist Emeritus  
Len Whalen . . . . . Chaplain Emeritus  
W.: Thomas Johnson . . . . . Treasurer Emeritus



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